ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2026 AT 7:00 PM
LEVEL 3, COUNCIL CHAMBER

A G E N D A

** ** ** ** ** **

NOTE: For Full Details, See Council's Website –
https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au under the link to business papers

The Livestream can be viewed here:
https://www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Council/Council-meetings/Council-meeting-live-stream

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In accordance with clause 3.23 of the Model Code of Meeting Practice, Councillors are reminded of the oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Act, and of their obligations under the Council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

Please refer to Part 4 of Council's Code of Conduct for Pecuniary Interests and Part 5 of Council's Code of Conduct for Non-Pecuniary Interests.

The Oath or Affirmation taken is as below:

Oath:

I *[name of Councillor]* swear that I will undertake the duties of the office of Councillor in the best interests of the people of the Ku-ring-gai Local Government area and the Ku-ring-gai 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.

Affirmation:

I *[name of Councillor]* 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 Ku-ring-gai Local Government area and the Ku-ring-gai 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.

APOLOGIES

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS

CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED MEETING

NOTE:

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993, all officers' reports be released to the press and public, with the exception of following confidential report(s) and attachments:

C.1 Lindfield Village Hub - Confidential Update

In accordance with 10A(2)(c), (d)(i), (d)(ii) and (g):

Attachment 1: Confidential Attachment A1 - LVH - Overview of Project Delivery Agreement - Nov 2023
Attachment 2: Confidential Attachment A2 - LVH - Final Masterplan for PDA - Nov 2023
Attachment 3: Confidential Attachment A3 - LVH - Strategic options for procurement of development partner - Aug 2025
Attachment 4: Confidential Attachment A4 - LVH - Legal advice re tender negotiations - July 2025
Attachment 5: Confidential Attachment A5 - LVH - Probity advice re tender negotiations - April 2026
Attachment 6: Confidential Attachment A6 - LVH - Analysis of Key Project Risks - Nov 2023

C.2 Project Review - Progress against Action Plan (June 2026)

In accordance with 10A(2)(g):

Attachment 1: Project and procurement management improvement plan - progress report (June 2026)

NOTE:

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993, all officers' reports be released to the press and public, with the exception of confidential attachments to the following General Business reports:

GB.9 RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade Sequoia Close Park, West Pymble

In accordance with 10A(2)(d)(ii):

Attachment 1: RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade - Sequoia Close - List of Submitters

In accordance with 10A(2)(d)(ii):

Attachment 2: RFT7-2026 Placespace Upgrade - Sequoia Park - Tender Evaluation Report

GB.10 RFT1-2026 Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade Lindfield - Traffic Signal Modelling and Detailed Design

In accordance with 10A(2)(d)(ii):

Attachment 1: RFT1-2026 - Tender Evaluation Plan

In accordance with 10A(2)(d)(ii):

Attachment 2: RFT1-2026 - List of tenders received

In accordance with 10A(2)(d)(ii):

Attachment 3: RFT1-2026 - Tender Evaluation Report

GB.11 DCP Amendment - to align with state government housing reforms

In accordance with 10A(2)(g):

Attachment 1: Confidential Legal Advice - LMR and Part 6

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes of Extrardinary Meeting of Council 15

File: EM00055/2
Meeting held 18 May 2026
Minutes numbered 84 to 87

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council 21

File: EM00049/4
Meeting held 19 May 2026
Minutes numbered 88 to 100

MINUTES FROM THE MAYOR

MM.1 Vale Patrick Voon - community leader 44

File: CY00455/14

It is my sad duty to inform the Ku-ring-gai community and Council of the passing of Patrick Voon, a longstanding local resident and former President of the Chinese Australian Forum.

For decades Patrick dedicated himself to building understanding between the Chinese community and the broader Australian society. He worked tirelessly on issues of multiculturalism, racial harmony and community representation at a time when these matters were often difficult and unpopular to raise publicly.

Patrick was a life member of the Australian Chinese Forum (CAF) serving as President between 2011 and 2013 and holding various roles, including most recently the position of treasurer.

Among the causes that Patrick championed were:

- the CAF complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission concerning racial hatred radio broadcasts under the Racial Discrimination Act
- the CAF campaign to urge voters of Randwick City Council to support candidates who would protect the Heritage Listed La Perouse Chinese Market Gardens
- appearing before the NSW Legislative Council inquiry into racial vilification laws in 2013
- In Turramurra, together with local MP Alister Henskens, convening a community conference responding to racism against members of the Chinese community.

Through his leadership, Patrick also coordinated important community forums, cultural events and public discussions which strengthened the voice of the Chinese Australian community across New South Wales.

Many people saw Patrick's gentle smile, calm manner and kindness. What many did not see was the quiet determination behind the scenes to ensure Chinese Australians were treated with dignity, respect and equality under the law.

Patrick leaves behind a lasting legacy through the countless people he helped, mentored, and encouraged over many decades of service to the community. On behalf of Council and our community, I offer our sincere condolences to his widow Patricia, daughter Alison and his many friends.

Recommendation:

A. That the Mayoral Minute be received and noted
B. That we stand for a minute's silence to honour Patrick Voon.
C. That the Mayor write to Patrick's family and enclose a copy of the Mayoral Minute.

PETITIONS

GENERAL BUSINESS

i. The Mayor to invite Councillors to nominate any item(s) on the Agenda that they wish to have a site inspection.

ii. The Mayor to invite Councillors to nominate any item(s) on the Agenda that they wish to adopt in accordance with the officer's recommendation allowing for minor changes without debate.

GB.1 **Code of Meeting Practice - Disallowance of the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code) Regulation 2025** **46**

File: CY00564/9

To brief Council on the disallowance motion passed by the NSW Legislative Council and its impact on the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

Recommendation:

That Council:
A. Note the disallowance of the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code) Regulation 2025* by the NSW Legislative Council.
B. Rescind the 21 October 2025 resolution to adopt the 2025 Code of Meeting Practice (minute no. 191)
C. Revert to the Code of Meeting Practice adopted on 22 October 2024, effective immediately.

GB.2 **Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum - Minutes of Meeting 20 May 2026** **112**

File: CY00022/18

To consider the Minutes from the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum (LTF) Meeting held on 20 May 2026.

Recommendation:

That Council:
A. Receive and note the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum (LTF) Minutes held on 20 May 2026.
B. Approves the recommendations of the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum held on 20 May 2026 (Attachment A1).
C. Approves the amended delegations to the Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs) Terms of Reference – Version 14 (Attachment A2).

GB.3 **Community Access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Across Council Facilities "LACHY'S HEARTSTART PROJECT"** **127**

File: S15185

This report provides Council with further information in relation to providing community access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across Council facilities in response to Council's resolution from the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 March 2026.

Recommendation:

That Council approves the implementation of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program as detailed in this report.

GB.4 **Post Exhibition - Revised Resourcing Strategy, Revised Delivery Program and Operational Plan (NEW)** **231**

File: S15168

To adopt the revised Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036, revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027, incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program, Statement of Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges for 2026-2027.

Recommendation:

That Council adopt the revised Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036, revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027, incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program, Statement of Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges for 2026-2027, incorporating a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 24.6% to begin from 1 July 2026 which, when combined with the confirmed 4.4% rate peg, will result in a 29% rate revenue increase in 2026/27.

GB.5 Mayor and Councillor Fees - 2026/27 Local Government Remuneration Tribunal Determination 547

File: EM00049/5

To determine the mayoral and councillor fees for the 2026/27 financial year.

Recommendation:

That effective 1 July 2026:
A. The annual councillor fee be set at maximum $30,640; and

B. The annual mayoral fee be set at $81,380, in addition to the councillor fee.

GB.6 Review of Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy 638

File: CY00474/13

For Council to adopt the updated Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy

Recommendation:

That the updated Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. If any submissions are received, the matter be reported back to Council after the consultation period. If no submissions are received, that Council adopt the policy to come into effect on 1 October 2026.

GB.7 Investment Report as at 31 May 2026 667

File: FY00623/8

To present Council's investment portfolio performance for May 2026.

Recommendation:

That the summary of investments performance for May 2026 be received and noted; and that the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

GB.8 **Charles Bean Oval Lindfield - Renewal of Playing Surface** **675**

File: S15140

This report provides Council with an update on the renewal of the synthetic turf playing surface project at Charles Bean Oval Lindfield including the community consultation undertaken.

Recommendation:

That Council receive and note this report, engage NSW Public Works or another suitably qualified independent expert to provide a cost comparison of delivering a best practice natural turf field at Charles Bean Oval compared to a synthetic turf field, and make a decision on the type of playing surface for Charles Bean Oval when the independent costing is reported back to Council.

GB.9 **RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade Sequoia Close Park, West Pymble** **981**

File: RFT7-2026

The purpose of this report is to consider the tenders received for RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade Sequoia Close Park, West Pymble so as to appoint the preferred tenderer.

Recommendation:

In accordance with Section 55 of the Local Government Act and Tender Regulation 2021, it is recommended Council accept the Tender submitted by Tenderer A.

GB.10 **RFT1-2026 Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade Lindfield - Traffic Signal Modelling and Detailed Design** **986**

File: RFT1-2026/R

To consider the tenders received for RFT1-2026 Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade Lindfield - Traffic Signal Modelling and Detailed Design, and to appoint the preferred tenderer.

Recommendation:

GB.11 **DCP Amendment - to align with state government housing reforms** **992**

File: S15328

For Council to consider the amendment to update the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* (KDCP) so that it is consistent with, and applicable to, development introduced by the recent low and mid-rise housing reforms and for Council to endorse the public exhibition of the proposed amendment.

Recommendation:

That Council endorse the proposed amendment to the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* to make updates consistent with state government reforms and to apply a uniform approach across the whole policy as detailed in **Attachment A2** of this report.

EXTRA REPORTS CIRCULATED TO MEETING

MOTIONS OF WHICH DUE NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN

NM.1 Tulkiyan House – Future Ownership and Long-Term Financial Sustainability 1006

File: EM00049/5

Notice of Motion from Councillor Taylor dated 29 May 2026

Tulkiyan is a State heritage-listed property bequeathed to Council by the Donaldson family in 1985. The property is currently managed under agreement by the Historic Houses Association of Australia and is intended to operate as a heritage house museum.

Council currently allocates operational funding toward the maintenance, management and conservation of the property, with additional capital expenditure proposed in future budgets for accessibility and associated improvements.

This Notice of Motion seeks to consult with the Heritage Committee at its next meeting, prior to undertaking an assessment of alternative custodial or ownership arrangements, including the legal pathway to a change in future ownership whether by sale or other form of transfer.

It is therefore recommended that Council seeks advice from the Heritage Committee on the following items:

A. That Council receive a report that outlines:
a. the legal, statutory and heritage considerations applying to Tulkiyan House;
b. the operational and capital expenditure associated with the property over the past 10 years and forecast for the coming five years;
c. the current management arrangements associated with the property;
d. the current and proposed use of the property and associated community benefit outcomes;
e. potential alternative custodial or ownership models for Tulkiyan House and its contents;
f. constraints on the transfer of ownership or disposal by sale of the property; and
g. the indicative statutory and planning processes associated with any such options.
B. That the forthcoming Heritage Strategy refresh includes a review of heritage assets that the Council owns or manages.

Advice received from the Heritage Committee will be reported to Council once received, and expenditure on Tulkiyan will be limited to basic maintenance until council has considered it.

Recommendation:

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

NM.2 **Marian Street Theatre Redevelopment Project: Financial Accountability, Strategic Accountability and Community Mandate** **1008**

File: S10577/5

Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward dated 29 May 2026

The Marian Street Theatre redevelopment project has been before Council and the community for many years as a significant proposed investment in arts and cultural infrastructure.

The Save Marian Street Theatre Fundraising Feasibility Study was undertaken in October 2017. A business Plan, based on the recommendations from the fundraising feasibility study, was developed by the Save Marian Street Theatre Committee (SMSTC) in May 2018. The Feasibility Study and Business Plan provided a strategy for the refurbishment and re-opening of the Marian Street Theatre through a $4m public fund-raising campaign (no funds were raised). The Feasibility Study and Business Plan also required a capital contribution from Council of approximately $6m, plus up to $900,000 for fundraising costs, an operational subsidy of $1m p.a. for the first 2 years followed by an annual subsidy of $546,000, and a 25-year lease on the theatre to the SMSTC. Council received and noted the Feasibility Study and Business Plan in June 2018 but did not commit to the financial model presented.

In March 2019 Council considered a feasibility study and business case, both now outdated, that provided three recommendations to Council. The three design Options were as follows:

1. 'Minimum Option'. A slight improvement on the existing facilities prior to the building's closure (estimated $8.5m),

2. 'Medium Option'. An improvement on the building and facilities prior to its closure but within the existing building shell (estimated $10.5m),

3. 'Maximum Option'. Based on the 'Save Marian Street Theatre' design including a new child learning Centre. This Option explores extending the building to the east into Selkirk Park (estimated $22m).

While Council adopted the 'Medium Option' at $10.5 million, scope creep subsequently saw the project looking more like Option 3 than Option 2. Consequently, with the progress of time, change of scope, cost escalation throughout Covid and beyond, due diligence, delays in commencement, and costs of satisfaction of conditions of development consent saw the "all in" cost of the project increase from $10.5m to $30.3m by October 2024.

Possible delivery of the Marian Street Theatre redevelopment in recent years has principally been linked to potential funding associated with a Special Rate Variation.

However:

1. Council's final Special Rate Variation package submitted to IPART does not include Marian Street Theatre redevelopment funding,
2. No confirmed State Government or Commonwealth Government funding pathway has been identified for delivery of the full project,
3. Approximately $500,000 has been allocated in the current financial year for works associated with preserving the existing Development Consent,
4. Council presently has multiple competing capital priorities across community infrastructure, transport infrastructure, public domain improvements, sporting infrastructure, parks and cultural infrastructure investment opportunities.

Council recognises and supports arts and culture as a critical component of community life. However, Council also recognises that contemporary cultural delivery models increasingly incorporate:

1. Distributed community arts spaces,
2. Partnership opportunities with mixed-use developments and strategic centres,
3. Co-location opportunities within community hubs,
4. Multiple accessible cultural facilities rather than concentrated investment in a single location.

Council further notes that where no identified funding pathway or implementation strategy exists, it is appropriate that any further expenditure be supported by strategic justification, community mandate and appropriate financial accountability.

Council also notes the NSW Office of Local Government Capital Expenditure Review framework requirements relating to strategic justification, options appraisal, community consultation and risk management.

I, therefore, move that:

Financial accountability

A. Council notes that no identified funding source presently exists for the delivery of the Marian Street Theatre redevelopment project,

B. Council notes that the project has been subject to successive increases in budget estimates:

1. $6m June 2018 (forecast Council co-contribution. The report also indicated "that theatres operated by local government generally rely on subsidies of anywhere between on $0.5m up to $1.5m per annum"),
2. $10.5m March 2019 (approves a capital funding budget of $10.5m for refurbishment of the Marian Street Theatre),
3. $30.3m October 2024 (quantity surveyor report).

C. Council notes that Council's final Special Rate Variation package, following extensive community consultation, and submitted to IPART does not include funding for the Marian Street Theatre redevelopment.

D. The following elements be incorporated into the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategy commencing in 2026/2027, where possible:

1. Continuation of the existing Marian Street Theatre redevelopment proposal;
2. Distributed smaller arts and cultural spaces across the LGA,
3. Partnership opportunities associated with strategic centres and mixed-use development opportunities,
4. Co-location opportunities within community hubs and emerging centres;
5. Alternate cultural infrastructure delivery models that maximise community accessibility and usage,
6. Comparative capital and operating costs across alternate options;
7. Comparative assessment of geographic accessibility outcomes across the Local Government Area,
8. Comparative assessment of activation outcomes, including opportunities to support night-time economy activity and precinct development,
9. An assessment of the estimated cost and strategic feasibility of delivering multiple connected performance, exhibition and community arts spaces distributed across the Local Government Area compared to delivery of a single legacy venue.

Community mandate

E. Council notes that expenditure of this scale warrants demonstrated contemporary community support prior to committing further expenditure,

F. In conjunction with and to inform the Community and Cultural Facilities Study referred to in D above, Council conduct representative (not opt-in) community consultation through an external provider, with a budget of $30,000, regarding priorities for future cultural infrastructure investment including:

1. Resident preferences regarding delivery of arts and cultural infrastructure,
2. Comparative information regarding costs, benefits and strategic trade-offs associated with alternate delivery models,
3. Geographic accessibility and distribution of arts and cultural opportunities across the Local Government Area,
4. Reporting outcomes back to Council no later than March 2027.

Strategic accountability

G. No expenditure associated with preserving, substantially commencing or otherwise extending the life of Development Consent DA0144/20 occur until Council has considered and determined the outcomes of this review process,

H. Subject to the outcomes of the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategy and representative survey in Items D and F above, Council undertake and complete a Capital Expenditure Review consistent with NSW Office of Local Government requirements and relevant OLG guidance material, including:

1. Strategic justification,
2. Option appraisal,
3. Community consultation requirements,
4. Risk assessment and risk management,
5. Whole-of-life financial implications,
6. Funding pathway identification,
7. Opportunity cost assessment relative to competing Council infrastructure priorities.

Recommendation:

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE – SUBJECT TO CLAUSE 9.3 OF CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

QN.1 **TOD Acquisitions** **1012**

File: EM00049/5

QN.2 **Council's Artificial Intelligence Policy** **1041**

File: EM00049/5

INSPECTIONS– SETTING OF TIME, DATE AND RENDEZVOUS

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS TO BE DEALT WITH IN CLOSED MEETING

C.1 **Lindfield Village Hub - Confidential Update**

File: S12165-4-7

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in sections 10A(2)(c), 10A(2)(d)(i), 10A(2)(d)(ii) & 10A(2)(g), of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the public.

Section 10A(2)(c) of the Act permits the meeting to be closed to the public in respect of information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

The matter is classified confidential because it deals with the proposed acquisition and/or disposal of property.

It is not in the public interest to release this information as it would prejudice Council's ability to acquire and/or dispose of the property on appropriate terms and conditions.

Section 10A(2)(d) of the Act permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

(i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
(ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council, or
(iii) reveal a trade secret.

This matter is classified confidential under section 10A(2)(d)(i) because it deals with tenders. Tender details, should they be revealed, may result in commercial disadvantage to parties involved in the tender process. Some information provided to Council by tenderers is provided on the basis that Council will treat it as commercial in confidence.

It is not in the public interest to reveal details of these tenders or the assessment process. Tenderers have provided sensitive information about their operations in the confidence that their details will not be made public by Council. The practice of publication of sensitive information provided by tenderers could result in the withholding of such information by tenderers and reduction in the provision of information relevant to Council's decision.

Section 10A(2)(d) of the Act permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

(i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or
(ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council, or
(iii) reveal a trade secret.

This matter is classified confidential under section 10A(2)(d)(ii) because it would confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council.

Section 10A(2)(g) of the Act permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

This matter is classified confidential under section 10A(2)(g) because it contains advice concerning a legal matter that:

(a) is a substantial issue relating to a matter in which the Council is involved
(b) is clearly identified in the advice, and
(c) is fully discussed in that advice.

It is not in the public interest to release details of the legal advice as it would prejudice Council's position in court proceedings.

Report by General Manager

C.2 Project Review - Progress against Action Plan (June 2026)

File: S14999

In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, in the opinion of the General Manager, the following business is of a kind as referred to in section 10A(2)(g), of the Act, and should be dealt with in a part of the meeting closed to the public.

Section 10A(2)(g) of the Act permits the meeting to be closed to the public for business relating to advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

This matter is classified confidential under section 10A(2)(g) because it contains advice concerning a legal matter that:

(a) is a substantial issue relating to a matter in which the Council is involved
(b) is clearly identified in the advice, and
(c) is fully discussed in that advice.

It is not in the public interest to release details of the legal advice as it would prejudice Council's position in court proceedings.

Report by General Manager

David Marshall
GENERAL MANAGER

** ** ** ** ** **

MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 18 MAY 2026

Present:	The Mayor, Councillor Christine Kay (Chairperson) Councillors M Devlin & J Pettett (Comenarra Ward) Councillors I Balachandran & B Ward (Gordon Ward) Councillors S Ngai & A Taylor (Roseville Ward) Councillor M Smith (St Ives Ward) Councillors C Spencer & K Wheatley (Wahroonga Ward)
Staff Present:	General Manager (David Marshall) Director Community (Meagan Ang) Director Corporate (Angela Apostol) A/Director Development & Regulation (Anne Seaton) Director Operations (Peter Lichaa) Director Strategy & Environment (Andrew Watson) Corporate Lawyer (Jamie Taylor) Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy (Christopher M Jones)
Others Present:	A/Manager Corporate Communications (Sally Williams) Manager Infrastructure Services (Matt Drago) Manager Project Services (Claire Ashby)

The Meeting commenced at 7:30 PM

The Mayor offered the Acknowledgement of Country

APOLOGIES

File: S02194

The General Manager advised of an apology from the Director Development & Regulation, Michael Miocic, with Anne Seaton acting as Director Development & Regulation.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor referred to the necessity for Councillors and staff to declare a Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest in any item on the Business Paper.

No Interest was declared.

DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS

The Mayor referred to the documents circulated in the Councillors' papers and advised that the following matters would be dealt with at the appropriate time during the meeting:

Late Items:	**GB.3 - Advice from NSW Office of Local Government - Capital Expenditure Review requirements -** Report by General Manager dated 18 May 2026 an attachment.
Councillors Information:	**GB.2 - Request for supplementary information - GB.1 Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade - Project Update -** Report by General Manager dated 12 May 2026

84 **CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS TO BE CONSIDERED IN CLOSED MEETING**

File: S02499/9

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Balachandran/Taylor)

That in accordance with the provisions of Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993, all officers' reports be released to the press and public, with the exception of confidential attachments to the following General Business Reports:

GB.1 Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade - Project Update

In accordance with 10A(2)(d)(ii):

Attachment A2: Breakdown of the high-level costs to complete

In accordance with 10A(2)(g):

Attachment A3: Legal advice

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GENERAL BUSINESS

85 **Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade - Project Update**

File: EM00055/2
Vide: GB.1

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Norman Griffiths Oval project including an alternate solution for the on-site stormwater detention system and a revised estimated cost to complete.

MOTION:

(Moved: Councillors Devlin/Smith)

That Council:

A. Receive and note the report.
B. Endorse the design change for the on-site stormwater detention to underground pre-cast concrete tanks.
C. Increase the project budget from $12.4m to $20.2m to be funded from the Infrastructure and Facilities Reserve.

AMENDMENT:

(Moved: Councillors Balachandran/Kay)

Financial accountability

A. Council notes that spending $20.2 million is far in excess of council's initial budget for the Norman Griffith's field upgrade and that the community may have formed a different opinion on a synthetic upgrade versus a natural turf upgrade had they known the total potential project cost.
B. Council notes that the project has been the subject of eight successive budget revisions: $3.1M (2021), to $3.3 million (Nov 2022), to $4.3 million (Nov 2023), to $4.7M (Feb 2024), to $5.1M (May 2024), to $6.9million (Feb 2025), to $12.4 million (September 2025) to $20.2 million (April 2026). The NSW Public Works report indicates that costs may be higher.
C. Council pauses the current project.
D. Council engage NSW Public Works or another suitably qualified independent expert to provide an updated cost comparison of delivering a best practice natural turf field at Norman Griffiths Oval compared to a synthetic turf field. This report will provide minimum and maximum construction cost estimates to complete the project with the two alternate surfaces. To report to the August 2026 council meeting.
E. Council fulfill the OLG's instructions on the requirements of Sections 10 and 11 of the Capital Expenditure Review Guidelines, as per the letter dated 18 May 2026. To report back to Council by August 2026.

Community mandate

F. Council notes that council does not have a mandate to spend the scale of additional funds on this project and should consult the community before committing to further expense.
G. Council conduct a representative (not opt-in) resident survey through an external agency with a budget of $30,000:
    a. Work with the agency to design the research to provide a clear guide to councillors on resident preferences on a surface for Norman Griffiths Oval
    b. Providing comparative high level information on costs, benefits and risks to seek informed decision-making. This can be based on existing information available to council, including the updated costs in point D, and limitations pertaining to costing health and environmental risks.
    c. Report the findings by the October 2026 council meeting.

Financial accountability

H. Council provide the estimated cost to update two additional ovals with best-practice natural turf to enable increased usage across fields. Staff are to recommend best suited ovals. To be reported to the August 2026 council meeting.

The Amendment was put and declared CARRIED.

For the Amendment:	*The Mayor, Councillor Kay, Councillors Balachandran, Pettett, Spencer and Taylor*
Against the Amendment:	*Councillors Devlin, Ngai, Smith, Ward and Wheatley*

The voting being EQUAL, the Mayor exercised her Casting Vote IN FAVOUR of the Amendment

The Amendment became the Motion. The Motion was put and declared CARRIED.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Balachandran/Kay)

Financial accountability

A. Council notes that spending $20.2 million is far in excess of council's initial budget for the Norman Griffith's field upgrade and that the community may have formed a different opinion on a synthetic upgrade versus a natural turf upgrade had they known the total potential project cost.
B. Council notes that the project has been the subject of eight successive budget revisions: $3.1M (2021), to $3.3 million (Nov 2022), to $4.3 million (Nov 2023), to $4.7M (Feb 2024), to $5.1M (May 2024), to $6.9million (Feb 2025), to $12.4 million (September 2025) to $20.2 million (April 2026). The NSW Public Works report indicates that costs may be higher.
C. Council pauses the current project.
D. Council engage NSW Public Works or another suitably qualified independent expert to provide an updated cost comparison of delivering a best practice natural turf field at Norman Griffiths Oval compared to a synthetic turf field. This report will provide minimum and maximum construction cost estimates to complete the project with the two alternate surfaces. To report to the August 2026 council meeting.
E. Council fulfill the OLG's instructions on the requirements of Sections 10 and 11 of the Capital Expenditure Review Guidelines, as per the letter dated 18 May 2026. To report back to Council by August 2026.

Community mandate

F. Council notes that council does not have a mandate to spend the scale of additional funds on this project and should consult the community before committing to further expense.
G. Council conduct a representative (not opt-in) resident survey through an external agency with a budget of $30,000:

a. Work with the agency to design the research to provide a clear guide to councillors on resident preferences on a surface for Norman Griffiths Oval
b. Providing comparative high level information on costs, benefits and risks to seek informed decision-making. This can be based on existing information available to council, including the updated costs in point D, and limitations pertaining to costing health and environmental risks.
c. Report the findings by the October 2026 council meeting.

Financial accountability

H. Council provide the estimated cost to update two additional ovals with best-practice natural turf to enable increased usage across fields. Staff are to recommend best suited ovals. To be reported to the August 2026 council meeting.

For the Resolution:	*The Mayor, Councillor Kay, Councillors Balachandran, Pettett, Smith and Taylor*
Against the Resolution:	*Councillors Devlin, Ngai, Spencer, Ward and Wheatley*

The voting being EQUAL, the Mayor exercised her Casting Vote IN FAVOUR of the Resolution

CARRIED

86 **Request for supplementary information - GB.1 Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade - Project Update**

File: EM00055/2
Vide: GB.2

To provide Council with supplementary information, including late memoranda and formal responses to questions raised by Councillors, following the distribution of the business paper.

Resolved:
(Moved: Councillors Kay/Taylor)

A. Receive and note the supplementary information.
B. Note that the information contained within the attached documents is to be read in conjunction with the published Business Paper and, where specified, supersedes previous staff advice or recommendations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

87 **Advice from NSW Office of Local Government - Capital Expenditure Review requirements**

File: EM00055/2
Vide: GB.3

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information from the Office of Local Government about the requirement for a Capital Expenditure Review.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Kay/Taylor)

That Council receive and note the report.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE – SUBJECT TO CLAUSE 9.3 OF CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Nil

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

The Meeting closed at 8:20pm

The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 18 May 2026 (Pages 1 - 20) were confirmed as a full and accurate record of proceedings on <Insert confirmation date ...>.

_____ General Manager

_____ Mayor / Chairperson

MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON TUESDAY, 19 MAY 2026

Present: The Mayor, Councillor Christine Kay (Chairperson)
Councillors M Devlin & J Pettett (Comenarra Ward)
Councillors I Balachandran & B Ward (Gordon Ward)
Councillors S Ngai & A Taylor (Roseville Ward)
Councillor M Smith (St Ives Ward)
Councillors C Spencer & K Wheatley (Wahroonga Ward)

Staff Present: General Manager (David Marshall)
Director Community (Meagan Ang)
Director Corporate (Angela Apostol)
Acting Director Development & Regulation (Shaun Garland)
Director Operations (Peter Lichaa)
Director Strategy & Environment (Andrew Watson)
Corporate Lawyer (Jamie Taylor)
Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy (Christopher M Jones)

Others Present: Manager Project Services (Claire Ashby)
A/Manager Corporate Communications (Sally Williams)
Nicholas Najar (Executive Assessment Officer)

The Meeting commenced at 7:00 PM

The Mayor offered the Acknowledgement of Country

APOLOGIES

File: S02194

The General Manager advised of an apology from the Director Development & Regulation, Michael Miocic, with Shaun Garland acting as Director Development & Regulation.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor referred to the necessity for Councillors and staff to declare a Pecuniary Interest/Conflict of Interest in any item on the Business Paper.

No Interest was declared.

DOCUMENTS CIRCULATED TO COUNCILLORS

The Mayor referred to the documents circulated in the Councillors' papers and advised that the following matters would be dealt with at the appropriate time during the meeting:

Late Items:	**MM.1 - VALE Thomas John Sweeney OAM -** Report by Coordinator Executive Support dated 12 May 2026
Memorandums:	**GB.12 - Late memorandum - GB.10 - Heritage Reference Committee membership – Update on consultation -** Report by Director Strategy & Environment dated 19 May 2026 an attachment.
	GB.13 - Late memorandum - GB.3 - 2025 - 2026 Budget Review - 3rd Quarter ended March 2026 - Report by Director Corporate dated 19 May 2026 an attachment.
Councillors Information:	**GB.11 - Request for supplementary information - GB.7 Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade - Project Update -** Report by General Manager dated 14 May 2026

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

88 **Minutes of Ordinary Meeting of Council**
File: EM00049/3
Meeting held 28 April 2026
Minutes numbered 56 to 82

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Taylor/Ward)

That Minutes numbered 56 to 82 circulated to Councillors were taken as read and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the Meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MINUTES FROM THE MAYOR

89 **VALE Thomas John Sweeney OAM**

File: CY00455/14
Vide: MM.1

It is my sad duty to inform my Council colleagues and the Ku-ring-gai community of the passing of Tom Sweeney OAM, a Killara resident and local champion of the arts.

Tom was a passionate supporter of local theatre and was actively involved in groups across the North Shore, including as Vice President of the Pymble Players.

Tom was a lifelong member of the Willoughby Theatre Company and previously served as the theatre's President.

His service to the arts was recognised with an Order of Australia Medal in 2018.

Tom also had a long career in community relations, including positions at Macquarie Park Cemetery and Crematorium, North Shore Heart Research Foundation, the Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children and Hornsby Hospital. He was also a former president of the Rotary Club of Crows Nest.

Tom Sweeney will be remembered by those who knew him as local theatre legend, a great supporter of the arts and a true gentleman.

Tom may have taken his final bow on stage, but his impact on local arts will last forever.

On behalf of Council and the Ku-ring-gai community I extend my deepest sympathies to his wife Joy and all his family and friends.

Resolved:

(Moved: The Mayor, Councillor Kay)

A. That the Mayoral Minute be received and noted
B. That we stand for a minute's silence to honour Tom Sweeney.
C. That the Mayor write to Tom's family and enclose a copy of the Mayoral Minute.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PETITIONS

None

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Mayor noted that the following items relating to the Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade were withdrawn from the agenda as the matter was determined by Council at the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on 18 May 2026:

- *GB.7 - Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade - Project Update*
- *GB.11 - Request for supplementary information - GB.7 Norman Griffiths Oval Upgrade - Project Update*

90 **Investment Report as at 30 April 2026**

File: FY00623/8
Vide: GB.1

To present Council's investment portfolio performance for April 2026.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

That:

A. The summary of investments and performance for April 2026 be received and noted.

B. The Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

91 **Analysis of Land and Environment Court Costs - 3rd Quarter 2025 to 2026**

File: FY00623/8
Vide: GB.2

To report legal costs in relation to development appeal matters in the Land and Environment Court for the quarter ended 31 March 2026.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

That the analysis of Land and Environment Court costs for the period ended 31 March 2026 be received and noted.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

92 **2025 - 2026 Budget Review - 3rd Quarter ended March 2026**

File: FY00701/2
Vide: GB.3

To inform Council of the results of the third quarter budget review of 2025/26 and proposed adjustments to the annual budget based on the actual financial performance and trend for the period 1 July 2025 to 31 March 2026.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

That the March 2026 Quarterly Budget Review and the recommended changes be received and noted, including the additional changes presented in the late memorandum at GB.13.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

93 **Council response to draft Statewide Community Participation Plan**

File: S15266
Vide: GB.4

This report outlines the implications of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure's (DPHI) draft Statewide Community Participation Plan for Council and the Ku-ring-gai community and seeks that Council endorses the attached submission in response to the public exhibition.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

That Council:

A. Notes the implications of the draft Statewide Community Participation Plan, including that it will replace Council's existing Community Participation Plan for planning matters; and

B. Endorses the draft submission for submission to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in response to the public exhibition.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

94 **RFT3-2026 Bedes Forest Urban Park St Ives**

File: RFT3-2026/R
Vide: GB.5

To consider the tenders received for RFT3-2026 Bedes Forest Urban Park St, Ives and to appoint the preferred tenderer.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

That:

A. Council accepts the tender submission from Tenderer A to carry out the construction of the new Bedes Forest urban park St Ives.

B. The Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority to execute all tender documents on Council's behalf in relation to the contract.

C. The Seal of Council be affixed to all necessary documents.

D. All tenderers be advised of Council's decision in accordance with Clause 178 of the Local Government Tendering Regulation 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

95 **RFT4-2026 Mimosa Oval Playspace Upgrade**

File: RFT4-2026/R
Vide: GB.6

To consider the tenders received for RFT4-2026 Playspace Upgrade Mimosa Oval, Turramurra and to appoint the preferred tenderer.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

That:

A. Council accepts the tender submission from Tenderer A to carry out the Playspace Upgrade Mimosa Oval.

B. The Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority to execute all tender documents on Council's behalf in relation to the contract.

C. The Seal of Council be affixed to all necessary documents.

D. All tenderers be advised of Council's decision in accordance with Clause 178 of the Local Government Tendering Regulation 2021.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

96 **Northern Beaches Network Review**

File: TM1/18
Vide: GB.8

To consider Council's submission to the Northern Beaches Network Review.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

That the draft submission be adopted and forwarded to Transport for NSW for consideration in the Northern Beaches Network Review.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

97 **Climate Change Policy 2026 - Public Exhibition**

File: S13127
Vide: GB.9

To update Council on the draft *Climate Change Policy 2026* (Attachment A1), and recommend the draft policy be placed on public exhibition.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

A. That the draft policy to be placed on public exhibition for minimum period of 28 days to invite community feedback.

B. That, following the public exhibition:

   a. If submissions are received that necessitate material amendments, a revised Policy be reported back to Council for adoption; or

   b. If no significant amendments are required, the Policy be adopted as exhibited.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

98 **Late memorandum - GB.10 - Heritage Reference Committee membership – Update on consultation**

File: EM00049/4
Vide: GB.12

To provide Council with supplementary information, including late memoranda and formal responses to questions raised by Councillors, following the distribution of the business paper.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

A. Receive and note the supplementary information.
B. Note that the information contained within the attached documents is to be read in conjunction with the published Business Paper and, where specified, supersedes previous staff advice or recommendations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

99 **Late memorandum - GB.3 - 2025 - 2026 Budget Review - 3rd Quarter ended March 2026**

File: EM00049/4
Vide: GB.13

To provide Council with supplementary information, including late memoranda and formal responses to questions raised by Councillors, following the distribution of the business paper.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Ward/Wheatley)

A. Receive and note the supplementary information.
B. Note that the information contained within the attached documents is to be read in conjunction with the published Business Paper and, where specified, supersedes previous staff advice or recommendations.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

100 **Heritage Reference Committee membership**

File: CY00413/14
Vide: GB.10

To review the current community membership of Council's Heritage Reference Committee. Based on this review, it is recommended that both existing community members be reappointed.

Resolved:

(Moved: Councillors Wheatley/Balachandran)

That Council:

A. Re-appoint the existing community members, Dr Zeny Edwards and Mr Chris Bluett, to the Heritage Reference Committee.

B. Amend the Heritage Reference Committee Terms of Reference to add a community representative position to be filled by a person who brings experience in Aboriginal heritage, cultural knowledge, or cultural authority, and skills in areas such as heritage, planning, archaeology, history, community engagement or other relevant areas. In recognition of the importance of First Nations voices in heritage discussions, priority may be given to Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander applicants with relevant experience. Call for expressions of interest for this position.

C. Call for expressions of interest to fill the remaining vacant community representative position within 12 months.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

BUSINESS WITHOUT NOTICE – SUBJECT TO CLAUSE 9.3 OF CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE

Nil

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Ku-ring-gai Community and Business Energy Summit: Key Issues

File: S08513/2
Vide: QN.1

QUESTIONS:

Questions from Cr Matt Devlin, Comenarra Ward, dated 10 April 2026

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the Ku-ring-gai Chamber of Commerce for hosting the recent Community and Business Energy Summit, delivered in collaboration with EnergyZE, and supported by Ku-ring-gai Council. It was a well-attended and genuinely valuable forum, bringing together residents, local businesses and subject matter experts to discuss the practical challenges and opportunities associated with energy, emissions and sustainability.

A consistent theme throughout the evening was that the community is engaged, informed and keen to be part of the solution, but is often navigating complexity, whether that be access to renewable energy, the transition to electric vehicles, or broader environmental concerns such as tree canopy and development impacts.

The following Questions with Notice seek to capture those themes and provide an opportunity for Council to outline the work already underway, as well as identify where further advocacy or action may be required.

QUESTIONS

1. Tree Loss and Environmental Oversight

In light of community concerns raised at the recent Ku-ring-gai Community and Business Energy Summit regarding tree loss and the perceived ability for development pathways to circumvent local controls, can staff outline:

a. Council's current approach to tree protection and enforcement;
b. How Council engages with State agencies, including NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, where approvals sit outside local determination; and,
c. Any recent initiatives or advocacy undertaken by Council to strengthen tree protection outcomes?

2. Community Batteries and Energy Storage

What is Council's current position on community batteries and local energy storage solutions, and are there any existing or proposed initiatives within Ku-ring-gai to support their rollout?

3. Renewable Energy Access (Including Renters and Apartments)

What programs, advocacy positions or partnerships are currently in place (if any), or under consideration (if any), to improve access to renewable energy for residents who are unable to install rooftop solar, including renters, strata residents and small businesses?

4. Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

Can staff provide an update on:

a. The current provision of public EV charging infrastructure across Ku-ring-gai;
b. How Council is supporting or advocating for improved access to EV charging within Council facilities or public domains; and,
c. How Council is supporting or advocating for improved access to EV charging for residents in apartments and mixed-use developments?

5. Energy Efficiency and Emissions Reduction

What are the key actions currently being undertaken by Council to reduce emissions within the
Ku-ring-gai local government area, including:

a. Improvements to Council-owned assets (such as lighting and facilities);
b. Programs supporting household energy efficiency (including insulation and retrofitting); and,
c. Broader strategies aligned with Council's net zero objectives?

6. Waste, Circular Economy and Demolition

Given community concern regarding the volume of demolition occurring within Ku-ring-gai, what measures are currently in place, or being explored, to:

a. Improve the reuse and recycling of building materials; and,
b. Support a more circular economy approach to construction and development within the LGA.

7. Planning System and Sustainability Outcomes

How is Council currently leveraging its planning framework, including the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan, to:

a. Encourage energy-efficient building design;
b. Support the integration of renewable energy systems in new developments; and,
c. Respond to emerging issues such as EV readiness and building electrification?

8. Business and Innovation Opportunities

What opportunities exist for Council to support local businesses in transitioning to lower-emissions operations, including:

a. Access to EV infrastructure;
b. Energy efficiency upgrades; and,
c. Participation in emerging technologies and innovation within the clean energy sector?

RESPONSE:

Responses provided by the General Manager, Director Development & Regulation, Director Operations and Director Strategy & Environment.

1. Tree Loss and Environmental Oversight

In light of community concerns raised at the recent Ku-ring-gai Community and Business Energy Summit regarding tree loss and the perceived ability for development pathways to circumvent local controls, can staff outline:

a. Council's current approach to tree protection and enforcement;
b. How Council engages with State agencies, including NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, where approvals sit outside local determination; and,
c. Any recent initiatives or advocacy undertaken by Council to strengthen tree protection outcomes?

Management response:

a. *The Ku-ring-gai Urban Forest Strategy provides a strategic framework to guide how Council protects, manages and enhances its urban forest into the future. The Strategy establishes clear, measurable targets and directions to safeguard our existing tree, vegetation and soil assets and strives to increase canopy cover.*

   The management and protection of trees on private property is regulated through Part 13 of Council's DCP. This part outlines when and where vegetation removal requires assessment and a permit, or when a development application may be required. See Trees on your property Ku-ring-gai for an overview of managing trees on private property.

   Council has also acquired high resolution aerial data on Ku-ring-gai's trees, including location and canopy height, and is working to integrate this data into a comprehensive online Tree Inventory which will be finalised later this year. The intention is to increase the public's understanding of the value of trees and the make-up of our urban forest. As the Tree Inventory develops, further information about individual trees on private and public land – including species and information on any permits to prune or remove - will become publicly available.

   Council actively investigates unlawful work to trees and is currently engaged in various stages of action in relation to multiple sites in Ku-ring-gai, including obtaining evidence, issuing fines, and bringing Court prosecutions. Council can and does prosecute those procuring or carrying out illegal works. There are currently six prosecutions proceeding in the Courts against persons for a range of tree-related offences.

   In the 2025-2026 financial year to February 2026 the Council received 658 reports from the public concerning alleged illegal tree removals. While the

majority of the reported incidents were found to be carried out lawfully, Council issued 54 fines totalling $189,000.

b. *Council maintains a close working relationship with DCCEEW, enabling timely responses to related matters and efficient confirmation of applications that may require approval under the NSW Biodiversity Conservation Act. This collaboration also ensures that referrals are made to the appropriate authority when necessary. Council staff also undertake mapping review and provide feedback to DCCEEW where it is identified vegetation mapping data requires update or refinement.*

c. *Recent initiatives and advocacy since 2023 to strengthen tree protection include:*
    - *Education campaigns including brochures and posters in multiple languages, and the Killior'ra Tree Trail Ku-ring-gai.*
    - *Developing an online mapping tool for the public to cross-reference tree-related applications, aiding in identifying potential unauthorised work.*
    - *Development of a Council Tree Inventory Management System*
    - *Establishment of an Iconic Tree Register*
    - *Amendment to Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan Part 13: Tree and Vegetation Protection to enhance clarity around Council's legislative obligations and the interaction with instruments such as the SEPP (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 and the Biodiversity Conservation Act 2016.*
    - *Implementing a requirement to advertise tree permits at the front of properties when removing or pruning trees under the terms of development consent.*
    - *Requiring property owners to replace trees through Tree Replacement Orders.*
    - *Contacting the Minister of Planning and Public Spaces twice, urging stricter penalties on both individuals and organisations involved in illegal tree-related actions.*
    - *Council has lobbied its peers through the LGNSW organisation to press the NSW Government for steeper financial penalties.*
    - *The Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) is also undertaking work on how councils may act together on a regional basis to prevent, investigate and respond to illegal tree removal on public land.*
    - *Councils across NSW are awaiting the implementation of proposed new measures to prevent illegal tree removal put forward by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure in 2025. Ku-ring-gai Council made a submission during the EIE for the proposed changes and will continue to work with DPHI and advocate for legislative updates that help strengthen local government enforcement of tree protection measures.*

2. Community Batteries and Energy Storage

What is Council's current position on community batteries and local energy storage solutions, and are there any existing or proposed initiatives within Ku-ring-gai to support their rollout?

Management response:

Council's Net Zero strategy includes assessing the feasibility of energy transition projects such as community batteries. This has included reviews of existing community battery trials, community battery, assessments with retailers and consultation with network providers. As part of its battery storage strategy, Council is continuing to assess the feasibility of community battery models.

Council's Environmental Levy funds the Energy Smart rebate program which is available to homes and individual apartments and the Smart Units rebate program which is available to apartment blocks.

The Energy Smart Solar PV rebate applied to solar PV (minimum 5kW) or battery (minimum 5kWh). In line with developments in battery storage and household electrification a new separate battery rebate (up to $500) came into effect on 30th July 2025.

The Smart Units rebates are available for shared solar PV where a minimum of 8 residential units will be connected (up to $4000). A review of the program is underway and the addition of batteries to this rebate offering will be considered.

3. Renewable Energy Access (Including Renters and Apartments)

What programs, advocacy positions or partnerships are currently in place (if any), or under consideration (if any), to improve access to renewable energy for residents who are unable to install rooftop solar, including renters, strata residents and small businesses?

Management response:

The Energy Smart rebates are available to rented homes and individual apartments with landlord approval. The Smart Units rebates are generally applied for through a Strata Committee or Strata/ Building Manager. Sustainability upgrades require a Sustainability Infrastructure Resolution to be passed at an AGM or EGM by 50% of all owners entitled to vote and present. As noted above the Smart Units rebate includes up to 50% of cost (up to $4000) for shared solar PV for a minimum of 8 units. The NSW Government Solar for Apartment Residents (SoAR) grant offers up to $150,000 towards solar installation on eligible apartment blocks. This program has recently been extended to 30th December 2026 and at least 7 apartment blocks in Ku-ring-gai have received SoAR grants.

Council's Net Zero Ku-ring-gai website includes Electrify Action checklists to assist residents, renters and Strata blocks in their home electrification.

Council's Net Zero Champions community volunteer program supports the Net Zero Action Collective – a group of individual residents and local community organisations actively advocating for community-led renewables.

Despite these initiatives, it is widely acknowledged there are significant barriers to renters and strata residents in accessing renewable energy. Ku-ring-gai Council is a partner in the Race for 2030 CRC Driving Energy Upgrades in Private Rental Homes research project delivered through the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney involving tenants, landlords and Real Estate Agents within the Ku-ring-gai LGA. The project is seeking to understand the barriers home renters face in securing sustainability home upgrades and the government policies and incentives that can overcome them.

4. Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

Can staff provide an update on:

a. The current provision of public EV charging infrastructure across Ku-ring-gai;
b. How Council is supporting or advocating for improved access to EV charging within Council facilities or public domains; and,
c. How Council is supporting or advocating for improved access to EV charging for residents in apartments and mixed-use developments?

Management response:

a. As of 21 April 2026, there are 43 public EV charging ports with combined capacity of 859 kW of charging provided both by Council and other providers. There are 21 additional kerbside charging spaces (total 462kW) and 8 additional fast charging spaces (total 300 kW) planned for deliver this calendar year.
b. Council has an active program of delivering kerbside and fast charging solutions throughout Ku-ring-gai.
c. For new developments, Part 7, 8 and 9 of the DCP requires all medium and high-density residential development and residential dwellings in mixed-use development to provide EV readiness. This includes provision for conduits, switchboards, electrical capacity/load management etc, to facilitate the installation of electric vehicle charging points that are linked to each individual dwelling's electricity meter. Council's Smart Units rebate program offers 50% of cost up to $2000 for EV charging. The rebate is available for a smart enabled shared electric car charging station or infrastructure to support individual charging points to a minimum of 5 residential parking lots (such as upgrade of distribution board and cable infrastructure).

5. Energy Efficiency and Emissions Reduction

What are the key actions currently being undertaken by Council to reduce emissions within the
Ku-ring-gai local government area, including:

a. Improvements to Council-owned assets (such as lighting and facilities);
b. Programs supporting household energy efficiency (including insulation and retrofitting); and,
c. Broader strategies aligned with Council's net zero objectives?c

Management response:

a. *Initiatives to reduce emissions from Council facilities include upgrades for energy efficient lighting, air conditioning, smart building controls, rooftop solar PV, battery storage, electric vehicles, gas plant electrification, smart metering and energy management systems.*
b. *The Energy Smart, Smart Units and Pool Pump rebate programs offer rebates to residents in homes and apartments to retrofit across a range of areas from windows and insulation through to hot water heat pumps, induction cooktops, solar and batteries. The program is supported by our Greenstyle consultation service where residents can seek advice on electrification and home comfort through a phone call or face to face visit from our staff sustainability experts. This is a very well-supported program. Council's Net Zero Communities website is a subsite of the KRG website and provides a range of current advice and support around reducing our emissions*
c. *Council also undertakes a) strategic energy procurement to source 100% renewable energy for electricity used int Council facilities, b) participates in regional working groups and communities of practice, and c) tracks community and council emissions using a number of data analytics tools.*

6. Waste, Circular Economy and Demolition

Given community concern regarding the volume of demolition occurring within Ku-ring-gai, what measures are currently in place, or being explored, to:

a. Improve the reuse and recycling of building materials; and,
b. Support a more circular economy approach to construction and development within the LGA.

Management response:

Part 23.3 and 23.9 of the DCP address building material sustainability and recycling. Other conditions of consent may be attached to a particular development application if required.

During demolition and construction, The Principal Certifier shall be satisfied that building materials suitable for recycling have been forwarded to an appropriate registered business dealing in recycling of materials. Materials to be recycled must be kept in good order.

7. Planning System and Sustainability Outcomes

How is Council currently leveraging its planning framework, including the Local Environmental Plan and Development Control Plan, to:

a. Encourage energy-efficient building design;
b. Support the integration of renewable energy systems in new developments; and,

c. Respond to emerging issues such as EV readiness and building electrification?

Management response:

Part 23.2 of the Development Control Plan requires incorporation of sustainability/energy efficiency/low emission developments for all non-residential buildings. The SEPP Sustainability 2021 includes requirements for residential and office buildings which Council's LEP/DCP cannot override. The DCP had filled any gaps that the SEPP has not covered.

Part 7, 8 of the DCP requires all high-density development to provide EV readiness. Staff are researching other Councils and looking to exclude gas appliances in the DCP and a move towards electrification.

8. Business and Innovation Opportunities

What opportunities exist for Council to support local businesses in transitioning to lower-emissions operations, including:

a. Access to EV infrastructure;
b. Energy efficiency upgrades; and,
c. Participation in emerging technologies and innovation within the clean energy sector?

Management response:

Ku-ring-gai Council has expanded its support for local businesses who are championing sustainability in their work practices. Better Business Partnership (BBP) program members can take advantage of rebates to install energy and water efficiency measures, Electric vehicle chargers and solar PV and battery storage. BBP program also offer tailored support to businesses to reduce their energy bills.

Social Housing Stock and Condition in Ku-ring-gai

File: S06610
Vide: QN.2

QUESTION:

Questions from Councillor Matt Devlin, Comenarra Ward, dated 10 April 2026

Housing affordability and availability continue to be a growing concern across Sydney, including within Ku-ring-gai. While the area is often perceived as relatively affluent, there is an increasing cohort of residents experiencing housing stress, including older people, single-parent households, key workers and those on lower incomes.

It is important to distinguish between social housing and affordable housing, as they serve different but complementary roles within the housing system.

Social housing refers to housing owned and managed by the NSW Government or registered community housing providers, allocated to individuals and families with the highest level of need. This includes public housing and community housing, typically provided at subsidised rents and managed through agencies such as Homes NSW.

Affordable housing, by contrast, is generally provided at below-market rent or purchase price for households on low to moderate incomes, including key workers. It is often delivered through planning mechanisms, partnerships, or private sector contributions, and sits outside the traditional social housing system.

While the provision and management of social housing is the responsibility of the NSW Government, local government plays an important role in understanding community need, advocating for residents, and ensuring that local impacts are clearly communicated to the relevant authorities.

This is particularly important in areas such as Ku-ring-gai, where there is limited availability of diverse housing options, and where vulnerable residents may face additional barriers in remaining within their local community.

QUESTIONS

1. Social Housing Demand and Trends

Can staff provide an overview of any available data or insights regarding demand for social housing within Ku-ring-gai, including:

a. The number and distribution of existing social housing dwellings within the LGA;
b. Known waiting list trends or pressures (where available); and,
c. Any observed changes in the number or nature of resident enquiries relating to housing insecurity?

2. Engagement with State Government

What mechanisms are currently in place for Council to engage with the NSW Government, including Homes NSW, in relation to:

a. The condition and maintenance of existing social housing stock; and,
b. The planning and delivery of new social housing within the LGA?

3. Advocacy Opportunities

Has Council undertaken any recent advocacy, or is it considering advocacy, to the NSW Government in relation to:

a. Renewal or repair of existing social housing stock;
b. Increasing the supply of social housing within Ku-ring-gai, particularly smaller dwellings suitable for seniors and single-person households; and,

c. Ensuring that social housing provision aligns with identified local need?

4. Council Role and Local Response

Within its current powers, what role can Council play in:

a. Supporting vulnerable residents experiencing housing insecurity; and,
b. Facilitating or encouraging the delivery of additional affordable or social housing through planning or partnership mechanisms?

RESPONSE:

Response provided by the General Manager, Director of Community, Director of Strategy & Environment:

1. Social Housing Demand and Trends

Can staff provide an overview of any available data or insights regarding demand for social housing within Ku-ring-gai, including:

a. The number and distribution of existing social housing dwellings within the LGA;
b. Known waiting list trends or pressures (where available); and,
c. Any observed changes in the number or nature of resident enquiries relating to housing insecurity?

Management response:

a. *Information related to the number and distribution of social housing dwellings within the LGA is not publicly available, however in the 2021 Census, 119 persons self-reported as renting social housing properties in Ku-ring-gai. Staff will make further enquiries with the NSW Department of Communities and Justice to seek further information regarding the number and distribution of existing social housing dwellings within the LGA and the response to this enquiry will be reported to Council once received.*

b. *The median wait time for social housing placement in NSW remains ostensibly unchanged for the past year, sitting at 15 months in March 2025 and 15.1 months in March 2026.*

   State-level data indicates sustained demand pressures, with approximately 67,968 households on the NSW Housing Register as at January 2026, however as stated in National Housing Supply and Affordability Council's 2025 annual report 'State of the Housing System', the supply of social and affordable housing is expected to accelerate.

   The NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) maintains social housing waiting list data on its website at www.dcj.nsw.gov.au. This data includes information regarding types of housing applications, median wait times and comparative data for housing allocation zones and housing districts.

Ku-ring-gai falls within DCJ's Northern Suburbs housing allocation zone, which includes Ryde and Hornsby local government areas, and sits within DCJ's Sydney district. According to the data provided by DCJ, there were a total of 2,574 applicants on the NSW Housing Register within the Northern suburbs housing allocation zone as at 31 March 2026 that were waiting for social housing.

Staff will make further enquiries with DCJ to seek further information regarding waiting list trends and pressures specific to the Ku-ring-gai local government area and the number and distribution of existing social housing and the response to this enquiry will be reported to Council once received.

c. *There are no observed changes in the number or nature of resident enquiries relating to housing insecurity in Ku-ring-gai, however it should be noted that in Council's community research report undertaken by Micromex in in 2024, concerns for housing availability/affordability significantly increased from 5% in 2021 to 22% in 2024.*

   Council does not currently undertake systematic data collection in relation to social housing demand, which is consistent with its role within the broader housing system, however staff will seek further information from local service networks and DCJ regarding this matter and will report these responses to Council once received.

2. Engagement with State Government

What mechanisms are currently in place for Council to engage with the NSW Government, including Homes NSW, in relation to:

a. The condition and maintenance of existing social housing stock; and,
b. The planning and delivery of new social housing within the LGA?

Management response:

a. *There is currently no forum through which engagement with the NSW Government and its representative agencies relating to the condition and maintenance of existing social housing stock routinely occurs, however staff will seek advice from DCJ regarding its maintenance and asset condition assessment processes and report this response to Council once received.*

b. *Council works with a district service provider network that includes community housing providers and representatives from State government agencies. The network coordinates service responses and discusses the housing needs of persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This network would serve as a mechanism through which staff could raise evidence-based needs, including a need for new social housing in Ku-ring-gai if it were identified. Further to this, staff will seek a response from DCJ regarding its planning for and delivery of social housing within the local government area, and the response will be provided to Council once received.*

3. Advocacy Opportunities

Has Council undertaken any recent advocacy, or is it considering advocacy, to the NSW Government in relation to:

a. Renewal or repair of existing social housing stock;
b. Increasing the supply of social housing within Ku-ring-gai, particularly smaller dwellings suitable for seniors and single-person households; and,
c. Ensuring that social housing provision aligns with identified local need?

Management response:

a. *To date, Council has not undertaken any advocacy to the NSW Government in relation to the renewal or repair of existing social housing stock, however, Council may choose to advocate regarding this matter following its consideration of the response to the enquiry that will be sent to DCJ regarding its maintenance and asset condition assessment processes.*

b. *Whilst Council has not undertaken nor is currently considering advocacy regarding the type and number of social housing dwellings provided in the local government area, Council works with a district service provider network that includes community housing providers and representatives from State government agencies.*

   This network provides an opportunity for agencies, including Council, to raise system-wide capacity pressures with State agencies, including any limitations related to the availability of social housing within the local government area to meet the identified need.

   Staff will make direct enquiries both with DCJ and the district service provide network to understand the demand for social housing within the local government area, and this will be further reported to Council. Council may resolve to advocate to the State Government regarding the provision of social housing within the local government area pending its consideration of the information received in response to these enquiries.

4. Council Role and Local Response

Within its current powers, what role can Council play in:

a. Supporting vulnerable residents experiencing housing insecurity; and,
b. Facilitating or encouraging the delivery of additional affordable or social housing through planning or partnership mechanisms?

Management response:

a. *Council's role is primarily facilitative when supporting vulnerable residents experiencing housing insecurity. Council works in partnership with service providers, supporting access to community facilities, participating in interagency coordination, and providing information and referral pathways to assist residents in accessing appropriate support services.*

b. *Ku-ring-gai Council adopted its first Affordable Housing Policy on 15 April 2025 and continued to work on an Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme to support the proposed alternative Transport Oriented Development around the four stations of Gordon, Killara, Lindfield and Roseville. The supporting Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme (AHCS) was exhibited in August/September 2025 and adopted at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 21 October 2025. The next step in the process of implementing the Affordable Housing Policy and the AHCS is to engage an accredited Community Housing Provider to manage Council's future affordable housing portfolio.*

Affordable housing will help ensure that Ku-ring-gai's community remains diverse, allowing people from various income levels and backgrounds to live near their jobs, social networks and neighbourhood connections. Affordable housing supports the local economy by assisting local businesses and essential services to attract and retain employees. By enabling employees to live closer to their place of employment, affordable housing would help to retain Ku-ring-gai's vital workers, strengthen the local economy and reduce the risk of labour shortages in essential industries. In the case of care workers, such as aged care workers and childcare workers, high staff turnover directly impacts the quality and continuity of care.

Planning for social housing in NSW is driven by evidence-based need, is aimed at increasing supply, diversity, and affordability, and is informed by local housing strategies and demographic data.

Council works with a district service provider network that includes community housing providers and representatives from State government agencies. The network coordinates service responses and discusses the housing needs of persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This network would serve as a mechanism through which staff could raise evidence-based needs, including a need for new social housing in Ku-ring-gai if it were identified.

As abovementioned, staff will make direct enquiries both with DCJ and the district service provide network to understand the demand for social housing within the local government area, and this will be further reported to Council. Council may decide to advocate to the State Government regarding the provision of social housing within the local government area pending its consideration of the information received in response to these enquiries.

INSPECTIONS– SETTING OF TIME, DATE AND RENDEZVOUS

Nil

The Meeting closed at 7:17pm

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 May 2026 (Pages 1 - 43) were confirmed as a full and accurate record of proceedings on Tuesday 16 June 2026.

_____	_____
General Manager	Mayor / Chairperson

Item MM.1

MAYORAL MINUTE

VALE PATRICK VOON - COMMUNITY LEADER

It is my sad duty to inform the Ku-ring-gai community and Council of the passing of Patrick Voon, a longstanding local resident and former President of the Chinese Australian Forum.

For decades Patrick dedicated himself to building understanding between the Chinese community and the broader Australian society. He worked tirelessly on issues of multiculturalism, racial harmony and community representation at a time when these matters were often difficult and unpopular to raise publicly.

Patrick was a life member of the Australian Chinese Forum (CAF) serving as President between 2011 and 2013 and holding various roles, including most recently the position of treasurer.

Among the causes that Patrick championed were:

- the CAF complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission concerning racial hatred radio broadcasts under the Racial Discrimination Act
- the CAF campaign to urge voters of Randwick City Council to support candidates who would protect the Heritage Listed La Perouse Chinese Market Gardens
- appearing before the NSW Legislative Council inquiry into racial vilification laws in 2013
- In Turramurra, together with local MP Alister Henskens, convening a community conference responding to racism against members of the Chinese community.

Through his leadership, Patrick also coordinated important community forums, cultural events and public discussions which strengthened the voice of the Chinese Australian community across New South Wales.

Many people saw Patrick's gentle smile, calm manner and kindness. What many did not see was the quiet determination behind the scenes to ensure Chinese Australians were treated with dignity, respect and equality under the law.

Patrick leaves behind a lasting legacy through the countless people he helped, mentored, and encouraged over many decades of service to the community. On behalf of Council and our community, I offer our sincere condolences to his widow Patricia, daughter Alison and his many friends.

RECOMMENDATION:

A. That the Mayoral Minute be received and noted
B. That we stand for a minute's silence to honour Patrick Voon.
C. That the Mayor write to Patrick's family and enclose a copy of the Mayoral Minute.

Item MM.1

Councillor Christine Kay
Mayor

CODE OF MEETING PRACTICE - DISALLOWANCE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (GENERAL) AMENDMENT (MODEL CODE) REGULATION 2025

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To brief Council on the disallowance motion passed by the NSW Legislative Council and its impact on the Model Code of Meeting Practice.
BACKGROUND:	The 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice was issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG) and prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* enacted on 3 September 2025. Councils were required to adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporated the mandatory provisions of the 2025 Model Code by 31 December 2025. On 26 May 2026, the NSW Legislative Council voted to disallow the amendment to the regulation. This effectively repealed the 2025 Model Code and its supporting provisions in the Regulation.
COMMENTS:	The mandatory requirements, administrative processes and restrictions introduced by the 2025 Model Code no longer carry statutory force. To maintain clarity, legal certainty and ensure effective governance, it is recommended that Council rescind its resolution to adopt the 2025 Model Code and revert to the previously adopted Code of Meeting Practice (aligned with the 2021 Model Code).
RECOMMENDATION:	That Council: A. Note the disallowance of the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code) Regulation 2025* by the NSW Legislative Council. B. Rescind the 21 October 2025 resolution to adopt the 2025 Code of Meeting Practice (minute no. 191) C. Revert to the Code of Meeting Practice adopted on 22 October 2024, effective immediately.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To brief Council on the disallowance motion passed by the NSW Legislative Council and its impact on the Model Code of Meeting Practice.

BACKGROUND

The 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice was issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG) and prescribed under amendments to the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* enacted on 3 September 2025. Councils were required to adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporated the mandatory provisions of the 2025 Model Code by 31 December 2025.

Council resolved to adopt a new Code of Meeting Practice at the Ordinary Meeting of Council (OMC) on 21 October 2025, subject to public exhibition. At this same meeting, Council resolved to submit a motion to the LGNSW Annual Conference objecting to these restrictive provisions and write directly to the Minister for Local Government seeking a response on these concerns. This motion was carried at the conference.

Council has been operating under the provisions of the new Code since 1 January 2026.

On 26 May 2026, a motion tabled by Dr Amanda Cohn MLC to disallow the new Code of Meeting Practice was passed by the Legislative Council. Under Parliamentary standing orders and the *Interpretation Act 1987*, the passing of the disallowance motion means that the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025* ceases to have effect.

This means that the 2025 Model Meeting Code is no longer prescribed for the purposes of section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* . The previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version. Under section 360 of the Act, Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the prescribed Model Code. As a result, certain unique provisions of the current adopted Code are no longer legally permissible.

COMMENTS

In accordance with advice provided by the Deputy Secretary of the Office of Local Government (see Attachment A1), Council should rescind its resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code. This will minimise confusion about the applicable rules at future meetings and ensure compliance with section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* .

This rescission will have the immediate effect of reinstating the Code of Meeting Practice adopted on 22 October 2024 (see Attachment A2). Because more than three months have elapsed since Council adopted the current meeting code, the signatures of three councillors are not required to move this rescission.

The following is a summary of key changes introduced by the 2025 Model Code that are amended or removed by this rescission:

- Prohibition on pre-meeting briefing sessions: The prohibition on councillor briefing sessions regarding items listed on the business paper no longer applies.

- Attendance at meetings by audio-visual link: The restriction limiting remote Councillor attendance to cases of ill-health, medical reasons or unforeseen caring responsibilities is removed.

- Questions with notice and allegations of breaches of the Code: The rescission reinstates provisions that prevent a councillor from submitting a question with notice that comprises a complaint or allegation of wrongdoing against the General Manager or a member of staff.

- Supporting the neutrality of the General Manager: The rescission reintroduces provisions enabling the General Manager to provide formal reports on the legal, strategic, financial or policy implications of a Notice of Motion submitted by a councillor.

- Mayoral minutes: The provision that a Mayoral Minute must not be used to table matters without notice that are routine, non-urgent or complex is reestablished.

- Extraordinary meetings: The unilateral pathway for the Mayor to call an extraordinary meeting is removed. Procedures revert to Section 366 of the Local Government Act 1993, which requires a written request signed by at least two councillors (which may include the Mayor).

- Making information considered at closed meetings public: The rescission removes the requirement for the General Manager review and publish confidential business papers once the grounds for confidentiality expire.

- Voting on planning decisions: The rescission removes the obligation to record formal reasons whenever Council resolves to make a planning decision that is inconsistent with a staff recommendation.

- Dealing with disorder: The explicit restrictions regarding the bringing of flags, signs or protest symbols into the gallery are removed. Control of the gallery reverts to the existing powers of the Chairperson to manage disruption.

The recission of the following provisions will have little or no impact on existing policy or meeting procedures at Ku-ring-gai:

- Dealing with urgent business at meetings will revert to previous procedures. Moving business without notice requires a motion and ruling that the matter is of great urgency by the Chairperson.

- The mandatory requirement for council meetings and public forums to be livestreamed is removed. Council will continue to livestream these events under the terms of the previous Code.

- Provisions requiring Council to state the reasons for refusing a leave of absence are removed.

- Non-mandatory provisions relating to standards of dress, modes of address and encouraging staff and councillors to stand when the Mayor enters the chamber are removed.

- Reinstates the previous procedures governing the management of amendments and foreshadowed motions.

The adoption of the 2025 Model Code required Councils to determine whether to authorise the person presiding at a meeting to exercise a power of expulsion on the adoption of the new code and at the commencement of each council term. Council resolved that a Councillor could only be expelled by a resolution of Council, which was consistent with the previous Code. Therefore, the recission will have no impact.

The disallowance of the amendment does not prevent Council from including supplementary provisions or making changes to the reinstated version of the Code. However, any future amendments would require Council to exhibit the draft for a minimum of 28 days under the Act.

Advice from the OLG indicates that the Government is currently drafting a revised Model Code, and further comprehensive advice will be brought back to Council for consideration as soon as it becomes available.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Outcome 5: Leadership and service excellence

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Action
L1: Provide strong and ethical civic leadership to ensure good governance and build and maintain trust and confidence within the community.	L1.2: Council's governance framework supports probity, transparency, compliance with legislative requirements and a culture of ethical conduct and informed decision-making.	L1.2.5: Review and update Council's policy and procedures for the conduct of Council meetings, public forums and committees in line with Office of Local Government requirements.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW is prescribed under section 360 of the Local Government Act 1993 and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021. The Model Meeting Code applies to all meetings of councils and committees of councils of which all the members are councillors (committees of council).

All councils must adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporates the mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code. A council's adopted code of meeting practice may also incorporate the non-mandatory provisions of the Model Meeting Code and other supplementary provisions. However, a code of meeting practice adopted by a council must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of this Model Meeting Code.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

There are no material risks that arise from the recommendations contained in this report. Minor issues may occur, but these can be managed within Council's current policies, procedures, resources and budget.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct financial costs associated with the review and update of the Code of Meeting Practice.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

No significant impact.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

No significant impact.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Not required.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

The Corporate Lawyer have been consulted on the changes.

SUMMARY

The 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice was issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG) and prescribed under the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 enacted on 3 September 2025. Councils were required to adopt a code of meeting practice that incorporated the mandatory provisions of the 2025 Model Code by 31 December 2025. On 26 May 2026, the NSW Legislative Council voted to disallow the amendment to the regulation. This effectively repealed the 2025 Model Code and its supporting provisions in the Regulation. It is recommended that Council rescind its resolution to adopt the 2025 Model Code and revert to the previously adopted Code of Meeting Practice (aligned with the 2021 Model Code).

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

A. Note the disallowance of the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code) Regulation 2025* by the NSW Legislative Council.

B. Rescind the 21 October 2025 resolution to adopt the 2025 Code of Meeting Practice (minute no. 191)

C. Revert to the Code of Meeting Practice adopted on 22 October 2024, effective immediately.

Christopher M Jones
Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy

Attachments:	A1⇩	Correspondence from OLG - Meeting Code disallowance implications	2026/161957
	A2⇩	Ku-ring-gai Council Code of Meeting Practice (v11)	2024/210922

From: Amanda Beaumont [redacted] **On Behalf Of** Brett Whitworth
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2026 9:05 AM
Subject: Meeting Code disallowance implications

Dear General Manager,

I am writing to inform you that the Local Government (General) Amendment (Model Code of Meeting Practice) Regulation 2025 (**Amendment Regulation**) which prescribed the 2025 Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (**2025 Model Meeting Code**) has been disallowed by the Legislative Council.

The decision by the Legislative Council to disallow the regulation raises two immediate issues: under what meeting code will the councils operate and, whether the Government will be progressing another regulation for the purposes of prescribing an updated meeting code.

The practical implications of the disallowance

Under section 41(4) of the *Interpretation Act 1987*, if a regulation ceases to have effect because of its disallowance, and the regulation amended a regulation that was in force immediately before the amending regulation took effect, the disallowance of the amending regulation has the effect of restoring or reviving the previous regulation as of the day of its disallowance.

The disallowance of the Amendment Regulation therefore means that the 2025 Model Meeting Code is no longer prescribed for the purposes of section 360 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (**LG Act**) and the previous 2021 version of the Model Meeting Code now becomes the prescribed version.

Under section 360 of the LG Act, councils' adopted codes of meeting practice must not contain provisions that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the prescribed Model Meeting Code. This means that provisions of your council's adopted code of meeting practice based on the now disallowed 2025 Model Meeting Code that are inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the previous 2021 Model Meeting Code are no longer permissible.

The disallowance of the 2025 Model Meeting Code also means that mandatory provisions of that Code that were not mandated in the previous 2021 Model Meeting Code, are no longer mandatory.

Actions councils should be considering at their next meeting

To minimise confusion about the applicable rules at future meetings and to ensure compliance with section 360 of the LG Act, as the first item of business at the next meeting, your council should rescind its resolution adopting the 2025 Model Meeting Code. This will have the effect of reinstating your council's previous adopted code of meeting practice containing the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code. Because more than 3 months have passed since your council adopted its current meeting code, the signatures of 3 councillors are not required to rescind the resolution adopting the code.

Meetings of the council and committees comprising only of councillors should be conducted in accordance with the reinstated version of council's meeting code until such time as it is amended.

The disallowance of the Amendment Regulation does not prevent councils from including supplementary provisions in the reinstated version of their previous meeting code based on the provisions of the 2025 Model Meeting Code, provided they are not inconsistent with the mandatory provisions of the 2021 Model Meeting Code. If your council wishes to make amendments to the reinstated version of its previous meeting code, it will be required to prepare and exhibit a draft code in accordance with section 361 of the LG Act.

Next steps for the Government

The Government had 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.

Formal advice on a new code will be shared with you when the drafting is complete. In the interim, please share a copy of this email with the Mayor and councillors and your governance staff.

If you or your staff require further information or guidance, please feel free to contact the Office of Local Government's Council Governance Team on 02 4428 4100 or by email at olg@olg.nsw.gov.au.

Kind Regards,

Brett Whitworth PSM
Deputy Secretary
Local Government

Office of Local Government
Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure
[redacted]
Locked Bag 3015, NOWRA NSW 2541

www.olg.nsw.gov.au

NSW GOVERNMENT

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure acknowledges that it stands on Aboriginal land. We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land and we show our respect for elders past, present and emerging through thoughtful and collaborative approaches to our work, seeking to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to providing places in which Aboriginal people are included socially, culturally and economically.

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Ku-ring-gai Council

Code of Meeting Practice

Version Number 11

Adopted: 22 October 2024

Effective: 23 October 2024

Code of Meeting Practice

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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	Local Government Act 1993 Local Government (General) Regulation 2021	
Related Policies (Council & Internal)	Code of Conduct Councillor Interaction with Staff and Access to Information Policy Office of Local Government: Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (2021) Guide to webcasting council and committee meetings (2020) Closure of Council Meetings to the Public (2013)	

Version History

Version Number	Version Start Date	Version End Date	Author	Details and Comments
1		09/05/2005		Original Version
2	10/05/2005	09/06/2009		Review and update
3				Review and update, Regulation changes, Code of Conduct changes
4	10/06/2009	11/05/2010		No changes following public exhibition April/May 2009
5	12/05/2010	29/04/2013		Revision following DLG Meetings Practice Note August 2009 & DLG PBP Review
6	30/04/2013		Amber Moloney	Review and update – changes to s.451 of the Local Government Act 1993
7	30/04/2013	30/06/2019	Amber Moloney	**28/04/2016** minor modification made to : 6.5.1 – additional subclauses (4) and (5). **23/08/2017** - Update to new format
8	1/07/2019	09/12/2020	Amber Moloney & Peter Doyle	The Office of Local Government (OLG) released a new Model Code of Meeting Practice on 14 December 2018 containing mandatory provisions. This version of the Code complies with OLG's requirements.
9	09/12/2020	28/06/2022	Michael Wearne	Revision due to the requirement to retain recordings of meetings on Council's website for 12 months – OLG Circular 20-31.
10	29/06/2022	22/10/2024	Christopher M Jones	Revisions due to updated Code of Meeting Practice consistent with the Office of Local Government's (OLG) Circular of 29 October 2021.
11	23/10/2024	2028	Christopher M Jones	Revisions to allow for to allow for public forums to be recorded and webcast, and for speakers to address Council via audio-visual link (as resolved by Council on 16 July 2024).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Code of Meeting Practice for Ku-ring-gai Council is based on the Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW. The Model Code of Meeting Practice for Local Councils in NSW (the Model Code) is prescribed under section 360 of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (the Regulation).

1.2 This Code applies to all meetings of Council (and any committees of council of which all the members are councillors). Council (and any committees of council of which all the members are councillors) must conduct its meetings in accordance with this Code.

1.3 Rules for Council's committees that include persons other than councillors are described in the Council Advisory and Reference Committee Guideline.

2 MEETING PRINCIPLES

2.1 Council and committee meetings should be:

- **Transparent**: Decisions are made in a way that is open and accountable.
- **Informed**: Decisions are made based on relevant, quality information.
- **Inclusive**: Decisions respect the diverse needs and interests of the local community.
- **Principled**: Decisions are informed by the principles prescribed under Chapter 3 of the Act.
- **Trusted**: The community has confidence that Councillors and staff act ethically and make decisions in the interests of the whole community.
- **Respectful**: Councillors, staff and meeting attendees treat each other with respect.
- **Effective**: Meetings are well organised, effectively run and skilfully chaired.
- **Orderly**: Councillors, staff and meeting attendees behave in a way that contributes to the orderly conduct of the meeting.

3 BEFORE THE MEETING

Timing of ordinary council meetings

3.1 The council shall, by resolution, set the frequency, time, date and place of its ordinary meetings.[1] Ordinary meetings will commence at 7.00pm in the Council Chambers, 818 Pacific Highway Gordon, unless otherwise decided by resolution.

Extraordinary meetings

3.2 If the Mayor receives a request in writing, signed by at least two (2) councillors, the Mayor must call an extraordinary meeting of the council to be held as soon as practicable, but in any event, no more than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the request. The Mayor can be one of the two councillors requesting the meeting.[2]

Notice to the public of council meetings

3.3 The council must give notice to the public of the time, date and place of each of its meetings, including extraordinary meetings and of each meeting of committees of the council.[3]

3.4 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of a meeting of the council and of a committee of council is to be published before the meeting takes place. The notice must be published on the council's website, and in such other manner that the council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the meeting to the attention of as many people as possible.

3.5 For the purposes of clause 3.3, notice of more than one (1) meeting may be given in the same notice.

Notice to councillors of ordinary council meetings

3.6 The General Manager must send to each councillor, at least three (3) days before each meeting of the council, a notice specifying the time, date and place at which the meeting is to be held, and the business proposed to be considered at the meeting.[4]

3.7 The notice and the agenda for, and the business papers relating to, the meeting may be given to Councillors in electronic form, but only if all Councillors have facilities to access the notice, agenda and business papers in that form.[5]

[1] Note: Under section 365 of the Act, councils are required to meet at least ten (10) times each year, each time in a different month unless the Minister for Local Government has approved a reduction in the number of times that a council is required to meet each year under section 365A.
[2] Note: Reflects section 366 of the Act.
[3] Note: Reflects section 9(1) of the Act.
[4] Note: Reflects section 367(1) of the Act.
[5] Note: Reflects section 367(3) of the Act.

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Notice to Councillors of extraordinary meetings

3.8 Notice of less than three (3) days may be given to Councillors of an extraordinary meeting of the council in cases of emergency.[6]

Giving notice of business to be considered at council meetings

3.9 A Councillor may give notice of any business they wish to be considered by the council at its next ordinary meeting by way of a notice of motion. To be included on the agenda of the meeting, the notice of motion must be in writing and must be submitted by 2.00pm, two (2) business days before the scheduled day for the production of the business paper.

3.10 A Councillor may, in writing to the General Manager, request the withdrawal of a notice of motion submitted by them prior to its inclusion in the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered.

Questions with notice

3.11 A Councillor may, by way of a notice submitted under clause 3.9, ask a question for response by the General Manager about the performance or operations of the council.

3.12 A Councillor is not permitted to ask a question with notice under clause 3.11 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.

3.13 The General Manager or their nominee may respond to a question with notice submitted under clause 3.11 by way of a report included in the business papers for the relevant meeting of the council or orally at the meeting.

Agenda and business papers for ordinary meetings

3.14 The General Manager must cause the agenda for a meeting of the council or a committee of the council to be prepared as soon as practicable before the meeting.

3.15 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an ordinary meeting of the council states:

a) all matters to be dealt with arising out of the proceedings of previous meetings of the council, and

b) if the Mayor is the chairperson, any matter or topic that the chairperson proposes, at the time when the agenda is prepared, to put to the meeting, and

[6] Note: Reflects section 367(2) of the Act.

c) all matters, including matters that are the subject of staff reports and reports of committees, to be considered at the meeting, and

d) any business of which due notice has been given under clause 3.9.

3.16 Nothing in clause 3.15 limits the powers of the Mayor to put a Mayoral minute to a meeting under clause 9.6.

3.17 The General Manager must not include in the agenda for a meeting of the council any business of which due notice has been given if, in the opinion of the General Manager, the business is, or the implementation of the business would be, unlawful. The General Manager must report, without giving details of the item of business, any such exclusion to the next meeting of the council.

3.18 Where the agenda includes the receipt of information or discussion of other matters that, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to take place when the meeting is closed to the public, the General Manager must ensure that the agenda of the meeting:

a) identifies the relevant item of business and indicates that it is of such a nature (without disclosing details of the information to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public), and

b) states the grounds under section 10A(2) of the Act relevant to the item of business.[7]

3.19 The General Manager must ensure that the details of any item of business which, in the opinion of the General Manager, is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, are included in a business paper provided to Councillors for the meeting concerned. Such details must not be included in the business papers made available to the public and must not be disclosed by a Councillor or by any other person to another person who is not authorised to have that information.

Statement of ethical obligations

3.20 Business papers for all ordinary and extraordinary meetings of the council and committees of the council must contain a statement reminding Councillors of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under the council's Code of Conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

[7] Note: Reflects section 9(2A)(a) of the Act.

Availability of the agenda and business papers to the public

3.21 Copies of the agenda and the associated business papers, such as correspondence and reports for meetings of the council and committees of council, are to be published on the council's website, and must be made available to the public for inspection, or for taking away by any person free of charge at the offices of the council, at the relevant meeting and at such other venues determined by the council.[8]

3.22 Clause 3.21 does not apply to the business papers for items of business that the General Manager has identified under clause 3.18 as being likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public.[9]

3.23 For the purposes of clause 3.21, copies of agendas and business papers must be published on the council's website and made available to the public at a time that is as close as possible to the time they are available to Councillors.[10]

3.24 A copy of an agenda, or of an associated business paper made available under clause 3.21, may in addition be given or made available in electronic form.[11]

Agenda and business papers for extraordinary meetings

3.25 The General Manager must ensure that the agenda for an extraordinary meeting of the council deals only with the matters stated in the notice of the meeting.

3.26 Despite clause 3.25, business may be considered at an extraordinary meeting of the council, even though due notice of the business has not been given, if:

a) a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting, and

b) the business to be considered is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.

3.27 A motion moved under clause 3.26 (a) can be moved without notice but only after the business notified in the agenda for the extraordinary meeting has been dealt with.

3.28 Despite clauses 10.19–10.30, only the mover of a motion moved under clause 3.26(a) can speak to the motion before it is put.

[8] Note: Reflects section 9(2) and (4) of the Act.
[9] Note: Reflects section 9(2A)(b) of the Act.
[10] Note: Reflects section 9(3) of the Act.
[11] Note: Reflects section 9(5) of the Act.

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3.29 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling of the chairperson under clause 3.26(b) on whether a matter is of great urgency.

Pre-meeting briefing sessions

3.30 Prior to each ordinary meeting of the council, the General Manager may arrange a pre-meeting briefing session to brief Councillors on business to be considered at the meeting. Pre-meeting briefing sessions may also be held for extraordinary meetings of the council and meetings of committees of the council.

3.31 Pre-meeting briefing sessions are to be held in the absence of the public.

3.32 Pre-meeting briefing sessions may be held by audio-visual link.

3.33 The General Manager or a member of staff nominated by the General Manager is to preside at pre-meeting briefing sessions.

3.34 Councillors must not use pre-meeting briefing sessions to debate or make preliminary decisions on items of business they are being briefed on, and any debate and decision-making must be left to the formal council or committee meeting at which the item of business is to be considered.

3.35 Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of a briefing at a pre-meeting briefing session, in the same way that they are required to do so at a council or committee meeting. The council is to maintain a written record of all conflict of interest declarations made at pre-meeting briefing sessions and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made the declaration.

4 PUBLIC FORUMS

4.1 The council may hold a public forum prior to each ordinary meeting of the council for the purpose of hearing oral submissions and noting written submissions from members of the public on items of business to be considered at the meeting as well as on general matters not related to items to be considered at the meeting. Public forums may also be held prior to extraordinary council meetings and meetings of committees of the council.

4.2 Council shall, by resolution, set the date of public forums. At the discretion of the Mayor, public forums will generally commence at 6.00pm. Forums will be held as a hybrid meeting physically in the Council Chamber and by audio-visual link. If it is unable to held physically in the Council Chamber it will be held by audio-visual link only.

4.3 When a public forum is held as a hybrid meeting:

a) Councillors may attend and participate in person at the Council Chamber or by audio-visual link, at their discretion

b) members of the public may make written submissions, oral submissions in person at the Council Chamber or oral submissions by audio-visual link

c) the General Manager and other council staff may attend in person at the Council Chamber or by audio-visual link. Attendance by council staff by audio-visual link shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

4.4 If for any reason a public forum is unable to be held physically in the Council Chamber or by audio-visual link, alternative arrangements will be made to receive submissions from members of the public.

4.5 Public forums are to be chaired by the Mayor or their nominee.

Application process

4.6 To speak at a public forum (or lodge a written submission), a person must first make an application to the council in the approved form. This application (or written submission) must be received by 5.00pm on the day before the public forum, must identify the item of business on the agenda of the council meeting the person wishes to speak on, and whether they wish to speak 'for' or 'against' the item. If a person wishes to make a general address to the Council, they must apply in the same manner and identify the subject matter proposed to be addressed.

4.7 A person may apply to speak on no more than two items of business on the agenda of the council meeting. A person may also speak once as a general address not related to items of business on the agenda of the council meeting.

4.8 Legal representatives acting on behalf of others are not to be permitted to speak at a public forum unless they identify their status as a legal representative when applying to speak at the public forum.

4.9 The General Manager or their delegate may refuse an application to speak at a public forum. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

4.10 The General Manager or their delegate is to determine the order of speakers at the public forum.

4.11 In the event that more than 5 speakers lodge a valid application to speak "for" or "against" an item, the chairperson may call for a vote from Councillors to limit the number of speakers in a manner defined by the chairperson.

4.12 If the vote to limit the number of speakers is carried, those permitted to speak will be determined by the order in which the applications were received. Any person who is permitted to speak under this clause may, at their discretion, nominate another registered speaker to take their place.

Speaking at the public forum

4.13 Speakers are not permitted to use or present any props, audio, or visual material. Any written material to be presented to the council must be lodged as a written submission upon registration. The General Manager or their delegate may refuse to allow such written material to be presented.

4.14 Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to address the council. This time is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson.

4.15 Speakers at public forums must not digress from the item on the agenda of the council meeting they have applied to address the council on. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the Council chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

4.16 A Councillor (including the chairperson) may, through the chairperson, ask a maximum of two (2) questions of a speaker following their address at a public forum. Questions put to a speaker must be direct, succinct and without argument.

4.17 Speakers are under no obligation to answer a question put under clause 4.16. Answers by the speaker, to each question are to be limited to one (1) minute.

4.18 Speakers at public forums cannot ask questions of the council, Councillors or council staff.

Code of Conduct and keeping order

4.19 When addressing the council, speakers at public forums must comply with this code and all other relevant council codes, policies and procedures. Speakers must refrain from engaging in disorderly conduct, publicly alleging breaches of the council's Code of Conduct or making other potentially defamatory statements.

4.20 If the chairperson considers that a speaker at a public forum has engaged in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.19, the chairperson may request the person to refrain from the inappropriate behaviour and to withdraw and unreservedly apologise for any inappropriate comments. Where the speaker fails to comply with the chairperson's request, the chairperson may immediately require the person to stop speaking.

4.21 Clause 4.20 does not limit the ability of the chairperson to deal with disorderly conduct by speakers at public forums in accordance with the provisions of Part 15 of this code.

4.22 Where a speaker engages in conduct of the type referred to in clause 4.19, the General Manager or their delegate may refuse further applications from that person to speak at public forums for such a period as the General Manager or their delegate considers appropriate.

4.23 Councillors (including the Mayor) must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to any item of business that is the subject of an address at a public forum, in the same way that they are required to do so at a council or committee meeting. The council is to maintain a written record of all conflict of interest declarations made at public forums and how the conflict of interest was managed by the Councillor who made Attendance by Councillors at meetings by audio-visual link

Webcasting of public forums

4.24 Each public forum is to be recorded by means of an audio-visual device.

4.25 Attendees at a public forum may have their image, voice and personal information recorded, publicly broadcast and retained by Council. By attending a public forum, members of the public consent to this use of their image, voice and personal information. Parental consent is required for speakers under the age of 16.

4.26 Speakers not wishing to be captured on camera or recorded may provide Council with a written submission.

4.27 Council does not accept any liability for statements made or actions taken by individuals at a public forum that are defamatory or are otherwise contrary to law. Statements and actions such as these are not protected by privilege and may be the subject of legal proceedings and potential liability.

4.28 A statement will be published on Council's website, displayed in Council Chambers, printed in the agenda and announced by the chairperson at the start of each public forum that:

a) the forum will be recorded and webcast

b) those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements

c) statements made and actions taken by individuals at a public forum are those of the individuals making them and are not endorsed or supported by Council.

4.29 The General Manager will make the recording of the public forum publicly available within one business day of the meeting. However, if the chairperson or General Manager believe that publication may be unlawful then either may determine to publish an edited version of the webcast, and a notice of this decision on the Council's website.

4.30 Access to recordings of public meetings is provided on Council's website for personal and non-commercial use. Video and audio contained in recording of a Council meeting or event must not be altered, reproduced or republished without the permission of Council. Copyright of all recordings remains with Council.

4.31 Recordings of meetings may be disposed of in accordance with the State Records Act 1998.

5 COMING TOGETHER

Attendance by Councillors at meetings

5.1 All Councillors must make reasonable efforts to attend meetings of the council and of committees of the council of which they are members.[12]

5.2 A Councillor cannot participate in a meeting of the council or of a committee of the council unless present at the meeting, or attending the meeting by audio-visual link.

5.3 Where a Councillor is unable to attend one or more ordinary meetings of the council, the Councillor should request that the council grant them a leave of absence from those meetings. This clause does not prevent a Councillor from making an apology if they are unable to attend a meeting. However the acceptance of such an apology does not constitute the granting of a leave of absence for the purposes of this code and the Act.

5.4 A Councillor's request for leave of absence from council meetings should, if practicable, identify (by date) the meetings from which the Councillor intends to be absent and the grounds upon which the leave of absence is being sought.

5.5 The council must act reasonably when considering whether to grant a Councillor's request for a leave of absence.

5.6 A Councillor's civic office will become vacant if the Councillor is absent from three (3) consecutive ordinary meetings of the council without prior leave of the council, or leave granted by the council at any of the meetings concerned, unless the holder is absent because they have been suspended from office under the Act, or because the council has been suspended under the Act, or as a consequence of a compliance order under section 438HA.[13]

5.7 A Councillor who intends to attend a meeting of the council despite having been granted a leave of absence should, if practicable, give the General Manager at least two (2) days' notice of their intention to attend.

The quorum for a meeting

5.8 The quorum for a meeting of the council is a majority of the Councillors of the council who hold office at that time and are not suspended from office.[14]

[12] Note: A Councillor may not attend a meeting as a Councillor (other than the first meeting of the council after the Councillor is elected or a meeting at which the Councillor takes an oath or makes an affirmation of office) until they have taken an oath or made an affirmation of office in the form prescribed under section 233A of the Act.
[13] Note: Reflects section 234(1)(d) of the Act.
[14] Note: Reflects section 368(1) of the Act.

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5.9 Clause 5.8 does not apply if the quorum is required to be determined in accordance with directions of the Minister in a performance improvement order issued in respect of the council.[15]

5.10 A meeting of the council must be adjourned if a quorum is not present:

a) at the commencement of the meeting where the number of apologies received for the meeting indicates that there will not be a quorum for the meeting, or

b) within half an hour after the time designated for the holding of the meeting, or

c) at any time during the meeting.

5.11 In either case, the meeting must be adjourned to a time, date and place fixed:

a) by the chairperson, or

b) in the chairperson's absence, by the majority of the Councillors present, or

c) failing that, by the General Manager.

5.12 The General Manager must record in the council's minutes the circumstances relating to the absence of a quorum (including the reasons for the absence of a quorum) at or arising during a meeting of the council, together with the names of the Councillors present.

5.13 Where, prior to the commencement of a meeting, it becomes apparent that a quorum may not be present at the meeting, or that the health, safety or welfare of Councillors, council staff and members of the public may be put at risk by attending the meeting because of a natural disaster or a public health emergency, the Mayor may, in consultation with the General Manager and, as far as is practicable, with each Councillor, cancel the meeting. Where a meeting is cancelled, notice of the cancellation must be published on the council's website and in such other manner that the council is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the cancellation to the attention of as many people as possible.

5.14 Where a meeting is cancelled under clause 5.13, the business to be considered at the meeting may instead be considered, where practicable, at the next ordinary meeting of the council or at an extraordinary meeting called under clause 3.2.

[15] Note: Reflects section 368(2) of the Act.

Meetings held by audio-visual link

5.15 A meeting of the council or a committee of the council may be held by audio-visual link where the Mayor determines that the meeting should be held by audio-visual link because of a natural disaster or a public health emergency. The Mayor may only make a determination under this clause where they are satisfied that attendance at the meeting may put the health and safety of Councillors and staff at risk. The Mayor must make a determination under this clause in consultation with the General Manager and, as far as is practicable, with each Councillor.16

5.16 Where the Mayor determines under clause 5.15 that a meeting is to be held by audio-visual link, the General Manager must:

a) give written notice to all Councillors that the meeting is to be held by audio-visual link, and

b) take all reasonable steps to ensure that all Councillors can participate in the meeting by audio-visual link, and

c) cause a notice to be published on the council's website and in such other manner the General Manager is satisfied will bring it to the attention of as many people as possible, advising that the meeting is to be held by audio-visual link and providing information about where members of the public may view the meeting.

5.17 This code applies to a meeting held by audio-visual link under clause 5.15 in the same way it would if the meeting was held in person.

Attendance by Councillors at meetings by audio-visual link

5.18 Councillors may attend and participate in meetings of the council and committees of the council by audio-visual link.

5.19 Councillors must notify the General Manager of their intention to attend by audio-visual link no later than 2.00pm on the day of the meeting.

5.20 Where a Councillor has failed to appropriately declare and manage conflicts of interest, observe confidentiality or to comply with this code on one or more previous occasions they have attended a meeting of the council or a committee of the council by audio-visual link, that Councillor's entitlement to attend meetings by audio-visual link may be revoked by resolution of the council.

[16] Note: Where a council holds a meeting by audio-visual link under clause 5.15, it is still required under section 10 of the Act to provide a physical venue for members of the public to attend in person and observe the meeting. If the Mayor determines that this may put the health and safety of Councillors, staff or the public at risk, a council or committee meeting may be held by audio-visual link only.

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5.21 This code applies to a Councillor attending a meeting by audio-visual link in the same way it would if the Councillor was attending the meeting in person. Where a Councillor is permitted to attend a meeting by audio-visual link under this code, they are to be taken as attending the meeting in person for the purposes of the code and will have the same voting rights as if they were attending the meeting in person.

5.22 A Councillor must give their full attention to the business and proceedings of the meeting when attending a meeting by audio-visual link. The Councillor's camera must be on at all times during the meeting except as may be otherwise provided for under this code.

5.23 A Councillor must be appropriately dressed when attending a meeting by audio-visual link and must ensure that no items are within sight of the meeting that are inconsistent with the maintenance of order at the meeting or that are likely to bring the council or the committee into disrepute.

5.24 Councillors who are not visible, not able to hear or not able to be heard when attending a meeting by audio-visual link, whether for technical or other reasons, will be taken not to be present at the meeting and may not speak on matters nor vote until the issue is rectified.

5.25 If remote audio-visual technology is not available at a meeting for technical or other reasons, subject to quorum requirements the meeting will proceed and Councillors seeking to attend remotely will be treated as absent and granted an apology.

Entitlement of the public to attend council meetings

5.26 Everyone is entitled to attend a meeting of the council and committees of the council. The council must ensure that all meetings of the council and committees of the council are open to the public.[17]

5.27 Clause 5.26 does not apply to parts of meetings that have been closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.

5.28 A person (whether a Councillor or another person) is not entitled to be present at a meeting of the council or a committee of the council if expelled from the meeting:

a) by a resolution of the meeting, or

b) by the person presiding at the meeting if the council has, by resolution, authorised the person presiding to exercise the power of expulsion.[18]

[17] Note: Reflects section 10(1) of the Act.
[18] Note: Reflects section 10(2) of the Act. Clause 15.14 authorises chairpersons to expel persons other than Councillors from a council or committee meeting.

Webcasting of meetings

5.29 Each meeting of the council or a committee of the council is to be recorded by means of an audio-visual device.

5.30 At the start of each meeting the chairperson is to make a statement informing those in attendance that the meeting is being webcast and that those in attendance should refrain from making any defamatory statements.

5.31 The recording of the meeting is to be made publicly available on the council's website at the same time as the meeting is taking place.

5.32 A recording of each meeting of the council and committee of the council is to be retained on the council's website for a minimum of four years.

5.33 Clause 5.31 and 5.32 does not apply to parts of a meeting that have been closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.[19]

5.34 Recordings of meetings may be disposed of in accordance with the *State Records Act 1998*.

Attendance of the General Manager and other staff at meetings

5.35 The General Manager is entitled to attend, but not to vote at, a meeting of the council or a meeting of a committee of the council of which all of the members are Councillors.[20]

5.36 The General Manager is entitled to attend a meeting of any other committee of the council and may, if a member of the committee, exercise a vote.[21]

5.37 The General Manager may be excluded from a meeting of the council or a committee while the council or committee deals with a matter relating to the standard of performance of the General Manager or the terms of employment of the General Manager.[22]

5.38 The General Manager and other council staff may attend meetings of the council and committees of the council by audio-visual link. The attendance of other council staff at a meetings by audio-visual link (other than as members of the public) shall be with the approval of the General Manager.

[19] Note: Clauses 5.29 – 5.33 reflect section 236 of the Regulation.
[20] Reflects section 376(1) of the Act.
[21] Reflects section 376(2) of the Act.
[22] Reflects section 376(3) of the Act.

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6 THE CHAIRPERSON

The chairperson at meetings

6.1 The Mayor or, at the request of or in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor (if any) presides at meetings of the council.[23]

6.2 If the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor are absent, a Councillor elected to chair the meeting by the Councillors present presides at a meeting of the council.[24]

Election of the chairperson in the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor

6.3 If no chairperson is present at a meeting of the council at the time designated for the holding of the meeting, the first business of the meeting must be the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting.

6.4 The election of a chairperson must be conducted:

a) by the General Manager or, in their absence, an employee of the council designated by the General Manager to conduct the election, or

b) by the person who called the meeting or a person acting on their behalf if neither the General Manager nor a designated employee is present at the meeting, or if there is no General Manager or designated employee.

6.5 If, at an election of a chairperson, two (2) or more candidates receive the same number of votes and no other candidate receives a greater number of votes, the chairperson is to be the candidate whose name is chosen by lot.

6.6 For the purposes of clause 6.5, the person conducting the election must:

a) arrange for the names of the candidates who have equal numbers of votes to be written on similar slips, and

b) then fold the slips so as to prevent the names from being seen, mix the slips and draw one of the slips at random.

6.7 The candidate whose name is on the drawn slip is the candidate who is to be the chairperson.

6.8 Any election conducted under clause 6.3, and the outcome of the vote, are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

[23] Reflects section 369(1) of the Act.
[24] Reflects section 369(2) of the Act.

Chairperson to have precedence

6.9 When the chairperson rises or speaks during a meeting of the council:

a) any Councillor then speaking or seeking to speak must cease speaking and, if standing, immediately resume their seat, and

b) every Councillor present must be silent to enable the chairperson to be heard without interruption.

7 MODES OF ADDRESS

7.1 If the chairperson is the Mayor, they are to be addressed as ‘Mr Mayor’ or ‘Madam Mayor’.

7.2 Where the chairperson is not the Mayor, they are to be addressed as either ‘Mr Chairperson’ or ‘Madam Chairperson’.

7.3 A Councillor is to be addressed as ‘Councillor [surname]’.

7.4 A council officer is to be addressed by their official designation or as Mr/Ms [surname].

8 ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETINGS

8.1 The general order of business for an ordinary meeting of the council shall be:

- Opening meeting
- Acknowledgement of Country
- Apologies and applications for a leave of absence by Councillors
- Disclosures of interests
- Documents circulated to Councillors
- Documents and reports to remain confidential
- Confirmation of Minutes
- Mayoral minute(s)
- Petitions
- Reports of committees
- General business
- Nomination of items on the agenda for a site inspection
- Items to be moved without debate
- Consideration of reports to council
- Extra reports circulated to meeting
- Notices of motions
- Business without notice – Subject to Clause 9.3 of the Code of Meeting Practice
- Questions with notice
- Inspections – Setting of time, date and rendezvous
- Confidential matters
- Conclusion of the meeting

8.2 The order of business as fixed under clause 8.1 may be altered for a particular meeting of the council if a motion to that effect is passed at that meeting. Such a motion can be moved without notice.[25]

8.3 Despite clauses 10.19-10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 8.2 may speak to the motion before it is put.

[25] Note: Part 13 allows council to deal with items of business by exception.

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9 CONSIDERATION OF BUSINESS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

Business that can be dealt with at a council meeting

9.1 The council must not consider business at a meeting of the council:

a) unless a Councillor has given notice of the business, as required by clause 3.9, and

b) unless notice of the business has been sent to the Councillors in accordance with clause 3.6 in the case of an ordinary meeting or clause 3.8 in the case of an extraordinary meeting called in an emergency.

9.2 Clause 9.1 does not apply to the consideration of business at a meeting, if the business:

a) is already before, or directly relates to, a matter that is already before the council, or

b) is the election of a chairperson to preside at the meeting, or

c) subject to clause 9.9, is a matter or topic put to the meeting by way of a Mayoral minute, or

d) is a motion for the adoption of recommendations of a committee, including, but not limited to, a committee of the council.

9.3 Despite clause 9.1, business may be considered at a meeting of the council even though due notice of the business has not been given to the Councillors if:

a) a motion is passed to have the business considered at the meeting, and

b) the business to be considered is ruled by the chairperson to be of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.

9.4 A motion moved under clause 9.3(a) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.19-10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 9.3(a) can speak to the motion before it is put.

9.5 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson under clause 9.3(b).

Mayoral minutes

9.6 Subject to clause 9.9, if the Mayor is the chairperson at a meeting of the council, the Mayor may, by minute signed by the Mayor, put to the meeting without notice any matter or topic that is within the jurisdiction of the council, or of which the council has official knowledge.

9.7 A Mayoral minute, when put to a meeting, takes precedence over all business on the council's agenda for the meeting. The chairperson (but only if the chairperson is the Mayor) may move the adoption of a Mayoral minute without the motion being seconded.

9.8 A recommendation made in a Mayoral minute put by the Mayor is, so far as it is adopted by the council, a resolution of the council.

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.

Staff reports

9.10 A recommendation made in a staff report is, so far as it is adopted by the council, a resolution of the council.

Reports of committees of council

9.11 The recommendations of a committee of the council are, so far as they are adopted by the council, resolutions of the council.

9.12 If in a report of a committee of the council distinct recommendations are made, the council may make separate decisions on each recommendation.

Questions

9.13 A question must not be asked at a meeting of the council unless it concerns a matter on the agenda of the meeting or notice has been given of the question in accordance with clauses 3.9 and 3.11.

9.14 A Councillor may, through the chairperson, put a question to another Councillor about a matter on the agenda.

9.15 A Councillor may, through the General Manager, put a question to a council employee about a matter on the agenda. Council employees are only obliged to answer a question put to them through the General Manager at the direction of the General Manager.

9.16 A Councillor or council employee to whom a question is put is entitled to be given reasonable notice of the question and, in particular, sufficient notice to enable reference to be made to other persons or to information. Where a Councillor or council employee to whom a question is put is unable to respond to the question at the meeting at which it is put, they may take it on notice and report the response to the next meeting of the council.

9.17 Councillors must put questions directly, succinctly, respectfully and without argument.

9.18 The chairperson must not permit discussion on any reply to, or refusal to reply to, a question put to a Councillor or council employee.

10 RULES OF DEBATE

Motions to be seconded

10.1 Unless otherwise specified in this code, a motion or an amendment cannot be debated unless or until it has been seconded.

Notices of motion

10.2 A Councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.9 is to move the motion the subject of the notice of motion at the meeting at which it is to be considered.

10.3 If a Councillor who has submitted a notice of motion under clause 3.9 wishes to withdraw it after the agenda and business paper for the meeting at which it is to be considered have been sent to Councillors, the Councillor may request the withdrawal of the motion when it is before the council.

10.4 In the absence of a Councillor who has placed a notice of motion on the agenda for a meeting of the council:

a) any other Councillor may, with the leave of the chairperson, move the motion at the meeting, or

b) the chairperson may defer consideration of the motion until the next meeting of the council.

Chairperson's duties with respect to motions

10.5 It is the duty of the chairperson at a meeting of the council to receive and put to the meeting any lawful motion that is brought before the meeting.

10.6 The chairperson must rule out of order any motion or amendment to a motion that is unlawful or the implementation of which would be unlawful.

10.7 Before ruling out of order a motion or an amendment to a motion under clause 10.6, the chairperson is to give the mover an opportunity to clarify or amend the motion or amendment.

10.8 Any motion, amendment or other matter that the chairperson has ruled out of order is taken to have been lost.

Amendments to motions

10.9 An amendment to a motion must be moved and seconded before it can be debated.

10.10 An amendment to a motion must relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion before the council and must not be a direct negative of the original motion. An amendment to a motion which does not relate to the matter being dealt with in the original motion, or which is a direct negative of the original motion, must be ruled out of order by the chairperson.

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10.11 The mover of an amendment is to be given the opportunity to explain any uncertainties in the proposed amendment before a seconder is called for.

10.12 If an amendment has been lost, a further amendment can be moved to the motion to which the lost amendment was moved, and so on, but no more than one (1) motion and one (1) proposed amendment can be before council at any one time.

10.13 While an amendment is being considered, debate must only occur in relation to the amendment and not the original motion. Debate on the original motion is to be suspended while the amendment to the original motion is being debated.

10.14 If the amendment is carried, it becomes the motion and is to be debated. If the amendment is lost, debate is to resume on the original motion.

10.15 An amendment may become the motion without debate or a vote where it is accepted by the Councillor who moved the original motion.

Foreshadowed motions

10.16 A Councillor may propose a foreshadowed motion in relation to the matter the subject of the original motion before the council, without a seconder during debate on the original motion. The foreshadowed motion is only to be considered if the original motion is lost or withdrawn and the foreshadowed motion is then moved and seconded. If the original motion is carried, the foreshadowed motion lapses.

10.17 Where an amendment has been moved and seconded, a Councillor may, without a seconder, foreshadow a further amendment that they propose to move after the first amendment has been dealt with. There is no limit to the number of foreshadowed amendments that may be put before the council at any time. However, no discussion can take place on foreshadowed amendments until the previous amendment has been dealt with and the foreshadowed amendment has been moved and seconded.

10.18 Foreshadowed motions and foreshadowed amendments are to be considered in the order in which they are proposed. However, foreshadowed motions cannot be considered until all foreshadowed amendments have been dealt with.

Limitations on the number and duration of speeches

10.19 A Councillor who, during a debate at a meeting of the council, moves an original motion, has the right to speak on each amendment to the motion and a right of general reply to all observations that are made during the debate in relation to the motion, and any amendment to it at the conclusion of the debate before the motion (whether amended or not) is finally put.

10.20 A Councillor, other than the mover of an original motion, has the right to speak once on the motion and once on each amendment to it.

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10.21 A Councillor must not, without the consent of the council, speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, or for longer than five (5) minutes at any one time.

10.22 Despite clause 10.21, the chairperson may permit a Councillor who claims to have been misrepresented or misunderstood to speak more than once on a motion or an amendment, and for longer than five (5) minutes on that motion or amendment to enable the Councillor to make a statement limited to explaining the misrepresentation or misunderstanding.

10.23 Despite clause 10.21, the council may resolve to shorten the duration of speeches to expedite the consideration of business at a meeting.

10.24 Despite clauses 10.19 and 10.20, a Councillor may move that a motion or an amendment be now put:

a) if the mover of the motion or amendment has spoken in favour of it and no Councillor expresses an intention to speak against it, or

b) if at least two (2) Councillors have spoken in favour of the motion or amendment and at least two (2) Councillors have spoken against it.

10.25 The chairperson must immediately put to the vote, without debate, a motion moved under clause 10.24. A seconder is not required for such a motion.

10.26 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is passed, the chairperson must, without further debate, put the original motion or amendment to the vote immediately after the mover of the original motion has exercised their right of reply under clause 10.19.

10.27 If a motion that the original motion or an amendment be now put is lost, the chairperson must allow the debate on the original motion or the amendment to be resumed.

10.28 All Councillors must be heard without interruption and all other Councillors must, unless otherwise permitted under this code, remain silent while another Councillor is speaking.

10.29 Once the debate on a matter has concluded and a matter has been dealt with, the chairperson must not allow further debate on the matter.

10.30 Councillors are not permitted to display or present any props, audio, visual or written material without leave of the chairperson. Use of this material is not encouraged and will only be permitted if the chairperson is satisfied it is required to enable understanding of a matter that could not reasonably be communicated verbally.

11 VOTING

Voting entitlements of Councillors

11.1 Each Councillor is entitled to one (1) vote.[26]

11.2 The person presiding at a meeting of the council has, in the event of an equality of votes, a second or casting vote.[27]

11.3 Where the chairperson declines to exercise, or fails to exercise, their second or casting vote, in the event of an equality of votes, the motion being voted upon is lost.

Voting at council meetings

11.4 A Councillor who is present at a meeting of the council but who fails to vote on a motion put to the meeting is taken to have voted against the motion.

11.5 Voting at a meeting, including voting in an election at a meeting, is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system). However, the council may resolve that the voting in any election by Councillors for Mayor or Deputy Mayor is to be by secret ballot.

11.6 All voting at council meetings, including meetings that are closed to the public, must be recorded in the minutes of meetings with the names of Councillors who voted for and against each motion or amendment, including the use of the casting vote, being recorded.

Voting on planning decisions

11.7 The General Manager must keep a register containing, for each planning decision made at a meeting of the council or a council committee (including, but not limited to a committee of the council), the names of the Councillors who supported the decision and the names of any Councillors who opposed (or are taken to have opposed) the decision.

11.8 Each decision recorded in the register is to be described in the register or identified in a manner that enables the description to be obtained from another publicly available document.

11.9 Clauses 11.7–11.8 apply also to meetings that are closed to the public.[28]

[26] Reflects section 370(1) of the Act
[27] Reflects section 370(2) of the Act.
[28] Clauses 11.7–11.9 reflect section 375A of the Act. Note: The requirements of clause 11.7 may be satisfied by maintaining a register of the minutes of each planning decision.

12 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

12.1 The council may resolve itself into a committee to consider any matter before the council.[29]

12.2 All the provisions of this code relating to meetings of the council, so far as they are applicable, extend to and govern the proceedings of the council when in committee of the whole, except the provisions limiting the number and duration of speeches.[30]

12.3 The General Manager or, in the absence of the General Manager, an employee of the council designated by the General Manager, is responsible for reporting to the council the proceedings of the committee of the whole. It is not necessary to report the proceedings in full, but any recommendations of the committee must be reported.

12.4 The council must ensure that a report of the proceedings (including any recommendations of the committee) is recorded in the council's minutes. However, the council is not taken to have adopted the report until a motion for adoption has been made and passed.

[29] Reflects section 373 of the Act.
[30] Clauses 10.19–10.30 limit the number and duration of speeches.

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13 DEALING WITH ITEMS BY EXCEPTION

13.1 The council or a committee of council may, at any time, resolve to adopt multiple items in accordance with the officer's recommendation allowing for minor changes without debate.

13.2 Before the council or committee resolves to adopt items of business on the agenda under clause 13.1, the chairperson must ask Councillors to identify any individual items of business that they wish to speak on.

13.3 The council or committee must not resolve to adopt any item of business under clause 13.1 that a Councillor has identified as being one they intend to speak on.

13.4 Where the consideration of items of business under clause 13.1 involves a variation to the order of business for the meeting, the council or committee must resolve to alter the order of business in accordance with clause 8.2.

13.5 A motion to adopt multiple items of business together under clause 13.1 must identify each of the items of business to be adopted and state that they are to be adopted as recommended in the business paper.

13.6 Councillors must ensure that they declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in relation to items of business considered together under clause 13.1 in accordance with the requirements of the council's Code of Conduct.

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14 CLOSURE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS TO THE PUBLIC

Grounds on which meetings can be closed to the public

14.1 The council or a committee of the council may close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises the discussion or the receipt of any of the following types of matters[31]:

a) personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors),

b) the personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer,

c) information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business,

d) commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:

i. prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it, or

ii. confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the council, or

iii. reveal a trade secret.

e) information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law,

f) matters affecting the security of the council, Councillors, council staff or council property,

g) advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege,

h) information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land,

i) alleged contraventions of the council's Code of Conduct.

14.2 The council or a committee of the council may also close to the public so much of its meeting as comprises a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public.[32]

[31] Reflects section 10A(1) and (2) of the Act.
[32] Reflects section 10A(3) of the Act.

Matters to be considered when closing meetings to the public

14.3 A meeting is not to remain closed during the discussion of anything referred to in clause 14.1:

a) except for so much of the discussion as is necessary to preserve the relevant confidentiality, privilege or security, and

b) if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret – unless the council or committee concerned is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest[33].

14.4 A meeting is not to be closed during the receipt and consideration of information or advice referred to in clause 14.1(g) unless the advice concerns legal matters that:

a) are substantial issues relating to a matter in which the council or committee is involved, and

b) are clearly identified in the advice, and

c) are fully discussed in that advice[34].

14.5 If a meeting is closed during the discussion of a motion to close another part of the meeting to the public (as referred to in clause 14.2), the consideration of the motion must not include any consideration of the matter or information to be discussed in that other part of the meeting other than consideration of whether the matter concerned is a matter referred to in clause 14.1[35].

14.6 For the purpose of determining whether the discussion of a matter in an open meeting would be contrary to the public interest, it is irrelevant that:

a) a person may misinterpret or misunderstand the discussion, or

b) the discussion of the matter may:

i. cause embarrassment to the council or committee concerned, or to Councillors or to employees of the council, or

ii. cause a loss of confidence in the council or committee[36].

[33] Reflects section 10B(1) of the Act.
[34] Reflects section 10B(2) of the Act
[35] Reflects section 10B(3) of the Act
[36] Reflects section 10B(4) of the Act

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14.7 In deciding whether part of a meeting is to be closed to the public, the council or committee concerned must consider any relevant guidelines issued by the Departmental Chief Executive of the Office of Local Government[37].

Notice of likelihood of closure not required in urgent cases

14.8 Part of a meeting of the council, or of a committee of the council, may be closed to the public while the council or committee considers a matter that has not been identified in the agenda for the meeting under clause 3.18 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed, but only if:

a) it becomes apparent during the discussion of a particular matter that the matter is a matter referred to in clause 14.1, and

b) the council or committee, after considering any representations made under clause 14.9, resolves that further discussion of the matter:

i. should not be deferred (because of the urgency of the matter), and

ii. should take place in a part of the meeting that is closed to the public[38].

Representations by members of the public

14.9 The council, or a committee of the council, may allow members of the public to make representations to or at a meeting, before any part of the meeting is closed to the public, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed[39].

14.10 A representation under clause 14.9 is to be made after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded.

14.11 Where the matter has been identified in the agenda of the meeting under clause 3.18 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, in order to make representations under clause 14.9, members of the public must first make an application to the council in the approved form. Applications must be received by 12.00pm on the day of the meeting at which the matter is to be considered.

14.12 The General Manager (or their delegate) may refuse an application made under clause 14.11. The General Manager or their delegate must give reasons in writing for a decision to refuse an application.

[37] Reflects section 10B(5) of the Act
[38] Reflects section 10C of the Act.
[39] Reflects section 10A(4) of the Act.

14.13 No more than three speakers are to be permitted to make representations under clause 14.9.

14.14 If more than the permitted number of speakers apply to make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate may request the speakers to nominate from among themselves the persons who are to make representations to the council. If the speakers are not able to agree on whom to nominate to make representations under clause 14.9, the General Manager or their delegate is to determine who will make representations to the council.

14.15 The General Manager (or their delegate) is to determine the order of speakers.

14.16 Where the council or a committee of the council proposes to close a meeting or part of a meeting to the public in circumstances where the matter has not been identified in the agenda for the meeting under clause 3.18 as a matter that is likely to be considered when the meeting is closed to the public, the chairperson is to invite representations from the public under clause 14.9 after the motion to close the part of the meeting is moved and seconded. The chairperson is to permit no more than three speakers to make representations in such order as determined by the chairperson.

14.17 Each speaker will be allowed three minutes to make representations, and this time limit is to be strictly enforced by the chairperson. Speakers must confine their representations to whether the meeting should be closed to the public. If a speaker digresses to irrelevant matters, the chairperson is to direct the speaker not to do so. If a speaker fails to observe a direction from the chairperson, the speaker will not be further heard.

Expulsion of non-Councillors from meetings closed to the public

14.18 If a meeting or part of a meeting of the council or a committee of the council is closed to the public in accordance with section 10A of the Act and this code, any person who is not a Councillor and who fails to leave the meeting when requested, may be expelled from the meeting as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act.

14.19 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

Obligations of Councillors attending meetings by audio-visual link

14.20 Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must ensure that no other person is within sight or hearing of the meeting at any time that the meeting is closed to the public under section 10A of the Act.

Information to be disclosed in resolutions closing meetings to the public

14.21 The grounds on which part of a meeting is closed must be stated in the decision to close that part of the meeting and must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. The grounds must specify the following[40]:

a) the relevant provision of section 10A(2) of the Act,

b) the matter that is to be discussed during the closed part of the meeting,

c) the reasons why the part of the meeting is being closed, including (if the matter concerned is a matter other than a personnel matter concerning particular individuals, the personal hardship of a resident or ratepayer or a trade secret) an explanation of the way in which discussion of the matter in an open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

Resolutions passed at closed meetings to be made public

14.22 If the council passes a resolution during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public, the chairperson must make the resolution public as soon as practicable after the meeting, or the relevant part of the meeting, has ended, and the resolution must be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

14.23 Resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting, that is closed to the public must be made public by the chairperson under clause 14.22 during a part of the meeting that is webcast.

[40] Reflects section 10D of the Act.

15 KEEPING ORDER AT MEETINGS

Points of order

15.1 A Councillor may draw the attention of the chairperson to an alleged breach of this code by raising a point of order. A point of order does not require a seconder.

15.2 A point of order cannot be made with respect to adherence to the principles contained in clause 2.1.

15.3 A point of order must be taken immediately after it is raised. The chairperson must suspend the business before the meeting and permit the Councillor raising the point of order to state the provision of this code they believe has been breached. The chairperson must then rule on the point of order, either by upholding it or by overruling it.

Questions of order

15.4 The chairperson, without the intervention of any other Councillor, may call any Councillor to order whenever, in the opinion of the chairperson, it is necessary to do so.

15.5 A Councillor who claims that another Councillor has committed an act of disorder, or is out of order, may call the attention of the chairperson to the matter.

15.6 The chairperson must rule on a question of order immediately after it is raised, but before doing so may invite the opinion of the council.

15.7 The chairperson's ruling must be obeyed unless a motion dissenting from the ruling is passed.

Motions of dissent

15.8 A Councillor can, without notice, move to dissent from a ruling of the chairperson on a point of order or a question of order. If that happens, the chairperson must suspend the business before the meeting until a decision is made on the motion of dissent.

15.9 If a motion of dissent is passed, the chairperson must proceed with the suspended business as though the ruling dissented from had not been given. If, as a result of the ruling, any motion or business has been rejected as out of order, the chairperson must restore the motion or business to the agenda and proceed with it in due course.

15.10 Despite any other provision of this code, only the mover of a motion of dissent and the chairperson can speak to the motion before it is put. The mover of the motion does not have a right of general reply.

Acts of disorder

15.11 A Councillor commits an act of disorder if the Councillor, at a meeting of the council or a committee of the council:

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, makes unfavourable personal remarks about ~~on~~ 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[41].

15.12 The chairperson may require a Councillor:

a) to apologise without reservation for an act of disorder referred to in clauses 15.11(a), (b), or (e), or

b) to withdraw a motion or an amendment referred to in clause 15.11(c) and, where appropriate, to apologise without reservation, or

c) to retract and apologise without reservation for any statement that constitutes an act of disorder referred to in clauses 15.11(d) and (e)[42].

How disorder at a meeting may be dealt with

15.13 If disorder occurs at a meeting of the council, the chairperson may adjourn the meeting for a period of not more than fifteen (15) minutes and leave the chair. The council, on reassembling, must, on a question put from the chairperson, decide without debate whether the business is to be proceeded with or not. This clause applies to disorder arising from the conduct of members of the public as well as disorder arising from the conduct of Councillors.

[41] Reflects section 182 of the Regulation
[42] Reflects section 233 of the Regulation

Expulsion from meetings

15.14 All chairpersons of meetings of the council and committees of the council are authorised under this code to expel any person other than a Councillor, from a council or committee meeting, for the purposes of section 10(2)(b) of the Act. Councillors may only be expelled by resolution of the council or the committee of the council.

15.15 Clause 15.14 does not limit the ability of the council or a committee of the council to resolve to expel a person, including a Councillor, from a council or committee meeting, under section 10(2)(a) of the Act.

15.16 A Councillor may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a meeting of the council for having failed to comply with a requirement under clause 15.12. The expulsion of a Councillor from the meeting for that reason does not prevent any other action from being taken against the Councillor for the act of disorder concerned.

15.17 A member of the public may, as provided by section 10(2)(a) or (b) of the Act, be expelled from a meeting of the council for engaging in or having engaged in disorderly conduct at the meeting[43].

15.18 Where a Councillor or a member of the public is expelled from a meeting, the expulsion and the name of the person expelled, if known, are to be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

15.19 If a Councillor or a member of the public fails to leave the place where a meeting of the council is being held immediately after they have been expelled, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the Councillor or member of the public from that place and, if necessary, restrain the Councillor or member of the public from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

How disorder by Councillors attending meetings by audio-visual link may be dealt with

15.20 Where a Councillor is attending a meeting by audio-visual link, the chairperson or a person authorised by the chairperson may mute the Councillor's audio link to the meeting for the purposes of enforcing compliance with this code.

15.21 If a Councillor attending a meeting by audio-visual link is expelled from a meeting for an act of disorder, the chairperson of the meeting or a person authorised by the chairperson, may terminate the Councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting.

[43] Clauses 15.16 and 15.17 reflect section 233(2) of the Regulation.

Use of mobile phones and the unauthorised recording of meetings

15.22 Councillors, council staff and members of the public must ensure that mobile phones are turned to silent during meetings of the council and committees of the council.

15.23 A person must not live stream or use an audio recorder, video camera, mobile phone or any other device to make a recording or photograph of the proceedings of a meeting of the council or a committee of the council without the prior authorisation of the council or the committee.

15.24 Without limiting clause 15.17, a contravention of clause 15.23 or an attempt to contravene that clause, constitutes disorderly conduct for the purposes of clause 15.17. Any person who contravenes or attempts to contravene clause 15.23, may be expelled from the meeting as provided for under section 10(2) of the Act.

15.25 If any such person, after being notified of a resolution or direction expelling them from the meeting, fails to leave the place where the meeting is being held, a police officer, or any person authorised for the purpose by the council or person presiding, may, by using only such force as is necessary, remove the first-mentioned person from that place and, if necessary, restrain that person from re-entering that place for the remainder of the meeting.

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16 CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

16.1 All Councillors and, where applicable, all other persons, must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at meetings of the council and committees of the council in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed by the person who made the declaration must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

16.2 Councillors attending a meeting by audio-visual link must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at the meeting in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct. Where a Councillor has declared a pecuniary or significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter being discussed at the meeting, the Councillor's audio-visual link to the meeting must be suspended or terminated and the Councillor must not be in sight or hearing of the meeting at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed by the council or committee, or at any time during which the council or committee is voting on the matter.

17 DECISIONS OF THE COUNCIL

Council decisions

17.1 A decision supported by a majority of the votes at a meeting of the council at which a quorum is present is a decision of the council[44].

17.2 Decisions made by the council must be accurately recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the decision is made.

Rescinding or altering council decisions

17.3 A resolution passed by the council may not be altered or rescinded except by a motion to that effect of which notice has been given under clause 3.9[45].

17.4 If a notice of motion to rescind a resolution is given at the meeting at which the resolution is carried, the resolution must not be carried into effect until the motion of rescission has been dealt with[46].

17.5 If a motion has been lost, a motion having the same effect must not be considered unless notice of it has been duly given in accordance with clause 3.9[47].

17.6 A notice of motion to alter or rescind a resolution, and a notice of motion which has the same effect as a motion which has been lost, must be signed by three (3) Councillors if less than three (3) months has elapsed since the resolution was passed, or the motion was lost[48].

17.7 If a motion to alter or rescind a resolution has been lost, or if a motion which has the same effect as a previously lost motion is lost, no similar motion may be brought forward within three (3) months of the meeting at which it was lost. This clause may not be evaded by substituting a motion differently worded, but in principle the same[49].

17.8 The provisions of clauses 17.5–17.7 concerning lost motions do not apply to motions of adjournment[50].

17.9 A notice of motion submitted in accordance with clause 17.6 may only be withdrawn under clause 3.10 with the consent of all signatories to the notice of motion.

[44] Reflects section 371 of the Act.
[45] Reflects section 372(1) of the Act.
[46] Reflects section 372(2) of the Act.
[47] Reflects section 372(3) of the Act
[48] Reflects section 372(4) of the Act.
[49] Reflects section 372(5) of the Act.
[50] Reflects section 372(7) of the Act.

17.10 A motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the council may be moved on the report of a committee of the council and any such report must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting of the council[51].

17.11 Subject to clause 17.7, in cases of urgency, a motion to alter or rescind a resolution of the council may be moved at the same meeting at which the resolution was adopted, where:

a) a notice of motion signed by three Councillors is submitted to the chairperson, and

b) a motion to have the motion considered at the meeting is passed, and

c) the chairperson rules the business that is the subject of the motion is of great urgency on the grounds that it requires a decision by the council before the next scheduled ordinary meeting of the council.

17.12 A motion moved under clause 17.11(b) can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.19-10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.11(b) can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.13 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson under clause 17.11(c).

Recommitting resolutions to correct an error

17.14 Despite the provisions of this Part, a Councillor may, with the leave of the chairperson, move to recommit a resolution adopted at the same meeting:

a) to correct any error, ambiguity or imprecision in the council's resolution, or

b) to confirm the voting on the resolution.

17.15 In seeking the leave of the chairperson to move to recommit a resolution for the purposes of clause 17.14(a), the Councillor is to propose alternative wording for the resolution.

17.16 The chairperson must not grant leave to recommit a resolution for the purposes of clause 17.14(a), unless they are satisfied that the proposed alternative wording of the resolution would not alter the substance of the resolution previously adopted at the meeting.

17.17 A motion moved under clause 17.14 can be moved without notice. Despite clauses 10.19–10.30, only the mover of a motion referred to in clause 17.14 can speak to the motion before it is put.

17.18 A motion of dissent cannot be moved against a ruling by the chairperson under clause 17.14.

[51] *reflects section 372(6) of the Act.*

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17.19 A motion moved under clause 17.14 with the leave of the chairperson cannot be voted on unless or until it has been seconded.

18 TIME LIMITS ON COUNCIL MEETINGS

18.1 Meetings of the council and committees of the council are to conclude no later than 12.00am (midnight).

18.2 If the business of the meeting is unfinished at 12.00am midnight, the council or the committee may, by resolution, extend the time of the meeting.

18.3 If the business of the meeting is unfinished at 12.00am midnight, and the council does not resolve to extend the meeting, the chairperson must either:

a) defer consideration of the remaining items of business on the agenda to the next ordinary meeting of the council, or

b) adjourn the meeting to a time, date and place fixed by the chairperson.

18.4 Clause 18.3 does not limit the ability of the council or a committee of the council to resolve to adjourn a meeting at any time. The resolution adjourning the meeting must fix the time, date and place that the meeting is to be adjourned to.

18.5 Where a meeting is adjourned under clause 18.3 or 18.4, the General Manager must:

a) individually notify each Councillor of the time, date and place at which the meeting will reconvene, and

b) publish the time, date and place at which the meeting will reconvene on the council's website and in such other manner that the General Manager is satisfied is likely to bring notice of the time, date and place of the reconvened meeting to the attention of as many people as possible.

19 AFTER THE MEETING

Minutes of meetings

19.1 The council is to keep full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of meetings of the council.[52]

19.2 At a minimum, the General Manager must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the council's minutes:

a) the names of Councillors attending a council meeting and whether they attended the meeting in person or by audio-visual link,

b) details of each motion moved at a council meeting and of any amendments moved to it,

c) the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

d) whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost, and

e) such other matters specifically required under this code.

19.3 The minutes of a council meeting must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the council.[53]

19.4 Any debate on the confirmation of the minutes is to be confined to whether the minutes are a full and accurate record of the meeting they relate to.

19.5 When the minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at the subsequent meeting.[54]

19.6 The confirmed minutes of a meeting may be amended to correct typographical or administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Any amendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the meeting.

19.7 The confirmed minutes of a council meeting must be published on the council's website. This clause does not prevent the council from also publishing unconfirmed minutes of its meetings on its website prior to their confirmation.

Access to correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, a meeting

19.8 The council and committees of the council must, during or at the close of a meeting, or during the business day following the meeting, give reasonable access to any person to inspect correspondence and reports laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting.[55]

[52] Reflects section 375(1) of the Act.
[53] Reflects section 375(2) of the Act.
[54] Reflects section 375(2) of the Act.
[55] Reflects section 11(1) of the Act.

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19.9 Clause 19.8 does not apply if the correspondence or reports relate to a matter that was received or discussed or laid on the table at, or submitted to, the meeting when the meeting was closed to the public.[56]

19.10 Clause 19.8 does not apply if the council or the committee resolves at the meeting, when open to the public, that the correspondence or reports are to be treated as confidential because they relate to a matter specified in section 10A(2) of the Act.[57]

19.11 Correspondence or reports to which clauses 19.9 and 19.10 apply are to be marked with the relevant provision of section 10A(2) of the Act that applies to the correspondence or report.

Implementation of decisions of the council

19.12 The General Manager is to implement, without undue delay, lawful decisions of the council.[58]

[56] Reflects section 11(2) of the Act.
[57] Reflects section 11(3) of the Act.
[58] Reflects section 335(b) of the Act.

20 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Application of this Part

20.1 This Part only applies to committees of the council whose members are all Councillors.

Council committees whose members are all Councillors

20.2 The council may, by resolution, establish such committees as it considers necessary.

20.3 A committee of the council is to consist of the Mayor and such other Councillors as are elected by the Councillors or appointed by the council.

20.4 The quorum for a meeting of a committee of the council is to be:

a) such number of members as the council decides, or

b) if the council has not decided a number – a majority of the members of the committee.

Functions of committees

20.5 The council must specify the functions of each of its committees when the committee is established but may from time to time amend those functions.

Notice of committee meetings

20.6 The General Manager must send to each Councillor, regardless of whether they are a committee member, at least three (3) days before each meeting of the committee, a notice specifying:

a) the time, date and place of the meeting, and

b) the business proposed to be considered at the meeting.

20.7 Notice of less than three (3) days may be given of a committee meeting called in an emergency.

Attendance at committee meetings

20.8 A committee member (other than the Mayor) ceases to be a member of a committee if the committee member:

a) has been absent from three (3) consecutive meetings of the committee without having given reasons acceptable to the committee for the member's absences, or

b) has been absent from at least half of the meetings of the committee held during the immediately preceding year without having given to the committee acceptable reasons for the member's absences.

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20.9 Clause 20.8 does not apply if all of the members of the council are members of the committee.

Non-members entitled to attend committee meetings

20.10 A Councillor who is not a member of a committee of the council is entitled to attend, and to speak at a meeting of the committee. However, the Councillor is not entitled:

a) to give notice of business for inclusion in the agenda for the meeting, or

b) to move or second a motion at the meeting, or

c) to vote at the meeting.

Chairperson and deputy chairperson of council committees

20.11 The chairperson of each committee of the council must be:

a) the Mayor, or

b) if the Mayor does not wish to be the chairperson of a committee, a member of the committee elected by the council, or

c) if the council does not elect such a member, a member of the committee elected by the committee.

20.12 The council may elect a member of a committee of the council as deputy chairperson of the committee. If the council does not elect a deputy chairperson of such a committee, the committee may elect a deputy chairperson.

20.13 If neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson of a committee of the council is able or willing to preside at a meeting of the committee, the committee must elect a member of the committee to be acting chairperson of the committee.

20.14 The chairperson is to preside at a meeting of a committee of the council. If the chairperson is unable or unwilling to preside, the deputy chairperson (if any) is to preside at the meeting, but if neither the chairperson nor the deputy chairperson is able or willing to preside, the acting chairperson is to preside at the meeting.

Procedure in committee meetings

20.15 Subject to any specific requirements of this code, each committee of the council may regulate its own procedure. The provisions of this code are to be taken to apply to all committees of the council unless the council or the committee determines otherwise in accordance with this clause.

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20.16 Whenever the voting on a motion put to a meeting of the committee is equal, the chairperson of the committee is to have a casting vote as well as an original vote unless the council or the committee determines otherwise in accordance with clause 20.15.

20.17 Voting at a council committee meeting is to be by open means (such as on the voices, by show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system).

Closure of committee meetings to the public

20.18 The provisions of the Act and Part 14 of this code apply to the closure of meetings of committees of the council to the public in the same way they apply to the closure of meetings of the council to the public.

20.19 If a committee of the council passes a resolution, or makes a recommendation, during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public, the chairperson must make the resolution or recommendation public as soon as practicable after the meeting or part of the meeting has ended, and report the resolution or recommendation to the next meeting of the council. The resolution or recommendation must also be recorded in the publicly available minutes of the meeting.

20.20 Resolutions passed during a meeting, or a part of a meeting that is closed to the public must be made public by the chairperson under clause 20.19 during a part of the meeting that is webcast.

Disorder in committee meetings

20.21 The provisions of the Act and this code relating to the maintenance of order in council meetings apply to meetings of committees of the council in the same way as they apply to meetings of the council.

Minutes of council committee meetings

20.22 Each committee of the council is to keep full and accurate minutes of the proceedings of its meetings. At a minimum, a committee must ensure that the following matters are recorded in the committee's minutes:

a) the names of Councillors attending a meeting and whether they attended the meeting in person or by audio-visual link,

b) details of each motion moved at a meeting and of any amendments moved to it,

c) the names of the mover and seconder of the motion or amendment,

d) whether the motion or amendment was passed or lost, and

e) such other matters specifically required under this code.

20.23 All voting at meetings of committees of the council (including meetings that are closed to the public), must be recorded in the minutes of meetings with the names of Councillors who voted for and against each motion or amendment, (including the use of the casting vote), being recorded.

20.24 The minutes of meetings of each committee of the council must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the committee.

20.25 Any debate on the confirmation of the minutes is to be confined to whether the minutes are a full and accurate record of the meeting they relate to.

20.26 When the minutes have been confirmed, they are to be signed by the person presiding at that subsequent meeting.

20.27 The confirmed minutes of a meeting may be amended to correct typographical or administrative errors after they have been confirmed. Any amendment made under this clause must not alter the substance of any decision made at the meeting.

20.28 The confirmed minutes of a meeting of a committee of the council must be published on the council's website. This clause does not prevent the council from also publishing unconfirmed minutes of meetings of committees of the council on its website prior to their confirmation.

21 IRREGULARITES

21.1 Proceedings at a meeting of a council or a council committee are not invalidated because of:

a) a vacancy in a civic office, or

b) a failure to give notice of the meeting to any Councillor or committee member, or

c) any defect in the election or appointment of a Councillor or committee member, or

d) a failure of a Councillor or a committee member to declare a conflict of interest, or to refrain from the consideration or discussion of, or vote on, the relevant matter, at a council or committee meeting in accordance with the council's Code of Conduct, or

e) a failure to comply with this code[59].

[59] Reflects section 374 of the Act.

22 DEFINITIONS

the Act	means the *Local Government Act 1993*
act of disorder	means an act of disorder as defined in clause 15.11 of this code
amendment	in relation to an original motion, means a motion moving an amendment to that motion
audio recorder	any device capable of recording speech
audio-visual link	means a facility that enables audio and visual communication between persons at different places
business day	means any day except Saturday or Sunday or any other day the whole or part of which is observed as a public holiday throughout New South Wales
chairperson	in relation to a meeting of the council – means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by section 369 of the Act and clauses 6.1 and 6.2 of this code, and in relation to a meeting of a committee – means the person presiding at the meeting as provided by clause 20.11 of this code
this code	means the council's adopted code of meeting practice
committee of the council	means a committee established by the council in accordance with clause 20.2 of this code (being a committee consisting only of Councillors) or the council when it has resolved itself into committee of the whole under clause 12.1
council official	has the same meaning it has in the Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW
day	means calendar day
foreshadowed amendment	means a proposed amendment foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.18 of this code during debate on the first amendment
foreshadowed motion	means a motion foreshadowed by a Councillor under clause 10.17 of this code during debate on an original motion
open voting	means voting on the voices or by a show of hands or by a visible electronic voting system or similar means
planning decision	means a decision made in the exercise of a function of a council under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* including any decision relating to a development application, an environmental planning instrument, a development control plan or a development contribution plan under that Act, but not including the making of an order under Division 9.3 of Part 9 of that Act
performance improvement order	means an order issued under section 438A of the Act
quorum	means the minimum number of Councillors or committee members necessary to conduct a meeting
the Regulation	means the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*

webcast	a video or audio broadcast of a meeting transmitted across the internet either concurrently with the meeting or at a later time
year	means the period beginning 1 July and ending the following 30 June

KU-RING-GAI LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM - MINUTES OF MEETING 20 MAY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To consider the Minutes from the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum (LTF) Meeting held on 20 May 2026.
BACKGROUND:	Council is required to consider and receive the Minutes of the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum and to make them publicly available via Council's website.
COMMENTS:	A number of agenda items were discussed at the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum (LTF). The Minutes of the meeting are attached to this report as Attachment A1 and the amended delegations in the Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs) Terms of Reference – Version 14 in Attachment A2.
RECOMMENDATION: (Refer to the full Recommendation at the end of this report)	That Council: A. Receive and note the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum (LTF) Minutes held on 20 May 2026. B. Approves the recommendations of the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum held on 20 May 2026 (Attachment A1). C. Approves the amended delegations to the Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs) Terms of Reference – Version 14 (Attachment A2).

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the Minutes from the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum (LTF) Meeting held on 20 May 2026.

BACKGROUND

Council is required to consider and receive the Minutes of the LTF and to make them publicly available via Council's website.

COMMENTS

The following items were discussed at the LTF meeting on 20 May 2026:

- Minutes of Previous Meeting – Amendment to Terms of Reference – Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCD) for speed controls.
- GB.1 – Items Approved Under Delegated Authority
- GB.2 – Park Avenue, Roseville – Proposed speed cushion and additional Stop Sign
- GB.3 – Lady Game Drive, Lindfield – Proposed upgrade to the existing roundabout

The Minutes from the LTF meeting are in Attachment A1 to this report.

The delegations for the Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs) Terms of Reference – Version 14 has been amended and is in Attachment A2 to this report.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Outcome 3: Infrastructure and assets support community needs.

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Action
A4: Provide, upgrade and maintain Ku-ring-gai's local road and footpath network, traffic facilities and other road infrastructure.	A4.2: The local road network and associated traffic facilities are improved and maintained.	A4.2.1: Obtain endorsement and approval from the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum and Council for the new or upgraded traffic and pedestrian facilities at identified sites and secure funding. A4.2.2: Support monthly meetings of the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum or as required.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The Local Transport Forum operates within a framework prescribed by Terms of Reference consistent with Council's Code of Conduct, confidentiality and record management policies and procedures.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

There are no material risks that arise from the recommendations contained in this report. Minor issues may occur, but these can be managed within Council's current policies, procedures, resources and budget.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no social implications associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Community consultation was undertaken for all Items except for GB.1 – Items Approved Under Delegated Authority. Responses received on each item were carefully considered prior to making recommendation.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

The LTF includes Councillors and is facilitated by Council staff. Where relevant, consultation with other departments has occurred.

SUMMARY

Council is required to consider and receive the Minutes of the LTF and to make them publicly available via Council's website. These Minutes are now being referred to Council as Attachment A1 to this report.

Council is also to consider the amended delegations to the Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs) Terms of Reference – Version 14 in Attachment A2 to this report.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

A. Receive and note the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum (LTF) Minutes held on 20 May 2026.
B. Approves the recommendations of the Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum held on 20 May 2026 (Attachment A1).
C. Approves the amended delegations to the Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs) Terms of Reference – Version 14 (Attachment A2).

Deva Thevaraja

Manager Traffic and Transport

Attachments:	A1⇩	Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum Minutes 20 May 2026	2026/164804
	A2⇩	Revised Terms of Reference - Version 14	2026/164496

MINUTES OF KU-RING-GAI LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2026

Present: Ku-ring-gai Council (Councillor Matt Devlin, Chairperson (Comenarra Ward))
Representative TfNSW (Joshua Mesiti) via Teams
Representing Police Local Area Command North Shore (Snr Const Tom Lai)
Representing Member for Davidson (Michael Lane)

Staff Present: Director Operations (Peter Lichaa)
Manager Traffic and Transport (Deva Thevaraja)
Team Leader Traffic (Michael Foskett)
Strategic Transport Engineer (Joseph Piccoli) via Teams
Administration & Traffic Support Officer (Michelle Regan)

Apologies: Member for Wahroonga – Mr Alister Henskens
Representative Police Local Area Command Ku-ring-gai (Snr Const Steven Henri)
Representative Bike North (David Thomson)

The meeting commenced at 9:04 AM

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No interest was declared.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

LTF08 **Minutes of Ku-ring-gai Local Transport Forum**
File: CY00022/18
Meeting held 18 February 2026
Minutes numbered LTF01 to LTF07

Manager Traffic and Transport advised that Representative from TfNSW raised a query regarding General Business - Items Approved Under Delegated Authority in relation to the Terms of Reference for LTF.

The Chairperson noted that a clarification to be included with the previous minutes, to reflect the intent of internal delegation under the LTF terms of reference.

The Forum Recommends:

That Minutes numbered LTF01 to LTF07 were received and confirmed as an accurate record of the proceedings of the meeting, subject to the amendment of the Prescribed Traffic Control devices in the Terms of Reference.

GENERAL BUSINESS

LTF09 **Items Approved Under Delegated Authority**

File: CY00022/18
Vide: GB.1

Advise on matters considered under Delegated Authority.

The Forum's Comments:

The Manager Traffic & Transport gave an overview of the items considered under Delegated Authority from February to May, noting comments and how the comments were addressed and incorporated.

The Chairman noted the summary provides an overview of the items that have been approved and updates the community.

The Forum Recommends:

That the information regarding traffic facilities approved from February 2026 to May 2026 be noted.

LTF10 **Park Avenue, Roseville**

File: TM8/18
Vide: GB.2

To consider a proposal to install a speed cushion and additional STOP sign in Park Avenue, Roseville.

The Forum's Comments:

The Manager Traffic and Transport provided background on the proposal. There have been issues at this intersection with vehicle near misses and accidents as vehicles appear not to adhere to the STOP sign at Park Avenue.

Discussion was held regarding recorded data of accidents and concern raised regarding the placement of a speed cushion on Park Avenue before the STOP sign.

The Representing Member for Davidson requested that the proposed speed cushion not be installed as he believes vehicles will accelerate after passing the cushion and will not stop at the STOP sign. The Director Operations explained the purpose of the speed cushion was to slow the approaching vehicle allowing better opportunity to adhere to the STOP sign.

The Chairperson queried whether the Member for Davidson had considered the agenda item and provided a position or commentary to his representative prior to the meeting. It was noted that no comments or direction had been provided by the Member for Davidson to his representative in relation to the agenda item prior to the meeting. The Chairperson noted that representatives attend the Forum to convey the views of the member or organisation they represent rather than their own views.

The Chairperson noted the importance of Forum members reviewing agenda papers and, where appropriate, providing direction to their representatives on matters affecting their area of responsibility. The Chairperson requested that correspondence be sent to the Member for Davidson, Mr Matt Cross, and other Forum members, reminding them of the role of representatives and the expectation that agenda items be reviewed and any relevant comments or positions provided prior to future meetings.

The proposed recommendation was supported.

The Forum Recommends:

That a temporary speed cushion, and median with additional STOP sign be installed on Park Avenue.

LTF11 **Lady Game Drive, Lindfield**

File: TM6/18
Vide: GB.3

To consider a proposal to upgrade the existing roundabout on Lady Game Drive at Highfield Road and Moore Avenue, Lindfield.

The Forum's Comments:

The Team Leader Traffic gave background on this item. The roundabout is an accident black spot as the roundabout is too small, which provides little deflection to slow vehicles. Therefore, accidents occur due to high speeds through the roundabout.

A larger roundabout is proposed to provide a greater deflection angle and reduce vehicle speeds through the roundabout. It was initially proposed that the slip lane

into Moore Avenue be removed, however, following community consultation it was retained as it does not appear to impact safety. It was not feasible to retain the slip lane into Highfield Road.

Concerns were raised with the tight bend in the roundabout from Lady Game Drive onto Highfield could slow traffic, and the importance of maintaining the slip lane. The Team Leader Traffic advised traffic will move slower through the roundabout as there is little deflection to reduce speeds, otherwise the installation of a speed cushion would be required. The slip lane will be considered during detailed design.

Representative for TfNSW advised the roundabout is a good proposal with no significant issues with design.

The Chairperson noted there were no objections and recommended to proceed with the proposal with the slip lane into Moore Avenue retained.

The Forum Recommends:

That subject to available funding, the roundabout on Lady Game Drive at Highfield Road and Moore Avenue be upgraded.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Rothwell and Montrose Street, Turramurra

Council has been notified by residents in recent months about a series of accidents that have occurred on Rothwell Road at Montrose Street. Accident data, which is supplied to Council by TfNSW shows that there have been no recorded accidents during the 5-year period to the end of June 2025.

In January 2026 Council engaged an independent traffic consultant to carry out a Road Safety Audit of Rothwell Road and Montrose Street.

The Chairperson noted the recent proposal for additional road marking and signage at the Rothwell Road and Montrose Street; however, the community considered that these measures would not adequately address their concerns. Concerns were also raised regarding traction on the road surface, particularly with the gradient of Rothwell Road and installation of other traffic calming and physical barriers. It was suggested that a meeting be held with residents in both streets for the community to discuss these issues.

The Director Operations advised that a road safety audit has been conducted, and that Council has applied for grant funding to upgrade the road surface. He also agreed to arrange for the meeting with residents in the area.

It was noted that a community meeting will be arranged and residents advised of the date and time once confirmed. Potential road surface treatments aimed at improving vehicle traction are being considered as part of Council's ongoing assessment of the location. Residents were also advised that Sydney Water is currently proposing open trench works

along sections of Rothwell Road and Montrose Street as part of future infrastructure works, which may influence the timing and coordination of any road improvement works.

Fiddens Wharf Road, Killara

Team Leader Traffic advised, following a number of complaints, that Council is proposing to introduce a full-time No Right Turn restriction at the intersection of Fiddens Wharf Road and Pacific Highway that would replace the existing time-based restrictions. The proposal is currently undergoing community consultation and closes on 3 June 2026. The existing arrangement has been contributing to queuing further down Fiddens Wharf Road with the majority of vehicles turning left.

The Strategic Transport Engineer commented that during the transport impact study in relation transport orientated developments, there may be an opportunity for traffic signals long term, subject to TfNSW approval.

The Meeting closed at 10.20am.

KU-RING-GAI LOCAL TRANSPORT FORUM

The terms of reference for the Local Transport Forum are outlined below:

Role of the Forum

The Transport for NSW Authorisation and Delegation Instrument (2025) authorises Council to use prescribed traffic control devices under s122 of the Road Transport Act 2013 and delegates Transport's power under s115 of the Roads Act 1993 to regulate traffic for any purpose.

One of the conditions of the Instrument is that Council establish a Local Transport Forum (formerly known as Local Traffic Committee). The functions of the Forum include:

- collaboration between agencies involved in transport management
- advice on street design, infrastructure and traffic control facilities
- coordination of planned events and activities
- advice and information sharing on transport plans, policy, and management
- ensuring a public record of decisions relating to roads and streets.

Membership

Membership is limited to formal and informal members. Each category provides a single representative.

Formal members:

- Council (one member who is the Chairperson. Council will also appoint an alternate member who will act as Chairperson in the member's absence)
- Transport for NSW (one member)
- Local Member of Parliament (for respective electorate only) (one member)
- Police Local Area Command (one member)

Formal members may (with the Forum's approval) have additional persons attend in a support or observer or technical capacity.

Representatives of local bus companies will be invited to any meeting where a proposal is likely to affect public passenger services.

Informal members are representatives of Bicycle Institute of NSW, Ambulance Service and Fire Service, and others as determined by the Forum.

Term of membership

Councillors will be appointed to this forum by a resolution of Council for the same period as the term of office of the Mayor.

Mandatory referral of proposals

The following proposals must be referred to the Forum:

- Proposals which restrict or prohibit passage on a road, or compel or prevent a turn from one public road to another public road for longer than 6 months
- Proposals that prevent or hinder the operation of a public passenger service, prevent access to a public transport station, stop or service, remove or impact any bus priority measure.

Proposals of less than 24 hours do not need to be referred to the forum.

All decisions to regulate traffic or install prescribed traffic control devices under the 2025 Instrument on local roads are reserved to Council unless expressly delegated as per the table and decision-making process below. Council will consider the Forum's advice before determining any such matter.

Council approval will be sought through the minutes and recommendations arising from each Forum put to the following Ordinary Meeting of Council.

Delegation and decision-making framework

The Forum is an advisory body only, having no decision-making powers. It is primarily a technical review committee that is required to advise the Council on traffic related matters referred to it.

The framework outlined in Table 1 reflects the tiered decision-making framework required by Council resolution. Council staff will periodically review this framework and delegations (in consultation with the Forum) and report back to Council for consideration of any amendments.

The General Manager or their delegate may consult with members of the Forum prior to determining matters for which delegation has been granted to the General Manager (as outlined in Table 1).

There is no voting at the Forum, as Council is responsible for decisions it takes on local roads. Members and attendees are to provide advice in good faith, share information and coordinate activities and plans. Council is obliged to consider any advice provided by the Forum, but any decisions are the sole responsibility of Council.

List of Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs)	Delegations			
	LTF	TDA	Council	TfNSW
PTCDs for speed controls				
Speed limit adjustment	-	-	-	✓
School zone adjustment	-	-	-	✓
Shared zone	-	-	-	✓
High pedestrian activity area	-	-	-	✓
Speed cushion	✓	-	✓	-
Other traffic calming measure	✓	-	✓	-
PTCDs for intersection controls				
Stop	-	✓	-	-
Give way	-	✓	-	-
Change of priority at intersection	✓	-	✓	-
Roundabout	✓	-	✓	-
No right turn / no left turn / no U-turn	✓	-	✓	-
Mandatory turn (left/right turn only)	✓	-	✓	-
Traffic islands used to enforce lane discipline	✓	-	✓	-
Keep clear pavement marking	-	✓	-	-
PTCDs for regulation of traffic				
Lane shift	✓	-	✓	-
Lane addition / reduction	✓	-	✓	-
One-way / no entry	✓	-	✓	-
Load limit	✓	-	✓	-
No trucks sign	✓	-	✓	-
No buses sign	✓	-	✓	-
Pedestrian controls				
Pedestrian crossing (at-grade)	✓	-	✓	-
Pedestrian crossing (raised)	✓	-	✓	-
Pedestrian refuge	✓	-	✓	-
Kerb extensions / islands (to reduce crossing distance without marked crossing)	✓	-	✓	-
PTCDs for on-street parking controls				
No parking	-	✓	-	-
No stopping	-	✓	-	-
Bus zone	-	✓	-	-
Taxi zone	-	✓	-	-
Loading zone	-	✓	-	-
Works zone	-	✓	-	-
Mail zone	-	✓	-	-
Disabled parking	-	✓	-	-
Carshare parking	-	✓	-	-
Time-restricted parking	-	✓	-	-
Pavement marking for marked on-street parking bay	-	✓	-	-
Special event related traffic controls[2]				

[2] Note: Classes of special events refer to the 'NSW guide to traffic and transport management for special events': Class 1 Event

Class 1 and Class 2 events (major or moderate impact)	✓	-	✓	-
Class 3 and Class 4 events (minor or localised impact)	-	✓	-	-
Temporary use of PTCDs				
Temporary traffic control device to restrict or prohibit passage along a road of any persons, vehicles, or animals; or compel or prevent a turn, exceeding 6 months	✓	-	✓	-
Temporary traffic control device that prevents or impedes the safe or efficient operation of public transport, exceeding 24 hours	✓	-	✓	-
Temporary traffic control devices that do not require referral to LTF	-	✓	-	-

Table 1: Delegations for approval of Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs)

(major impact on traffic & transport network, e.g. major impact or closure of the principal transport route); Class 2 Event (moderate impact on traffic & transport network, e.g. moderate impact of the principal transport route); Class 3 Event (minor impact on traffic & transport network, e.g. local street closure accessed from a State road); Class 4 Event (localised impact on traffic & transport network, minimal impact on non-event community).

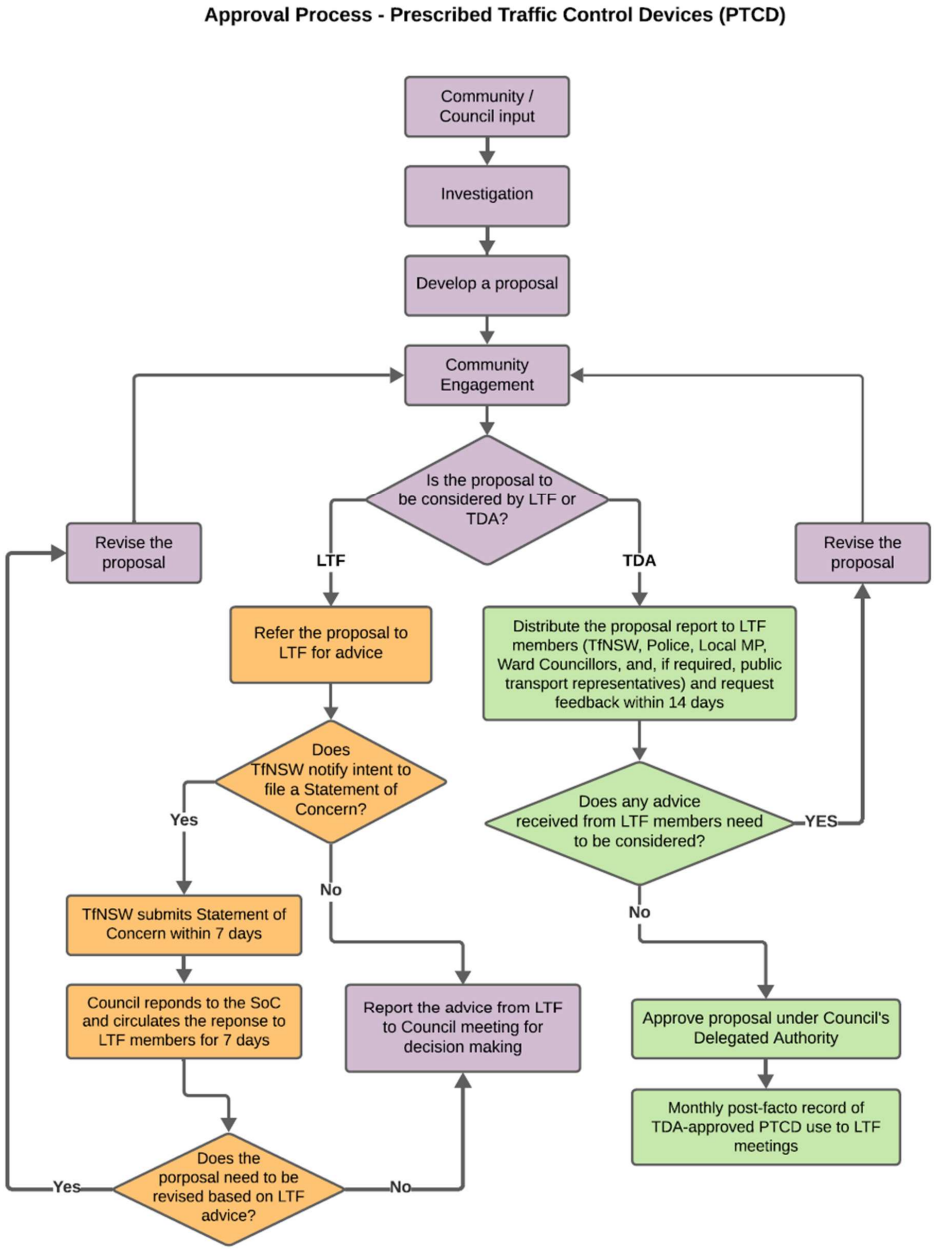

Figure 1: Approval process for Prescribed Traffic Control Devices (PTCDs)

Rules and procedures of the Forum

In the absence of a direction from TfNSW, the Forum may determine its own meeting

procedures. These are set out below:

The Chairperson of the Forum will be the representative appointed on behalf of the Council (or their duly authorised representative).

The meeting will operate on a formal basis. All business will be transacted through the Chairperson.

Only Forum members may submit items for the agenda, ask questions about items that are not listed as general business, address the Forum with respect to confirmation of minutes, raise late items or ask a question of Forum members.

Meetings of the Forum are not public meetings. Written submissions are preferred. However, provision is made for interested members of the public to address the Forum under certain circumstances. Members of the public (including Councillors) may only address the Forum on matters listed on the agenda under general business where prior notice of the intention to speak has been made to Council staff, and the intended speaker has a relevant interest in the subject matter.

'Address the Forum' will normally take place immediately before each relevant item is considered. Items which have speakers will generally be dealt with earlier in the meeting – with the order of business being changed accordingly with the consent of the Forum.

Members of the public (excluding Councillors) shall leave the meeting after all addresses relating to the item under consideration have been made. Members of the public wanting to address more than one item shall re-enter the meeting room when invited to do so.

Technical discussion on agenda items and establishment of recommendations for Council are undertaken in closed session.

Proceedings of the Forum will be recorded in the minutes and made public (as draft) within 10 business days of the meeting of the Forum. The minutes will be updated (if required) following Council approval and accompanied by a plain-English decision note and relevant plans.

Attendance by audio-visual link

Local Transport Forum meetings will be held online every month, with the exception of quarterly meetings. Members are encouraged to attend quarterly meetings in person however they may participate via audio-visual link if necessary.

Code of Conduct

The Ku-ring-gai Council Code of Conduct applies to all members of advisory and reference committees and forums. All forum members must declare and manage any conflicts of interest they may have in matters being considered at meetings in accordance with the Code. All declarations of conflicts of interest and how the conflict of interest was managed by the person who made the declaration must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting at which the declaration was made.

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AED) ACROSS COUNCIL FACILITIES "LACHY'S HEARTSTART PROJECT"

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	This report provides Council with further information in relation to providing community access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across Council facilities in response to Council's resolution from the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 March 2026.
BACKGROUND:	At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 March 2026, Council considered report GB.8 (Community Access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Across Council Facilities "Lachy's Heartstart Project") and in part resolved to seek expert cardiac health advice and undertake community consultation prior to final consideration and adoption of the draft delivery program and associated increase to 2026/27 fees and charges.
COMMENTS:	Staff consulted with NSW Ambulance regarding expert cardiac health advice to inform the placement criteria for AED locations and public awareness strategies. Using expert health advice, a proposed placement criteria has been developed. The original AED delivery program was assessed against the placement criteria, resulting in an amended draft AED delivery program. The amended draft AED delivery program proposes 46 new externally accessible AEDs will be installed at an estimated capital cost of $334,100 and an annual operational cost of $80,730. Should Council adopt the amended AED delivery program, the revised fees and charges outlined in this report would also need to be adopted.
RECOMMENDATION: (Refer to the full Recommendation at the end of this report)	That Council approves the implementation of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program as detailed in this report.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides Council with further information in relation to providing community access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) across Council facilities in response to Council's resolution from the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 17 March 2026.

BACKGROUND

Following a Notice of Motion by Councillors Devlin and Kay at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 November 2025, Council resolved that a report be provided to Council with information on delivering a program of publicly accessible AEDs across Council facilities, including whole of life costs, delivery considerations and the associated risks and liabilities. The report GB.8 (Community Access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Across Council Facilities "Lachy's Heartstart Project") was provided to Council at the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 17 March 2026 and Council resolved:

A. *Seek expert cardiac health advice to inform the placement criteria for AED locations and public awareness strategies, and to assist in refining the proposed locations for Stage 1 (Sportsfields) and Stage 2 (Community buildings);*
B. *Include the proposed implementation of Stage 1 (Sportsfields – up to 60 AEDs) and Stage 2 (Community buildings – up to 10 AEDs) in the 2026/27 draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for exhibition;*
C. *Include an increase to relevant fees in the draft 2026/27 Fees & Charges for exhibition, to offset the annualised whole of life cost of installing, maintaining and monitoring the AEDs, phased in over two financial years commencing 2026/27;*
D. *Consult directly with key user groups, in addition to the general exhibition process, prior to reporting back to Council for final consideration and adoption in June 2026;*
E. *Include the expert health advice and feedback from user groups in the report back to Council following the exhibition of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan including any recommended changes or reduction in the sites identified in B to be incorporated into the final DP&OP; and,*
F. *Consider funding Stage 3 (Playgrounds and Off-leash Parks) and Stage 4 (Reserves) in advance of preparing the next Community Strategic Plan, with a tailored consultation recognising the varied nature of users and considering the expert cardiac health advice.*

In response to the resolution, this report provides Council with information, including expert health advice, feedback from the community, recommended placement criteria and an amended draft delivery plan.

COMMENTS

Expert Health Advice

Expert health advice was sought from multiple sources. NSW Health is the lead state authority responsible for public health policy, community education and strategic direction regarding cardiac arrest response in NSW. NSW Health's key partners in NSW and their respective roles in relation to cardiac arrest response are.

- NSW Ambulance: leads the operational response and AED registry

- NSW Heart Foundation NSW: involved in education and public health campaigns
- St John Ambulance NSW: provides training and community resources

Staff from NSW Health and NSW Ambulance provided advice that there are no formal guidelines outlining a specific placement criteria for AED locations. NSW Ambulance staff provided resources from the NSW Health website to support planning and implementation. These resources included Attachment A1: Rapid Literature Review on Public Access to Defibrillation prepared by NSW Health.

This literature provided by NSW Health provides research on the placement of AEDs and relevant key points are summarised below:

- The American Heart Association recommends installation at sites that experience out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) once every 5 years and the European Resuscitation Council at sites of OHCA once every 2 years.
- There is evidence to support that AED placement should occur in places where response time of a bystander could potentially be guaranteed.
- Data from the NSW Ambulance Service in 2012 shows that most calls that were classified as "cardiac or respiratory arrest or death" came from residential areas (69%), and only 6% came from a public or community area (NSW Ambulance OHCA Registry 2022 provided updated data showing an increase in OHCA events in private residence (79%) and public places (11%)).
- There is limited data on the outcomes of OHCA occurring during exercise.
- The uptake of lay-person bystander defibrillation is low (<1% to 2.3%).
- Lack of public knowledge, confidence in using a defibrillator and the inability to locate a nearby device may be more important than a lack of defibrillators themselves.

NSW Ambulance also reviewed Council's draft AED delivery program. It was recommended that new devices are registered and included in AED mapping to enable both emergency services and members of the public to quickly locate nearby devices during a cardiac emergency.

A recent white paper from Australian Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) Alliance Attachment A2: A Call to Action to Improve Cardiac Arrest Outcomes: A Report from the National Summit for Cardiac Arrest provides a 'Circle of Hope' encapsulating all facets of cardiac arrest. This includes access to defibrillators. Relevant keys points are summarised below.

- Use of an AED in the early stages of a cardiac arrest (the first 3–5 minutes) more than doubles survival rates. Thus, members of the community can have a substantial impact on sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) survival if they have received basic training and an AED is available.
- Bystander CPR rates in Australia are suboptimal, and regions with higher rates have a greater proportion of their population trained in CPR.
- Progression to smaller, cheaper devices with longer battery life and lesser maintenance requirement ('ultraportable defibrillators') was noted as a logical solution to increase AED access. The impact of this technology is limited without accompanied education, awareness and data on efficacy.

As identified by Kovoor et al. (2023), in Attachment A3: Public attitudes towards automated external defibrillators, AEDs must be publicly accessible and swiftly identifiable to enable rapid defibrillation by lay responders. This information provides some elements of a framework.

However, the information is inconclusive as this is an evolving area of public policy lacking specific prior research and relevant examples elsewhere.

Community Consultation

Community engagement, including directly with user groups, was conducted in May 2026 as part of the draft DP&OP community consultation and is referenced further in this report.

Most respondents were for or neutral towards Council providing publicly accessible AEDs. Within the community survey and written responses, the community were not in favour of the cost of publicly accessible AEDs being placed entirely on the hirers of facilities.

Further details of this engagement are provided in the Community Consultation section later in this report.

Proposed AED Placement Criteria

The original draft AED delivery program was developed after a desktop assessment of 272 facilities. This assessment was undertaken to identify potential locations for the installation of AEDs. The assessment included identifying priorities based on usage, current AED provisions, access to power and nearby facilities. Council may need placement criteria as all sites may not have a pronounced need or sufficient benefit to warrant the placement of an AED.

In the absence of formalised guidelines from NSW Health or NSW Ambulance regarding placement within open community settings, proposed placement criteria have been developed as shown in Table 1. This placement criteria refines the list of facilities previously reported to Council during the March OMC. This revision ensures that the devices are placed at venues with higher visitation and a higher likelihood of use in the event of a Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA). The criteria do not consider the likelihood of a SCA event at that facility as there is no research to support this.

Table 1: Proposed AED Placement Criteria

No.	Qualifying Question	Justification
Q1	Has there been a recorded SCA event at this facility in the last five years?	Aligns to American Heart Association recommendation.
Q2	Is the activity undertaken majority of the time in groups of two or more related adults? e.g. tennis, golf	A related party is more likely to aid in an SCA event than a bystander.
Q3	Is there a walking track around this facility?	Higher visitation facility and greater chance of bystander to aid.
Q4	Is this a high use facility (over 800 bookable hours per annum or unstructured recreation of equivalent value)?	Higher visitation facility and greater chance of bystander to aid.
Q5	Is there high use infrastructure surrounding the building occurring while the facility is closed or not in use? (Applies to Community Buildings only to determine if an existing AED should be provided externally).	Higher visitation facility and greater chance of bystander to aid.

A “yes” to any one or more of the questions may be used to qualify a facility for inclusion in the amended draft AED delivery program. Facilities that fall outside of this placement criteria may be

considered in future on a case-by-case basis using a site-specific risk assessment. Venues with two or more qualifying facilities have had the number of AEDs consolidated where logistically possible considering a 3–5-minute response time.
In addition to the placement criteria, all devices installed should follow the *AED Location Checklist* developed by St John Ambulance Victoria. The correct positioning ensures the device is in the right place to provide fast and easy access in an emergency. The location checklist includes:

- Location – The AED should be installed in a high traffic area where the greatest number of people interact.
- Visibility – The AED should be installed in a location with clear signage and visibility and not be hidden or obstructed from view.
- Storage – The AED should be protected in an appropriate case or enclosure that remains easily accessible during an emergency. Secure storage should not prevent public access.
- Availability – The AED should be publicly accessible whenever possible, with preference given to 24-hour accessibility.
- Registration – The AED location must be registered on the NSW Ambulance GoodSAM AED Registry.
- Signage – Internationally recognised green AED signage will be installed to clearly communicate the location of an AED.

Changes to the Draft AED Delivery Program

The proposed placement criteria have been applied to the 272 facilities assessed during the desktop assessment. An amended draft delivery program can be found in **Attachment A4: Amended Draft AED Delivery Program.** The amended cost of the draft delivery program is summarised in Table 2 with a more summary costings available in **Attachment A5**: **Summary of Amended Draft AED Delivery Program Costings.**

Table 2: Estimated Whole of Life Costs of the Amended Draft AED Delivery Program

Category	Number of Devices	Initial Capital Cost ($)	Annual Operational Cost ($, p.a.)	Whole of Life Cost ($, 10 years)
Sportsfields (22) including tennis and netball courts (17)	39	273,600	68,445	958,050
Community Buildings	4	26,400	7,020	96,600
Golf Courses	2	27,500	3,510	62,600
Passive Recreation (Wildflower Garden)	1	6,600	1,755	24,150
Totals	**46**	**334,100**	**80,730**	**1,141,400**

An estimated total capital cost of $334,100 and operational cost of $80,730 per annum is required to deliver this project. The revised proposed increases in fees and charges are based on the above estimates.

The key change to the draft AED delivery program is the removal of low use, most commonly Class 3 and/or unlit (i.e. no floodlighting) sportsfields and retaining internal access for existing devices within select community buildings. A list of excluded facilities is available in **Attachment A6: Excluded Facilities – Amended Draft AED Delivery Program.**

Existing AEDs

The existing 16 AEDs within community and operational buildings will remain internally accessible when there is no high use infrastructure surrounding the building. The ongoing maintenance of these devices is unfunded once the initial maintenance period ends in November 2026. These costs are summarised in Attachment A7: Summary of Estimated Operational Costs for Existing AEDs. It is proposed that these AEDs are renewed to the latest specification after these sites are considered for renewal at a future date. The costs related to existing AEDs are excluded from the fees and charges.

Additionally, the use of third-party sporting club AEDs has not been considered in this program given the associated risks and liabilities of making third party sporting AEDs publicly accessible.

This amended program does not fully address community consultation feedback regarding an unfair burden being placed on hirers, in particular sporting clubs as discussed in the community consultation section of this report.

Additional considerations

Additional considerations for the implementation of the draft AED delivery program based on expert health advice includes.

- All newly installed AEDs will be registered with the GoodSAM database and will be included on Council's website.
- Provide clear venue signage for all AED locations.
- Provide public awareness and community training initiatives alongside the installation of AED devices to increase bystander CPR and defibrillation rates.
- Ultraportable defibrillators and other technological progressions should be monitored. It may reduce the need for publicly accessible AEDs in the future including replacements at end of asset life.

Public Awareness Strategies

Should Council proceed with the installation of AEDs, it is proposed to implement a public awareness campaign that would include registration of all AEDs on the NSW Ambulance GoodSAM AED Registry; communication of AED availability and locations through Council's venue hire processes and communication; promotion of AED locations through signage and partnering with the National Heart Foundation to deliver community education programs.

The NSW Ambulance GoodSAM AED Registry is a publicly accessible mapping system integrated with Triple Zero dispatch systems and the GoodSAM mobile application. This application also alerts registered volunteers and directs responders to the nearest publicly accessible AED. Staff also propose that further public awareness implemented through Council's communication channels, venue hire process and The National Heart Foundation of Australia's "Heart of the Nation" program. The National Heart Foundation of Australia's "Heart of the Nation" program is aimed at increasing community awareness and confidence in performing CPR and using AEDs.

As part of this initiative, the "Shockingly Simple" program offers free non-accredited CPR and AED awareness sessions that provide practical education aligned with basic life support principles, including:

- recognising the signs of cardiac arrest;
- understanding the process for calling Triple Zero (000);
- the role of early CPR and defibrillation in improving survival outcomes;

- demonstration of CPR techniques and AED use; and
- increasing community confidence to respond in emergency situations and overcoming common fears and barriers associated with providing assistance.

Council can partner with the program by providing a venue and assisting with promotion of the sessions through Council's communication channels. The program has been recently piloted with Cumberland, North Sydney, Tamworth and Griffith Councils, with the outcomes currently being evaluated.

The program can also be tailored to local sports clubs and community groups and may incorporate the use of CPR mannequins and training AED devices.

Should Council proceed with the rollout of AEDs, it is recommended partnering with the National Heart Foundation to deliver CPR and AED sessions. Tailored sessions would be offered to regular hirers of Council's halls and facilities, and where AEDs are on-site, this would be promoted via hirer forms.

Participants attending the training program would be encouraged to register as volunteer responders through the GoodSAM App.

Through a combination of publicly accessible AED infrastructure, community education and increased awareness of the GoodSAM responder network, the proposed rollout would contribute to strengthening community emergency response capability across the local government area.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Outcome 3: Infrastructure and assets support community needs

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Action
A3: Provide, upgrade and maintain community buildings and facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.	A3.2: Usage of existing community buildings and facilities is optimised.	A3.2.5: Align capital works programs with adopted open space and recreational assets management plans to ensure Council's recreation services meet customer needs.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

There are no significant Governance matters associated with this report.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

There are several risks relevant to this report that need to be considered, as shown in the table below:

Risk description	Key Controls	Residual Risk Rating	Risk Appetite

Liability and duty of care exposure specifically due to vandalism and device reliability.	• Respond to reactive requests including reports of vandalism and device removal within two business days. • Provide vandal proof cabinets and/or device tracking for Council facilities with known rates of vandalism. • Provide signage that clearly states emergency services should be contacted, and no immediate response is provided by Council when the device is used. • Develop a disclaimer to further inform the users of Council's limited liability to develop reasonable expectations. • Capture any use, tampering, or malfunction of an AED through existing incident reporting and escalation mechanisms to support follow-up and continuous improvement.	15	Threshold
Failure of device due to maintenance and oversight.	• Engage a third-party contractor to service and monitor the devices on an annual program. • Establish a proactive inspection schedule and oversight of maintenance schedule. Responsibilities and record keeping requirements will be clearly defined.	15	Threshold
General public unfamiliar on use of AEDs resulting in death.	• 'The Good Samaritan Act' removes liability however Council could implement regular educational campaign through the Council website and social media. • Provide signage with instructions on how to use the device and contact details for emergency services.	15	Threshold
Failure of long-term engagement of third-party contractor (e.g. financial collapse of contractor).	• Engage a provider with established history of providing this service.	13	Threshold
Failure of AED device not provided by Council but publicly accessible within a Council facility.	• Develop a disclaimer to further inform the users of Council's limited liability to develop reasonable expectations. • Create an internal register of AEDs provided by community groups and stored within a Council facility e.g. cabinet within clubhouse, so publicly accessible AEDs can be monitored by Council staff.	15	Threshold

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The provision of publicly available AEDs of this scale would represent a new service (and assets) for Council. Therefore, it is proposed that the cost of the program be funded by increases in

2026/27 and 2027/28 fees and charges. These increases were included in the recently exhibited draft 2026/27 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

As this report alters the previously exhibited costs and associated increases in fees and charges, there will be a need to adjust these fees should Council decide to adopt the amended AED delivery program as outlined in this report.

The fees and charges for the amended AED delivery program are generally lower than those that were included in the recently exhibited draft 2026/27 Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

As outlined in Table 2 earlier in this report, the delivery of the proposed revised placement is estimated to require a capital cost of $334,100 and ongoing operational cost of $80,730 per annum. Over a 10-year asset life, the annualised cost of both the capital and operational cost is $114,140 ($104,480 for sports fields and recreational assets and $9,660 for community buildings). This is a reduction of $60,195 per annum from the original proposed AED program due to a reduction in 34 new devices.

To recover the annual cost of $114,140, the proposed fee increases would be phased in, over two financial years starting from 2026/27, subject to Council approval. For sports fields and tennis courts, an additional increase of 2.3% per year would apply in each of the two years. This increase is lower than the previously exhibited increases for sportsfields, but higher than the previously exhibited increases for tennis, reflecting the amended AED placement criteria. Minor increases would also apply to other community halls and meeting rooms, golf course fees and Wildflower Garden venue hire fees. These increases would be in addition to the standard CPI based annual adjustment.

For each of the two financial years, the following increases will apply in addition to the standard CPI-based increase:

- Sportsfields hire fees: 2.3% per year (previously exhibited at 5.75% per year)
- Tennis courts, including pickleball: 2.3% per year (previously exhibited at 1.1% per year)
- Community Buildings (halls and meeting rooms): 0.35% per year (previously exhibited at 2.6% per year)
- Golf course green fees: 0.15% per year
- Wildflower Garden venue hire fees: 0.3% per year

The amended Fees and Charges are included in Attachment A10: Amended Fees and Charges for Amended Draft AED Delivery Program.

Under the amended draft AED delivery program, the AED fee would be removed from Class 3 sports fields, as these are underutilised sites where AEDs are no longer proposed to be installed.

It is worth noting that community consultation highlighted concerns of the whole cost of this project being funded by hirers. The cost for Council to deliver externally accessible AEDs is significantly higher than the cost of a sport club to provide AED devices for their members. The attached amended draft AED delivery program provides a reduction in the proposed fees and charges; however, it does not address the concerns around the program being a cost burden to sports clubs.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The installation of publicly accessible AEDs across Council facilities would support improved community access to emergency response equipment and may improve outcomes for persons experiencing cardiac arrest.

Public awareness initiatives and promotion of community responder programs may also improve community confidence and preparedness in responding to cardiac emergencies.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Some facilities do not have access to a power supply to allow for monitoring. In these cases, a solar powered enclosure will be used. Insignificant environmental impacts are expected.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In response to Part D of the GB.8 (Community Access to Automated External Defibrillators (AED) Across Council Facilities "Lachy's Heartstart Project") resolution, Community consultation took place in May 2026 alongside Council's exhibited draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan. The primary objective was to ascertain community views on the installation of AEDs in Ku-ring-gai sportsfields and community facilities and the method of funding.

Permanent and regular hirers of sportsfields, halls and meeting rooms, tennis and netball courts were directly contacted with information on the project, and the impact on draft fees and charges.

The Community Engagement report is provided in Attachment A8: Community Engagement Report - AEDs at Ku-ring-gai Sportsgrounds and Community Facilities.

There was low participation in the community survey. From the seventeen (17) survey responses, 65% were in support of the installation of AEDs and 35% were neutral. Support for the funding of the program through an increase in fees and charges was low at 41%, 47% were not in favour of the increase and 12% were uncertain. There were four primary themes in survey responses

- Existing AEDs are already provided by sports clubs.
- The increase in fees and charges is too high for sports clubs to absorb when considering additional CPI increases.
- This funding doesn't provide fee equity and penalising facilities that already have higher fees and charges.
- There is a need for cost clarity and cost benefit study.

A total of 13 written responses were received. A summary of written submissions and response can be found in Attachment A9: Summary of written submissions and response. Five (5) tennis court users and one (1) hall and meeting room user were in favour of the program and increase in the fees and charges. One (1) tennis court user was against the program. However, all six (6) written submissions received from sports clubs and associations were against this program and the increase in fees and charges. The feedback is summarised as following:

- The cost of the program is inflated and unreasonable.
- The increase in the fees and charges is unequitable burden on sports clubs for a community wide benefit.

- The sporting club already provides access to an AED for their members. It was requested to opt out of the program for this reason. Some sporting clubs offered to make their devices available to the public as part of this opt out.

Whilst the provision of externally accessible AEDs in Council facilities is generally supported, the community consultation indicated that funding the program through an increase to fees and charges is not supported.

Staff recommend a reduction in the scale of the project and as such, the proposed increase to fees and charges has now been reduced as detailed in this report.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Consultation has been undertaken with relevant business areas.

SUMMARY

Community consultation was generally in support of AEDs however there are concerns about the cost being solely applied to sporting clubs through fees and charges.

There are no formalised guidelines outlining specific placement criteria for AED locations. A proposed placement criteria has been created after consideration of expert health advice and literature. This has been applied to the draft delivery program to prioritise facilities, and a new amended draft delivery program has been developed.

Bystander CPR rates in Australia are suboptimal. Increased community training and public awareness for CPR and AEDs are proven to increase bystander assistance. The Heart of the Nation flagship is an opportunity to provide this training to residents as part of a wider Council public awareness campaign.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

A. Receives and notes this report.

B. Approves the implementation of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Program as detailed in this report to provide publicly accessible AEDs across Council facilities.

C. Approves a variation to the initial capital project cost for the *Installation of Publicly Accessible AEDs – Lachy's Heartstart Project* to $334,100 in 2026/27, together with associated annual operational costs of $80,730, and authorises the incorporation of these revised costs into the final 2026/2027 Resourcing Strategy and Delivery Program and Operational Plan.

D. Approves the revised fees and charges outlined in this report for inclusion in the final 2026/27 Fees & Charges, with the increase phased in over two financial years commencing 2026/27, to offset the annualised whole of life cost of installing, maintaining and monitoring AEDs.

E. Approves registering Council's interest in joining the Heart of the Nation flagship program.

F. Authorises the development of an ongoing, annual public awareness and education campaign for CPR and AEDs.

G. Includes AED consultation within future community engagement on Council's strategic plans to inform future AED installations.

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Attachments:

A1⇩	Attachment 1. Rapid Literature Review on Public Access to Defibrillation	2026/154240
A2⇩	Attachment 2. A Call to Action to Improve Cardiac Arrest Outcomes: A Report from the National Summit for Cardiac Arrest	2026/154236
A3⇩	Attachment 3. Public attitudes towards automated external defibrillators	2026/161185
A4⇩	Attachment 4. Amended Draft AED Delivery Program	2026/154242
A5⇩	Attachment 5. Summary of Amended Draft AED Delivery Program Costings	2026/154248
A6⇩	Attachment 6. Excluded Facilities - Amended Draft AED Delivery Program	2026/157754
A7⇩	Attachment 7. Summary of Estimated Operational Costs for Existing AEDs	2026/159603
A8⇩	Attachment 8. Community Engagement Report - AEDs at Ku-ring-gai Sportsgrounds and Community Facilities	2026/162981
A9⇩	Attachment 9. Summary of written submissions and response	2026/163049
A10⇩	Attachment 10. Amended Fees and Charges for Amended Draft AED Delivery Program	2026/166014

Rapid Literature Review on Public Access to Defibrillation

September 2017



NSW GOVERNMENT

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Executive summary

- The incidence of out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is estimated to be 49.8 OHCA events per 100,000 person years in Sydney, NSW in 2010; no updated data is available. This is because apart from the Victorian Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Registry, NSW and Australia lacks a registry on OHCA.
- Globally, survival to hospital discharge after OHCA is poor, reported to be ~ 7% and 8%. Only up to 50% of OHCA events manifest heart rhythms that may respond to defibrillation. Survival after OHCA is critically dependent on time to defibrillation with each 1 minute delay in defibrillation reducing the probability of survival to discharge by 10-12%.
- Public Access defibrillation (PAD), involves a bystander, trained first responder (e.g. firefighters, police officers) or recruited trained volunteer initiating cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and external defibrillation via an automated external defibrillator (AED) before arrival of emergency medical services (EMS). PAD has been implemented in a number of countries. There is sufficient evidence, based on population-based cohort studies that PAD result in 2 to 3-fold increased survival compared to lack of PAD; and in some series survival of up to 50-70% can be achieved.

Where should they be placed – where is placement most effective?

- The optimal location where fixed AEDs should be placed is debated. There is sufficient evidence for placement in high public traffic areas such as airports, railway stations, or sites where short defibrillation times can be guaranteed (e.g. casinos) or where access to EMS is restricted (e.g. aircraft). Evidence for placement at other public places such as exercise facilities, athletic fields, community centres, shopping centres is limited, but is heavily influenced by public opinion and media attention. A paradox in the literature is that PAD has only been tested in public spaces where only ~40% of OHCA occur; the majority occur in private places and no evaluation of PAD has been performed in this setting. Furthermore, rural and remote regions have a higher contribution to OHCA (~60- 70% of cases), longer delays to EMS access, and poorer outcomes after OHCA, but PAD has not been adequately tested in these regions. Lastly, the uptake of PAD has been historically poor (~1% access AED during OHCA, despite availability) suggesting unrecognised potential for lives saved.

Where is this considered cost-effective?

- Cost benefit analyses on optimal location for AED placement have been very limited, heterogeneous in methodology and results, mostly outdated (~7 years old), and have lacked sophistication in analyses, having failed to take into account downstream costs of OHCA survival with or without residual neurologic impairment. Analyses do support placement of AEDs in high traffic public areas, casinos and aircraft. It has been consistently argued that broad dissemination of AEDs for the sake of raw coverage is not cost effective. Instead that targeted AED placement matching country and region-specific OHCA event rates in addition to efforts of improving universal *spatial and temporal accessibility to existing, functional* AED units is likely to be more cost effective.

When linked to emergency services, when first responders are guided to AED are outcomes improved? Do such programs promote AED use in community? Cost effectiveness?

- There is sufficient evidence, based on population-based cohort studies, that dual dispatch systems (simultaneous activation of trained professional first responders such as police or fire departments alongside with EMS) shorten time to defibrillation, increase rates of successful defibrillation, survival to hospitalisation and neurologically intact survival. Further, uptake of CPR and AED by first responders, in such countries continues to increase over time. Cost effectiveness analyses of such programs is limited.
- There is very limited data on expansion of such systems to include recruitment of volunteer bystander rescuers who are guided to location of OHCA in addition to advice about co-ordinates of a nearby AED by means of novel smartphone technologies. A number of logistic concerns have been raised by such studies that employ smartphone applications. Complex mathematical algorithms to optimise AED location, use of crowdsourcing mobile applications to assist creation of AED registries and drone- delivery of AED to OHCA locations have been suggested in theoretical or pre-clinical studies. Such

applications appear promising, but are unlikely to contribute to enhancement of a PAD program in the immediate future.

- In some countries where rate of bystander CPR and AED were historically low (~1%), rates have dramatically increased (~15-20%) with implementation of successful PAD programs.

What are the enablers and barriers to the use of publicly accessible defibrillators in the community?

- Components of successful PAD include aggressive public awareness campaigns, dissemination of AEDs at public places notable for high incidence of OHCA, a dual dispatch system of EMS and trained professional first responder activation (with or without engagement of trained volunteer laypersons from a registry who are activated to reach a site of OHCA), a dynamically updated registry of AEDs location and functionality, regular maintenance of AEDs, structured training, retraining and certification of responders and a development of OHCA registry with regular reporting of outcomes. In Australia, only Victoria have most components of the PAD program and have reported dramatic improvements in bystander CPR and AED use and in survival to hospital discharge after OHCA

- A number of key barriers to bystander AED use have been identified including lack of universal availability in public spaces, lack of accessibility at all hours (especially at night, when most OHCA occur), lack of public awareness of the benefit of defibrillation, lack of training on how to perform BLS or to use AED, indifferent attitude by public to perform CPR and/or AED, lack of structured EMS support to guide laypersons on how to perform CPR or AED use during an OHCA, lack of functionality of implanted AEDs at public spaces, absence of a co-ordinated system of identifying AED locations, and failure by the public to recognise signage for an AEDs. The literature suggest that these factors appear to critical priorities that need optimisation, rather than widespread dissemination of using public funding for the sake of coverage alone.

Search Methodology

A Pubmed search was performed on July 14, 2017 with the following search terms, on a unrestricted time limit:

(a) "defibrillators"[MeSH Terms] OR "defibrillators"[All Fields] OR ("automated"[All Fields] AND "external"[All Fields] AND "defibrillators"[All Fields]) OR "automated external defibrillators"[All Fields];

(b) public[All Fields] AND access[All Fields] AND ("electric countershock"[MeSH Terms] OR ("electric"[All Fields] AND "countershock"[All Fields]) OR "electric countershock"[All Fields] OR "defibrillation"[All Fields]); and

(c) dual[All Fields] AND dispatch[All Fields].

The search revealed 17,843 citations, whose abstracts were reviewed manually on line; 352 citations were selected for full length manuscript review. A further 114 citations were added from review of reference lists of these manuscripts, and 9 websites and "grey literature" documents were added giving a total of 475 citations reviewed. After review of these 475 citations, 228 manuscripts were excluded due to duplications (3), for lack of relevance to the research questions in the review (156), and reviews, editorials or letters to the editor or limited relevance to the research questions (69). The final 247 citations reviewed are provided in the attached Endnote file. A reference list cited is provided at the end of this document. A summary of major studies cited in this review in available in Table 1. A summary of health economic evaluations evaluating the cost-effectiveness of public access defibrillators is provided in Table 2. Although the review requested manuscripts published till approximately 2005, some seminal studies were published prior to this date, so no time limit for publication inclusion was applied.

Preamble

Out of hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is defined as sudden and unexpected pulseless condition attributable to cessation or perturbation of cardiac mechanical activity, outside of a hospital facility.[1] For the scope of this review, traumatic OHCA (e.g. motor vehicle or industrial accidents) are excluded.

Incidence of OHCA

- The global incidence of OHCA when including adults and children is 35 per 100,000 person years; the incidence is 62 per 100,000 person

years when restricted to adults alone.[2] In Sydney, Australia, the crude incidence of OHCA in 2009-2010 is 49.8 OHCA events per 100,000 person years (similar age-adjusted incidence).[3] In Victoria, the unadjusted state-wide incidence of OHCA in 2015-2016 was 99.2 events per 100,000 population, being higher in the rural (128.6) compared with metropolitan centres (89.7 events per 100,000 population).[4]

- OHCA affects more than 350,000 individuals in North America and 300,000 individuals in Europe.[5, 6]
- There is absence of systematic literature on incidence of OHCA across all populations in Australia; notably there is absence of a nationwide registry on OHCA in Australia, apart from data collected in the Victorian Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Registry.[4]
- Amongst young adults (aged 1-35 years) in Australia, the incidence of sudden cardiac arrest is 1.3 cases per 100,000 person years, when evaluated from autopsy studies.[7] Similar rates are reported from England and Wales (1.8 per 100,000 person years based on death certificates),[8] but higher from Denmark (2.8 per 100, 0000 person; 1.9/100,000 person years when considering autopsy cases only).[9]

Aetiology of OHCA

- The aetiology of OHCA is either: (a) malignant ventricular arrhythmia (ventricular tachycardia [VT] or fibrillation [VF]) leading to hemodynamic collapse or (b) pulseless electrical activity (electromechanical dissociation) where there is hemodynamic collapse despite near normal electrical activity or (c) asystole (absence of electrical or mechanical activity).[10]
- Cardiac defibrillation (external shock) will only revert VT or VF, not pulseless electrical activity or asystole. A shockable rhythm (VT or VF) is detected in ~25-50% of persons with OHCA; a percentage which has declined over the last 20 years.[11-17] This may be in part, due to success of internal cardiac defibrillators in preventing OHCA in at risk individuals.[16]
- The literature recognises that a greater proportion of OHCA cases may have VT or VF at the time of collapse, but by the time the rhythm is detected via an electrocardiogram, the rhythm may have deteriorated to asystole.[18, 19] When recorded soon after collapse, the proportion of OHCA with a shockable rhythm may be as high as 76%.[20, 21] It is thus plausible that the estimated proportion of OHCA with a shockable rhythm is underestimated in the literature.
- Despite advances in treatment and improved organisation of services targeting OHCA, it appears international survival rates to discharge from hospital after OHCA have remained relatively consistent at between 7% and 8% for the last 30 years.[22] In Australia, data from the Victorian Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Registry showed that survival to hospital discharge was 13%.[23] There has been minimal change over time (when comparing 2015- 2016 to 2006-2007).[4] Survival to hospital discharge was higher in metropolitan areas (11%) than rural areas (9%) of Victoria, Australia.[4] However, when resuscitation attempts are successful and patients survive to hospital discharge and beyond 12 months post OHCA, their quality of life is comparable to population norms, suggesting that an aggressive approach is worthwhile.[23]

Role of Resuscitation in OHCA

A detailed review of principles of resuscitation in OHCA is available elsewhere.[18, 24]

- For the purpose of this review, principles of OHCA are underpinned by the concept of a "chain of survival" which comprises: (a) early access to emergency medical services (EMS); (b) prompt bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) providing basic life support (BLS); (c) prompt defibrillation using automated external defibrillator (AED); and (d) advanced life support.[18, 24]
- CPR and defibrillation can be provided by layperson bystanders, dispatched professional first person responders (e.g. police force, firefighters) or EMS personnel from the ambulance service.
- Bystander CPR improves survival to hospital discharge in persons with OHCA 3-4 fold, from 3.9% to 16.1%, based on a large systematic review from 79 studies involving 142,740 patients.[22]
- Prompt defibrillation within 3-5 minutes of collapse can lead to rates of survival to hospital discharge after OHCA as high as 50-70%.[15, 21, 25, 26]

- Each 1-minute delay in defibrillation reduces the probably of survival to discharge by 10- 12%. When bystander CPR is provided, the decline in survival is more gradual and averages 3–4% per minute delay to defibrillation, indicating the critical link between CPR and defibrillation in the "chain of survival".[19, 27-29]
- Median time from emergency call to EMS arrival is reported to be 5–8 min,[20, 30, 31] or 8– 11 min to a first shock.[15, 32] In Australia, the Australian Resuscitation Council reports that the median emergency-response time by ambulance services throughout Australia was between 7.5 minutes and 10 minutes.[33] In Victoria, Australia, the median state-wide response time to EMS treated events in 2015-2016 was 7.8 minutes (90th percentile time, 15.4 minutes), being longer in rural areas compared with the metropolitan region (median 9.9 minutes; 90th percentile time 21.4 minutes vs. median 7.4 minutes, 90th percentile 12.5 minutes).[4]
- About half of the variability in both, overall survival and survival with meaningful functional recovery after OHCA is attributed to variations in the rates of bystander CPR and AED use.[34] Hence, response of a layperson bystander with CPR and AED has a critical influence on survival.

Research Question 1: Evidence for Public Access Defibrillation.

Where they should be placed, where are they placed most effectively and where is this considered cost effective?

Summary and Recommendations

- *Guidelines in Europe and the U.S. support implementation of PAD programs and we found sufficient strength of evidence that PAD programs markedly improve survival to hospital discharge of OHCA (e.g. with government implemented program in U.S and Japan).*
- *PAD programs function best when incorporating dual dispatch EMS, strategic placement of AEDs, and a system of education and training of first responders (lay or professional first responders).*
- *The evidence supports AED placement in areas where response time of a bystander could potentially be guaranteed such as a casino, or at sites where EMS are not easily available or impractical such as airports and airplanes. We also found sufficient evidence to recommend that AEDs should be placed in high traffic public areas such as train stations, pedestrianised areas, shopping malls, sports stadiums. There was insufficient evidence to support AED placement at other public sites such as community centres, fitness facilities, stadiums, athletic fields, parks. Widespread dissemination of AEDs beyond the above sites hence cannot be recommended on current evidence.*
- *Cost effectiveness analyses also support AED placement in the sites listed above. There is no cost-effectiveness evidence to support widespread dissemination of AEDs and it is likely that wider dissemination is less cost-effective. Matching location of AED to sites of OHCA specific to a city/state will likely yield optimal placement.*

Since the mid 1990's, Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) programs have emerged.

- PAD is the process of where a bystander and/or trained professional (e.g. firefighters, police officers) or non-professional first responder initiates CPR and AED before EMS arrival in a person experiencing OHCA.[35] The program may have various elements, determined by the extent of Government initiatives, funding and policies but may include: structured training of laypersons, volunteers and professional first responders, a registry of AEDs and/or volunteer laypersons, dissemination of AEDs at places notable for high incidence of OHCA, a dual dispatch system of EMS and trained professional first responder activation with or without engagement of volunteer laypersons activated to site of OHCA with or without central instructions on where to locate an AED and how to perform CPR, maintenance of AEDs, structured retraining and certification and development and maintenance of a OHCA registry with regular reporting of outcomes.
- PAD programs are recommended by the 2015 guidelines from the American Heart Association and the European Resuscitation Council.[18, 36] Several countries have an established PAD including Japan, Austria, Denmark, Sweden, England and Wales, and in some counties or states in the United States of America.[37-42] On review of the published literature, most of these countries describe a form of dual dispatch program where trained professional first responders are activated simultaneously with

ambulance which are AED equipped (Table 1). Formal government funded training of layperson bystander CPR and AEDs are offered in many of these countries and AED placement is encouraged in high public traffic areas, but are not mandated.

- In Victoria, Australia, a co-ordinated PAD is described.43 In response to OHCA, EMS equipped with AED and advanced life support paramedics is dispatched; in addition, some areas have a system of dual dispatch of firefighters and/or community emergency response teams trained in BLS and equipped with AEDs at the same time as EMS dispatch. Since 2002, AEDs have been placed at sites identified to have high incidence of OHCA, based on review of historical data including railway stations, the international airport, the casino and major tourist venues. OHCA rates and locations continue to be tracked and reported as part of the "Heart Maps" program,[44] and the Ambulance Victoria Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Registry.[4] The PAD programme supplies and installs AEDs (including maintenance), provided training of selected staff (such as security personnel), annual skills maintenance, clinical debriefing after an event and bimonthly peer support visits from an Ambulance Victoria paramedic. At airports and large shopping complexes in the capital city, AEDs are available for use by the public. At some public sites, volunteer first-aid agencies have AEDSs available for public use at selected workplaces, smaller shopping centres and sporting grounds around Victoria. An active effort has been made to create and maintain an AED registry via an "opt in" approach.[45] The locations of registered AEDs is identified in the computer aided dispatch system such that if a OHCA call is received from a site with a registered AED, the call-taker notifies the caller of the location of the AED and provides telephone instructions on its use.[43]

- There is strong evidence of markedly improved survival from PAD (Table 1). PAD has been reported to yield survival to hospital discharge rates of 50-70%, which are much higher than first-responder defibrillation and dispatched EMS defibrillation.[15, 17, 21, 26, 46, 47] On site AED, compared to dispatched AED confers a 2.5-fold increase in survival.[48, 49]

- There are numerous reports indicating improvement in survival after co-ordinated efforts at enhancing PAD in the USA; in one report, survival to hospital discharge increased from 8.2% to 10.4% from 2006-2010,[50] which was confirmed by reports from other groups in the USA.[15, 51-53] Similarly in Japan, neurologically intact survival at 1 month doubled with PAD (38.5%) compared to pre-PAD programme implementation (18.2%).[41] In Denmark, 30 day survival increased from 3.5% to 10.8% with PAD programs.[32] In the United Kingdom (UK), survival from OHCA improved from 12% to 32%.[30]

- Use of bystander CPR and PAD is associated with a 2-3 fold increase in survival after OHCA. [15, 20, 21 54, 55.40, 41]In a recently published meta-analysis of PAD, the overall survival to hospital discharge after OHCA treated with PAD was 40.0% (range 9.1- 83.3%). Defibrillation by non-dispatched lay first responders was associated with the highest survival with a median of 53.0% (range 26.0-72.0) while defibrillation by EMS- dispatched professional first responders (firefighters/police) was lower, with a median survival of 28.6% (range 9.0-76.0).[25]

- A program of nationwide dissemination of PAD, most successfully implemented in countries like Japan have reported earlier time to shock, overall survival and neurologically intact survival. [15, 21, 40, 41] In a large nationwide population based registry study in Japan of out of hospital cardiac arrests (n=43,762 patients), significant benefit was noted from PAD, compared to lack of PAD. Over a 9-year period (2005-2013), survival at 1 month with a favourable neurologic outcome using propensity-score matching was 2-fold higher with PAD than without PAD. Furthermore, there was a 33- fold increase in the number of survivors with a favourable neurologic outcome (from 6 in 2005 to 201 in 2013). However, the proportion receiving PAD was small (10.3% of all cardiac arrest), but did increase 16-fold during the study period (from 1.1% to 16.5%).[41] Bystander defibrillation, compared to EMS-only defibrillation translated to approximately 2-fold increase in neurologically intact survival.[56]

- There is sufficient evidence to indicate that bystander CPR and defibrillation uptake in the community is increasing in countries such as Japan (from 1.1% to 16.5% from 2005- 2013[41]) and the USA (from 14.1% to 23.1% from 2010-2013 in the CARES registry[53]). In Victoria, Australia, there was a 11-fold increase in public AED use from 2002/2003 to 2012/2013 from 1.7% to 18.5%.[43] With a dual dispatch system of firefighters and EMS capable of defibrillation in Sweden, the

proportion of OHCA persons defibrillated before EMS arrival increased from 5% in 2008 to 20% in 2015.[49]

- Professional first responder defibrillation (e.g. by police force) is associated with superior outcomes compared to EMS-guided defibrillation. In Switzerland, professional first responder defibrillation led to improvement in median of 5 minutes for initiation of CPR, a median 3-minute improvement in time to first defibrillation, a 1.8-fold improvement in proportion of patients with return of spontaneous circulation, a 1.7-fold increase in successful field resuscitation and subsequent admission to hospital, and a 2.1-fold increase in survival to hospital discharge.[57]
- Overall, strong evidence emerges in the literature that survival and neurological survival are markedly better with bystander CPR and defibrillation, followed by first-responder CPR and defibrillation, and lowest for when dispatched EMS-delivered defibrillation.[53] These outcomes are critically linked to time to successful defibrillation with delays correlating with lower likelihood of survival. Indeed, data from Ambulance Victoria in 2015-2016 supports this, showing survival to hospital discharge after OHCA when the person was defibrillated by the public was 55%, 38% when defibrillated by professional first responders and 28% when defibrillated by EMS.[4]
- The benefit of PAD in adult populations is transferrable to the paediatric population (aged less than 17 years).[58] PAD resulted in a 3-fold increase in neurologically intact survival, however neurologically favourable survival could not be seen in patients with an unwitnessed cardiac arrest or arrest due to a non-cardiac cause.[58]

Public Access Defibrillation: Evidence behind where they should be placed

There is much debate in the literature about where AEDs should be placed namely whether there should be widespread dissemination of AEDs versus restricted placement at sites considered to be high risk venues for OHCA. A number of recent studies have focused on development of novel smart-phone applications to recruit layperson responders for CPR and defibrillation.[59] There is recent interest in modelling drone technologies to facilitate rapid delivery of AED at sites of OHCA.[60] A number of studies have used complex mathematical modelling techniques taking into account historical data of OHCA coupled with location and availability of registered AEDs.[61-63]

- The American Heart Association (AHA) recommends that AEDs be placed in areas of high population density, such as airplanes, airports, sports arenas, gated communities, office complexes, physician offices, and shopping malls.[64, 65] Calculations based on historical data of the location of OHCA have been used to give recommendations for sites of AED installation. The AHA recommends installation at sites that experience OHCA once every 5 years and the European Resuscitation Council at sites of OHCA once every 2 years.[66, 67]
- There is evidence to support that AED placement should occur in places where response time of a bystander could potentially be guaranteed such as a casino, or at sites where EMS are not easily available or impractical such as airports and airplanes, respectively.[26, 68, 69] The evidence for AED placement at other public sites such as community centres, fitness facilities, stadiums, athletic fields, parks is limited. In the PAD trial, rates of OHCA that were treatable with defibrillation were highest in fitness centres (5.1 per 1,000 person years of exposure) and golf courses (4.8) and lowest in office complexes (0.7) and hotels (0.7). Survival from treatable CA was highest in recreational complexes (0.5), public transportation sites (0.4), and fitness centres (0.4) and lowest in office complexes (0.1) and residential facilities (0.0).[70] The frequency of OHCA in public places was estimated in a study from Copenhagen, Denmark with the highest in major train stations (1.8 arrests every 5 years per area), large public square and pedestrianized areas (0.6 arrests every 5 years per area), whereas high schools (0.18) and primary schools were the lowest (0.09).[71] Data from the New South Wales Ambulance Service in 2012 shows that the majority of calls that were classified as 'cardiac or respiratory arrest or death' came from residential areas (69%), and only 6% came from a public or community area.[72] Similarly, data from Ambulance Victoria showed that most EMS attended OHCA events in 2015-2016 were at private residences (76%) with 14% of events occurring in a public place.[45] There has been a notable lack of concerted efforts to address

OHCA in fitness centres in Australia.[73]

- In casinos, where there is widespread camera surveillance and every person is monitored by a security guard, use of AEDs led to 53% survival to hospital discharge, and as high as 74% if the time from collapse to shock was <3 minutes. [26]
- In aircraft, survival rates to hospital discharge in OHCA persons who had a witnessed arrest with a shockable rhythm were 26-40%%.[68, 69] The argument for AED placement in aircraft is strengthened by the fact that the length of time it takes to divert a plane and obtain ground access to defibrillation is likely to yield very poor survival.
- In airports, where there is thoroughfare of a large number of public, a high rate of neurologically intact survival to hospital discharge with defibrillation is reported (61%); this increased to 75% if the time elapsed from collapse to defibrillation is <5 minutes.[74] When AEDs are available for public access in airports, their use was associated with significantly shorter time to defibrillation, longer duration of resuscitation and survival to hospital admission compared with group-dispatched AEDs where defibrillation was performed only by paramedics.[48]
- Application of PAD program in a busy metropolitan subway system in Brazil transporting ~4.5 million people per day was reported in a recent study. The program involved training their security officer employees (laypersons) in CPR and use of AED; additionally, AEDs were installed at each subway station. Survival to discharge amongst OHCA with a shockable rhythm was significantly higher (43%) once the program was fully functional compared to initial phase of program introduction (0%).[75]
- OHCA in schools is estimated to occur in 1 of 111 schools annually, with a higher incidence in colleges (1 per 8 colleges) than high schools (1 per 125) and primary schools (1 per 200). The estimated annual incidence of cardiac arrest was 0.18 per 100,000 person-years among students and 4.51 per 100,000 person-years for school faculty and staff.[76]
- A small number of observational, non-controlled studies with a small number of cases of sudden cardiac arrest, show that AED installation in schools and colleges was associated with increased hospital survival.[77-80] Survival rate in schools with an AED program varies from 64-72% if a shockable rhythm is noted.[76, 77, 79, 81] Despite this data, only 17 of 50 states (34%) in the USA have legislation for installation of AED in schools; the remaining states have no legislation. It was noted that requirements are far from comprehensive in these 17 states, and it was estimated that 35 million public elementary and secondary students attend school in states where there is no legislative requirement for a school AED.[82]
- There is limited data on the outcomes of OHCA occurring during exercise in the era of PAD[83-85] In one study from the USA, the incidence of OHCA at health clubs and traditional fitness centres was 0.024 arrests/site each year or 1 arrest every 42 years. The rate was higher rate at indoor tennis facilities, ice arenas, bowling alleys and community centres than at traditional exercise facilities, with one arrest every 11, 13, 27 and 51 years/site, respectively.[85] In Japan, 0.3-0.7% of all OHCAs occurred during exercise.[83, 84] The reported survival rates are high (56-77%),[83-85] and are higher with than without PAD (77% versus 35% in one study).[84]
- There is evidence for efficacy of PAD at public places, when stratified by location. In a large Japanese cohort study, the proportion of neurologically favourable outcome was 28.0% at railway stations, 51.6% at sports facilities, 23.3% in public buildings, and 41.9% in schools. However, early defibrillation, irrespective of bystander or EMS was associated with neurologically favourable outcome, such that each 1-minute increment was associate with a 11% lower chance of a neurologically favourable outcome. [86]

Cost effectiveness analyses for Public Access Defibrillation

- OHCA draws significant media and fund-raising attention. In 2010 alone an estimated 200,000 AEDs were sold and the market was expected to double every 2 years.[87] The cost of each unit is estimated to be $USD2,000[65] which equates to $200 million expenditure in USA alone in 1 year. This would account for only 13.5% of the costs of running a PAD program, and does not taken into repair, maintenance and replacement costs of the AED as well as expenses related to training and re-training of laypersons and first-responders.[88]
- There are a number of significant limitations in cost-effectiveness analyses (see Table 2):

(a) the number of published studies are very few (7 manuscripts, representing 2.9% of references cited in this review) and with the exception of one manuscript (published in 2015), most were published in or before 2010;

(b) there was significant heterogeneity in the analysis methods with a high degree of variability in the results;

(c) a common finding was the lack of sophistication in the cost-effective analyses. The analyses did not account for all downstream costs associated with OHCA including equipment and hospitalisation costs following defibrillation, the residual quality of life of the survivor in addition to their residual social and economic productivity, neurologic damage of survivors, and further reliance on health care resources.[89]

(d) whilst there has been cost-effective analysis of AED placement at various locations, apart from two studies, there has been a lack of systematic evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of a PAD programmes.[90, 91]

- A clear message in the literature is that broad dissemination of AEDs for the sake of raw coverage is not cost effective. Instead, targeted AED placement matching country and region-specific OHCA event rates in addition to efforts of improving accessibility of existing AED units is likely to be more cost effective. [20, 35, 62, 92, 93] Furthermore, different approaches are needed for public versus private coverage and metropolitan versus rural area coverage. Cost effectiveness data supports placement of AEDs in public places, especially if the location can be optimised.[89, 94]

- There are increasing reports in the literature that complex modelling frameworks may be necessary to help identify priority places for deploying AEDs based on transportation time to the nearest hospital and population size of the communities.[95] Complex mathematical optimization techniques can augment planning of public AED deployment programs.[61, 62] One such example is modelling using spatiotemporal localisation, where factors such as location and actual availability during the day are taken into account to improve the coverage of AEDs, rather than increased the number of publicly accessible AEDs per se.[63]

- Although PAD programs have demonstrated a significant survival benefit, the benefit is limited to those who have an OHCA in a public setting. There are a number important considerations when considering whether AED should be in public places:

  (a) only 16-40% of all OHCA occur in public places, the rest occur in private homes; 96

  (b) there are fundamental differences in patients who experience OHCA at public versus public places. Persons experiencing OHCA at home are older, more likely to encounter a bystander not trained in CPR, and less likely to perform it even when trained, were more likely to arrest at night.[92, 97] The odds of a shockable rhythm were 2-fold higher and the odds of survival 2.5-fold higher in a public setting than at home.[96] These characteristics suggest that fundamentally different strategies are needed in addressing OHCA in public versus private places.[97] Only one prior study has examined private home AED use, showing no benefit from AED use, but the population recruited (survivors of anterior myocardial infarction who were not eligible for a defibrillator) were very high risk.[98] No prior study has examined a PAD programme unique to OHCA occurring in private homes.

  (c) most of the data examining location of OHCA focus on urban areas, however urban areas contributed only up to 31% of the total number of OHCA cases, with the remainder occur in less populated areas.[99] In Australia there were significant regional and inter-hospital disparities in OHCA survival rates.[100] Survival of OHCA is lower in rural than metropolitan communities.[45] Such findings were also reported in the United States with substantial proportion of the variation in outcomes from different counties that was explained by variability in bystander use of CPR and AEDs.[34]

(d) there is a notably poor correlation reported between location of OHCA and location of AEDs.[101, 102] In one study, one in 5 OHCAs occurred near an inaccessible AED at the time of the OHCA.[63] In only a minority (6.6%) of

OHCA cases, was an AED location within 100 m.[103] A study from the Swedish Register for Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation showed that whilst the incidence of OHCA was similar in residential (47%) and non-residential settings (43%), much fewer AEDs were present in residential settings (28% vs. 69%), and the median distance between OHCA location and the AED was larger in residential settings (288 m vs. 188 m).[104] Recent attempts have focused on identifying optimal AED locations based on the incidence of OHCA using geographical information systems.[104]

(e) the uptake of lay-person bystander defibrillation is low (<1% to 2.3%) and is significantly varied according to country.[10, 105] The Pan Asian Resuscitation Outcomes Study (PAROS), a registry of 7 Asian countries reviewed 66,780 OHCA cases and found that <1.0% of these arrests received bystander defibrillation.[105] However it is reported that the percentage of patients receiving PAD in some countries is increasing.[32, 41, 43, 49, 52, 53] In Australia, data from the Victorian Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Registry showed significant improvement in rates of bystander CPR and defibrillation (almost 3-fold increase), event survival (1.5 fold increase), and survival to hospital discharge (2.8-fold increase) between 2011 to 2012 compared with 2001-2010.[100] Use of public AEDs increased almost 11-fold between 2002/2003 and 2012/2013, from 1.7% to 18.5%, respectively.[43] In Japan, use of PAD increased from 1.1% in 2005 to 16.5% in 2013.[41], from 5% in 2008 to 20% in 2015 in Sweden [49], from 1.1% in 2001 to 2.2% in 2010 in Denmark[32], and from Proportion of PAD increased from 0.82% in 1999 to 2.05% in 2002 in the United States.[51]

- When AEDs are placed at high density sites such as airports, large aircrafts and casinos, the cost effective analysis equates to an average cost of USD$30,000-$50,000 per year of life saved.35, [106, 107] This falls in the cost-effective range of other medical interventions that are considered useful.[89]
- In aircraft, AEDs equate to USD$35,000 per life year when >200 passengers are carried and increases to USD$94,700 when all aircrafts are covered.[35, 107]
- When targeting large public spaces such as shopping centres and ports venues, the cost per life saved is much higher: USD$500,000 to USD$2 million; at large industrial sites, golf courses, health clubs, and community centres the cost is from $USD1 million up to USD$10 million.[35] However placement at the latter sites draws the most media and fund raising attention and it is noted, that it may raise awareness of AEDs in the community.[35, 106]
- In a cost-effectiveness analysis from Ireland, authors found widespread dissemination of static AEDs is unlikely to be cost effective, but needed to be at targeted locations with the highest incidence of OHCA, be supported by efforts to increase AED utilisation in addition to linkage with an EMS-linked AED register.[108] The incremental cost effectiveness ratio for the most comprehensive PAD scheme (universal coverage) was Euro 928,450 per quality-adjusted life year, whereas it was 10 fold lower at Euro 95,640 per quality-adjusted life year if a targeted programme involving AED placement in transport stations, medical practices, entertainment venues, schools and fitness facilities was employed.[108]
- In a cost-effective analysis from Copenhagen Denmark, targeted deployment of AEDs according to the location of a cardiac arrest resulted in USD $33,100 to $41,000 per additional quality-adjusted life year, whereas unguided AED placement in every 100 by 100 metre area in the entire city (which would cover all OHCA), had an estimated cost of USD $108,700 per quality-adjusted life year.[71]
- In a cost-effectiveness study from Brecia county, Italy, the authors calculated that a program of training volunteer and layperson use of AEDs compared to a historical cohort of predominantly EMS-delivered defibrillation became more cost-effective over time parallel with the success of the program. The quality-adjusted life year saved amounted to Euro 39 388 during the start-up phase of such a program and to Euro 23 661 at steady state.[90]
- In a Canadian study, indiscriminate dissemination of static AEDs was found not to be a cost-effective means of outcomes following OHCA. In Canadian dollars, the cost per quality-adjusted life year was $12,768 when AEDs were deployed in hospitals, $511,766 when deployed in office buildings, $87,569 when deployed in homes of high-risk patients but increased sharply to $2,360,023 when deployed in an unrestricted

manner to apartment buildings.[109]

- When taken together the fact that a minority of arrests occur in public places, that bystander AED rates are low in some countries, that only 40% of OHCA are reversible due to a shockable rhythm and that overall survival rates are low, one group of Scottish researchers estimated that even if AEDs were installation in sites as ubiquitous as fire extinguishers, overall survival would increase only from 5% to 6.5%[110]
- Despite the success of PADs and widespread dissemination of AEDs, there is limited appreciation of the fact that it is difficult to determine whether these devices are maintained in a state of readiness for use or whether they functioned as intended when applied to someone in presumed cardiac arrest. Some recent efforts are focused on tracking their location and readiness for use in community settings, using a tracking system. Each AED is assigned a 2D matrix code which is then recorded and the location and status of the AED tracked using a smartphone; these elements are automatically passed via the internet to a secure and confidential database in real time, which could be linked a centralised dispatch service for OHCA. The project is only in the planning phase with no outcome data reported.[111]

Research Question 2: Outcomes and cost-effectiveness OHCA programs that involve AED registries and recruitment of first responders (professional and/or bystander).

i. When linked to a call to emergency services and responders are alerted and guided to an AED to assist, are survival outcomes improved?

ii. Do such programs promote or reduce AED use in the community?

iii. What is the cost-effectiveness or cost-utility of such programs?

iv. What is the health service context for such programs eg are emergency medical services equipped with AEDs?

Summary and Recommendations

- *The evidence supports that when PAD programs are implemented they include a dual dispatch system of EMS (equipped with AEDs) and professional trained first responders (e.g. police officers and fire fighters) as this leads to improved survival to hospital discharge in persons with OHCA.*
- *There is a paucity of information on AED registries, but such a registry, especially when integrated into a registry of lay person trained first responders and a communication system to alert bystanders of the location of a OHCA and the location of an AED could have a significant impact on OHCA survival rates.*
- *There is no cost effectiveness data on AED or first responder registries.*
- There is paucity of AED registries globally and in Australia. Reporting of AEDs is not mandatory in all countries, but is encouraged. Novel technology aimed at tracking AED location through time and space is proposed, but only a protocol has been reported with no outcome data reported thus far.[111] A crowdsourcing exercise to enable creation of a registry of AED location has shown promising initial results.[112]
- There is significant amount of literature on the use of dual dispatch systems (where trained professional first responders such as police and fire personnel and EMS are activated simultaneously) and more recently, some studies have used crowdsourcing to increase the number of community layperson responders to OHCA.[13, 14, 49, 59, 91, 113- 119] Reports show increase in survival with a dual dispatch system, and an increase in the uptake of bystander and/or first responder CPR and defibrillation with such systems being implemented.[49, 115-117]
- It is unclear if such dual dispatch or crowdsourcing activities increase the awareness of AEDs in the community as there was no specific study answering this question. One study reported a pilot program "MyHeartMap Challenge", to organize public reporting of AED location throughout Philadelphia, a major US metropolitan city. Public were encouraged to use mobile phones to identify and report AED locations. A total of 1429 AEDs were identified by members of the public in almost all postcodes. The authors propose that such a program would be useful for creating an initial baseline database of AEDs at a particular time point, which could serve as a foundation for a data repository, which

could then be routinely validated and maintained over time, and perhaps linked to an EMS or dual dispatch or voluntary layperson register.[112]

- When dual dispatch systems are reported in a study, all such systems have EMS that are equipped with AEDs (Table 1).
- A crowdsourcing mobile device application, "Pulse Point" notifies laypersons within 400 metres of a suspected cardiac arrest to facilitate resuscitation. One study reported major logistical challenges with the application.[120] Only 32% of users received the notification, only 23% responded; of those who responded 28% did not arrive at the scene. Of those who did arrive, only 32% found a person who was unconscious and not breathing normally. However, of those who did arrive and found the person suffering an OHCA, 79% performed CPR.[120] Limitations of this report were that AED use was not incorporated, however most recent review of the Pulse Point website does incorporate guidance to the responder of the location of the nearest AED.[114] Issues identified with this application were technical aspects of the notifications (audio volume, precision of location information), excessive activation radii, insufficient user density in the community, and suboptimal cardiac arrest notification specificity.[120] Outcome data from this application has not been reported.
- In Stockholm, Sweden, investigators recently reported the utility of a mobile-phone system that was activated to locate trained volunteers who were within 500 metres of patients with OHCA at the same time as activation of ambulance, fire, and police services. If needed, telephone instructions were given on how to perform CPR. Responders were then dispatched to the patients (the intervention group) or not dispatched to them (the control group). The study showed increased in CPR rates to 62% with responder dispatch compared to 48% without responder dispatch.[113] The extent of benefit was low, and the study did not target AED application, where the major survival benefit is expected to occur.
- There are a number of positive reports of increased survival after implementation of a dual dispatch system in Sweden.[49, 115-117] In the most recent of these reports, a system of dual dispatch of professional first responders alongside EMS (police, firefighters) was implemented from 2008. The system resulted in significant increase in proportion of patients defibrillated before EMS arrival (5% in 2008 to 20% in 2015). When comparing OHCA defibrillated before EMS, versus those defibrillated with EMS, there was a 3-minute improvement in time to defibrillation and an improvement in 30- day survival in patients with VF from 22% to 28%. On site defibrillation was associated with a 2.5-fold increase in 30-day survival compared to dispatched defibrillation.[49] Similarly in the USA, a dual dispatched system of police force with AEDs along with EMS, compared to EMS alone resulted in shortening of call to arrival times by 1.5 minutes, and improved survival to 17% from 9%.[121]
- There may be difference in efficacy of dual dispatch systems according to the population density of the region where the system is applied. Whilst city areas (population density ≥6000 people/Km2), suburban areas (3000-5999 people/km2) and urban areas (250-2999 people/Km2) experience a survival benefit with a dual dispatch system of EMS plus professional first responders, such a system did not provide a benefit in rural areas (<250 persons/Km2).[117]
- In the Netherlands, dispatching local lay rescuers living <1000m radius of the patient suffering OHCA received a text message to go to the patient directly, or were directed to retrieve an AED first. This system resulted in OHCA persons being defibrillated at a mean of 2 minutes and 39 seconds earlier compared to EMS.[59] However, there are limitation of this system; one study reported that only 18% of alerts initiated an action from the registered layperson. Reasons for no action were that laypersons were not in the patient's vicinity (41%) or noticed alerts late (35%). When alerts initiated a layperson action, 51% logged difficulties in retrieving AEDs (51%), finding addresses (29%), or were prohibited by traffic (5%) in reaching the location and/or accessing the AED.[59]
- A report from a mixed urban and rural area in North-western Switzerland showed that dual dispatch, compared to EMS alone showed a significant 6-minute reduction in reaching the site of OHCA with first responder reaching before EMS in 87% of instances. A comparative evaluation of survival was not performed.[118]
- In Zurich, Switzerland, a dual dispatch system of police force trained in BLS and AED activated

simultaneously with EMS was reported. Compared to EMS only approach prior to system implantation, CPR was started 3 minutes earlier and defibrillation delivered 6 minutes earlier. Outcomes were significantly better with a dual dispatch system including ~2-fold increase in incidence of return of spontaneous circulation, hospital admission and survival to hospital discharge.[57]

- In Rochester, Minnesota, United states, a system which dispatches AED-equipped police, fire-rescue and ambulance personnel simultaneously reported rate of survival to hospital discharge after OHCA of 46% survival in persons where the initial rhythm was VF.[14]
- Only one study has examined the cost effectiveness of a dual dispatch system.[91] The estimated number of additional saved lives was 16 per year, yielding a benefit-cost ratio of 36. The cost per quality-adjusted life years Euro 13,000, and the cost per saved life was Euro 60,000, concluding that the cost-effectiveness per quality of life year was modest.[91]
- In the only randomised trial of dual dispatch responses (police or fire brigade trained in CPR and AED use) versus EMS only attendance, time to first defibrillation was a median of 101 seconds earlier with dual dispatch response vs. EMS only response.[31] However, there was limited improvement in return of spontaneous circulation (57% vs. 48%) and no difference in discharge from hospital (18% vs. 15%).[31]
- Following state-wide initiatives to improve bystander and first-responder efforts in North Carolina from 2010-2013, the rates of bystander CPR and first-responder defibrillation increased from 14.1% to 23.1% over the study period, as did survival with favourable neurological outcome from 7.1% to 9.7%.[53]

Research Question 3: What are the enablers and barriers to the use of publicly accessible defibrillators in the community?

Summary and Recommendations

- *Enablers include implementation of a formal PAD program which includes training of professional first responders.*
- *Possible enablers are include raising public awareness, public education program, a focus on education of first responders including laypersons (bystanders) and improving access by improving awareness of the location of AEDs and ensuring the AED's functionality.*
- *A registry of AED locations and system for ensuring functional would be an initial logical step.*
- *Registries that enable audit of outcomes are likely to ensure safety and improved outcomes.*
- There are many potential barriers to bystander AED use, including availability, legal liability, awareness, training, technological limitations, and psychological factors. [71, 74, 122- 125]
- Although the success of PAD is noted in many studies, the rate of layperson use of AED remained low (0.6% in Netherlands,[21] 1.74% in Hamphsire, UK,[126], 2.1% with PAD trial in the USA,20 3.5% in Japan [127], 3.8% in Ireland[128], 2.2% in Denmark32), despite the fact that outcomes are much better when PAD is utilised.[127] In Australia, the Victorian Ambulance Cardiac Arrest Registry reported public use of AEDs at 6.7% of all OHCA cases.[43] Thus although favourable outcomes of PAD are demonstrated, utilisation of available equipment is vastly suboptimal. Further one study reported that only 15.1% of all OHCA occurred 100 metres of an accessible AED.[128] This suggests that education, awareness, and training are likely more important than widespread dissemination of public-access AEDs.[127]
- Although barriers to AED use are noted, reports suggest that training can be easily accomplished with good results. Training professional first responders such as police officers to operate AEDs can be achievable with minimal hours of training (3-4 hours), and additionally improves BLS skills.[129] Despite minimal hours of upfront training (4 hours in one study), these trained first responders can significantly shorten response time and time to defibrillation.[118] When layperson

first responders are trained in CPR and AED use, data from the PAD trial showed that the approach is safe with a very low rate of adverse patient events or volunteer events. Only 2 patients experienced adverse event of a rib fracture; 7 volunteers had adverse events (one had a muscle pull, four experienced significant emotional distress and two reported pressure by their employee to participate). Importantly, there were no inappropriate shocks and no failure to shock when shock was indicated by the AED.[130] Furthermore, trained laypersons tend to retain their skills for CPR (80% at 1 year) and AED use (90% at 1 year).[131] Minimal re-training (~10 minutes) may be necessary over time to allow laypersons to retain skills.[132]Successful training also seems to correspond to successful on-field performance by trained professional first responders.[133]

- Even when AEDs are installed, functionality is not universal when tested. In a study from the Netherlands, authors noted that 40% of the AEDs were not visible (range 21-64), 29% were not indicated with a sign (range 19-41), 7% had an empty battery (range 0-23), 16% of the defibrillator pads had expired (range 0-31). Overall 71% of the AEDs were available for use (range 61-93), 70% were in a good condition (range 46-82) and 70% were employable (range 58-93).[134] This suggest that significant investment is needed to maintain appropriate AED action.
- Effective signage has been recognised as barrier to more widespread use of AEDs in public spaces. Lack of recognition of the symbol of AED is a potential problem, even when universal sign endorsed by the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation is used.[135] Public consultation in conjunction with expert designer has been identified as one possible solution to promote recognition of a public AED location.[136] Crowdsourcing could be used in an attempt promote awareness about AEDs and their locations.[137]
- A number of facilitating factors that led to bystander CPR and AEDs were identified by semi-structured qualitative interviews with CPR-trained lay bystanders in Denmark.1[38] These included: prior knowledge that intervention is crucial in improving survival, that it cannot cause substantial harm, and that the AED will provide guidance through CPR. Other factors were prior hands-on training in AED use; and during CPR performance, factors such as teamwork, using the AED voice prompt and a ventilation mask. Demonstration of leadership and feeling a moral obligation to act were also predictors of facilitating factors.[138] Amongst Flemish lifeguards trained for BLS/AED use, BLS/AED performances decayed significantly with increased age and longer time since certification, highlighting the need for ongoing refresher courses for first-responders to maintain skills.[139]
- Lack of public knowledge, confidence in using a defibrillator and the inability to locate a nearby device may be more important than a lack of defibrillators themselves.[140] In Hong Kong, only 33% of the surveyed public had knowledge of the location of an AED and 18% were willing to use it.[141] In a semi-structured open quantitative questionnaire delivered to over 1000 members of the public in a busy urban shopping centre in the UK, only 5.1% knew where or how to find their nearest public access defibrillator, only 3.3% of people would attempt to locate a defibrillator in a cardiac arrest situation, and even fewer (2.1%) would actually retrieve and use the device.[140] In the Netherlands, amongst 1018 surveyed participants, only 47% of respondents were willing to use an AED, and more than half (53%) were unable to recognize an AED.[142] These findings suggest that efforts focused at improving this link of underused PAD may be more important than increased investment to fund more AED installations.
- AED placement in schools and athletic facilities is argued for given the high survival rate (60%) and relative high incidence of use (0.7%), in one small study.[143] In a questionnaire developed to identify barriers to implementation and use AEDs in schools in Denmark, teachers reported perception that an AED was potentially dangerous, overtly technical, and difficult to use with ambiguity amongst the interviewed group as to whether students were the correct target group and the appropriate age at which they should receive training. Furthermore, teachers lacked knowledge about how they work and are operated, and were unaware about whether AEDs were already in place at their campus and how to access them.[144] In Japan, one study reported that 18% of defibrillators were located >5 minute from the farthest point in the school.[145]
- A noted problem is the survival rate of out of hospital cardiac arrest is also influenced by the AED density and rate of BLS education within a

region. In a French study, significant variation in AED density (5 to 3339 per 100,000 persons per 1000 km2) and BLS- educated people (955 to 36,636 per 100,000 persons) was noted amongst 19 surveyed districts. Notable, the mean survival rate was two-folds higher with AED density above the median of all surveyed districts and four-fold higher with BLS-education above the median of all surveyed districts. BLS-education, not AED density was independently associated with survival. These findings carry important implications that BLS-education and not just AED placement is a key factor in planning public health policies targeting out of hospital cardiac arrest.[146]

- In rural areas, long distances and low population densities make it difficult to reach OHCAs. Patients in rural areas of Australia are less likely to survive OHCA.[100] Such findings are also seen in Ireland.[147] In one study from a rural community in North Carolina, USA, placement of AED in private vehicle of first responders resulted in increased utilisation of AEDs.[148] Population density of >100 persons per square mile was the strongest predictor of survival to hospital discharge after OHCA in one study.[149]
- AED availability is also influenced by availability at different times of the day, with one study from Denmark reporting that only 9% of installed AEDs are available at all hours of the day. This limitation in AED accessibility at the time of cardiac arrest decreased AED coverage by 53.4% during the evening, night-time, and weekends, which is when 61.8% of all cardiac arrests in public locations occurred. Hence uninterrupted availability in addition to strategic placement warrants attention if public-access defibrillation is to improve survival after out-of-hospital cardiac arrest.[124]
- One novel solution to the long EMS response times in urban and rural settings is the use of a drone network than can theoretically deliver AEDs to a OHCA location. In a simulation modelling study utilising data from 53,702 OHCAs that occurred in the 8 regions of the Toronto Regional Rescue network, authors suggested that such a drone- delivered AED network could shorten significantly shorten time to AED accessibility. In urban regions, the 90th percentile of AED arrival time could be reduced by 6 minutes and 43 seconds relative to historical EMS response times in the region. In the most rural region, the 90th percentile could be reduced by 10 minutes and 34 seconds. Such technology could offer a promising solution if all legislative and logistic technologic hurdles were addressed.[60]

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Table 1: Summary of Selected Studies Referenced in this Review

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Berdowski et al, Circulation 2011[21]	North Holland, Netherlands	2833 OHCA; 2006-2009	Population-based cohort study	Effect of onsite defibrillation vs. dispatched professional first responder defibrillation vs. EMS- administered defibrillation on outcomes following OHCA	EMS carries AED, dual dispatch system (EMS and fire fighter/ police simultaneously), AEDs located in public places	• On site defibrillation compared with. EMS-AED reduced time to shock from 11 to 4.1 minutes, had greater neurological intact survival (49.6% vs. 14.3%) • Dispatched professional first responder defibrillation reduced the time from call to first shock to 8.5 minutes from 11 minutes • Every year, onsite AEDs saved 3.6 lives per 1 million inhabitants; dispatched professional frist responder AEDs saved 1.2 lives per 1 million inhabitants
Blom et al, Circulation 2014[15]	North Holland, Netherlands	6133 OHCA; 2006-2012	Population-based cohort study; ARREST registry of all OHCA	Whether neurologically favourable survival after OHCA arrest significantly increased over the study period	EMS carries AED, dual dispatch system (EMS and fire fighter/ police), AED in public places	• Neurologically favourable survival rates significantly increased over the study period from 16.2% to 19.7%, although only in patients with a shockable rhythm • Rates of AED use tripled (21.4% to 59.3%) • Time from EMS call to defibrillation device connection reduced by 1.9 minutes
Capucci et al, Circulation 2002[150]	Piacenza, Italy	354 OHCA; 1999-2001	Population-based cohort study	Whether participation of layperson closest to AED trained to use AED without any CPR requirement (called "Piacenza Progetto Vita [PPV] results in improved outcomes after OHCA	• Simultaneous activation of EMS with AED and first responder with AED • Layperson closest to AED trained to use AED without any CPR requirement • Laypersons were volunteers who were given official training and were part of an accessible register	PPV compared to EMS had: • Shorter EMS call to arrival time (4.8 vs. 6.2 minutes) • Greater overall survival (10.5% to 3.3%) • Greater survival from shockable arrhythmias (44% vs. 21%)

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Chan et al, Circulation 2014[51]	USA, >23 states	70, 027 OHCA throughout USA; 2005-2012	Population-based cohort study; CARES registry set up for all OHCA events in participating centres since 2005	To assess if there were any improvement in survival following OHCA in USA over time.	Data from geographically diverse EMS across multiple states.	• Increases survival from 5.7% in 2005 to 7.2% in 2008 to 8.3% in 2012 (both in shockable and non- shockable rhythms) • Rates of bystander CPR increased, as did rates for AED use (1.9% to 4.2%)
Culley et al, Circulation 2012[52]	King County, Washington, USA	50 OHCA; 1999-2002	Population-based cohort study	To evaluate the frequency and outcome of non-EMS AED use in a community experience.	• EMS activation, onsite AEDS. • Voluntary Community Responder AED Program and registry of PAD AEDs. • During the 4 years, 475 AEDs were placed in a variety of settings, and more than 4000 persons were trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and AED operation.	• 1.33% of OHCA were treated by PAD. • Proportion of PAD increased from 0.82% in 1999 to 2.05% in 2002. • 50% of PAD person survived till discharge.
Drezner et al, Circulation 2009[77]	USA	2006-2007	Population-based cohort study	To analyse effectiveness of emergency response planning for OHCA in a large cohort of US high schools that had onsite AED programs.	On site AEDs and EMS activated AED	• 94% of OHCA received bystander CPR, 83% received an AED shock. • 64% survived to hospital discharge

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Folke et al, Circulation 2010[92]	Copenhagen, Denmark	4828 OHCA; 1994-2005	Population-based cohort study	Whether areas suitable for placement of automated external defibrillators could be identified on the basis of demographic characteristics and characterized individuals with OHCA in residential locations.	• On site AEDs, EMS activated AEDs. • AEDs available for public- access defibrillation have been registered online in a Danish AED network (the Heart Start Network, www.hjertestarter.dk), dispatcher can identify local AED close to OHCA site or initiate its delivery from nearest site	• Home OHCA persons, compared with public OHCA were older, had longer EMS response times, with arrests occurred more often at night, VF was the presenting rhythm less often, and had worse 30- day survival (3.2% versus 13.9%)
Girotra et al, Circulation 2016[34]	USA, >23 states	96,662 OHCA; 2005-2014	Population-based cohort study; CARES registry set up for all OHCA events in participating centres since 2005	To understand reasons behind survival variation in OHCA in USA.	Data from geographically diverse EMS across multiple states	• There was marked variation in rates of survival to discharge (range, 3.4%-22.0%) and survival with functional recovery (range, 0.8%-21.0%) between counties. • Bystander CPR and AED use accounted for 41% of the survival variation, increasing to 50.4% after adjustment of county-level sociodemographic factors.
Myerberg et al, Circulation 2002[121]	Miami-Dade County, Florida, USA.	420 OHCA; 1999-2001	Population based cohort study	To examine if dual dispatched system improves OHCA survival compared to EMS only system	Dual dispatch of police force with AED simultaneous with EMS equipped with AED at time of OHCA call	• 1.5-minute improvement in call to arrival with defibrillation by the police force compared to EMS. • Police arrived to 56% of OHCA calls before EMS. • Improvement in OHCA survival rate from 9% with EMS to 17.2% with police force AED.
Weisfeldt et al, JACC 2010[20]	USA and Canada	13,769 OHCAs; 2005-2007	Population based cohort study	To examine the association between AED application and survival to hospital discharge	• ROC Epistry Cardiac Arrest • Registry • 215 geographically diverse sites in US and Canada	• With PAD program, 2.1% had an AED applied before EMS arrival. • Overall survival to hospital discharge was 7%. • Survival was 9% with bystander CPR but no AED, 24% with AED application, and 38% with AED shock delivered. • AED application was associated with 1.75-fold greater likelihood of survival.

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Malta-Hansen, JAMA 2015[53]	US	4961 OHCA; 2010-2013	Population based cohort study	To examine the association between resuscitation efforts for OHCA by various groups	EMS carries AED, layperson and professional first responder AED. Statewide initiatives to improve bystander and first-responder interventions (layperson training in COR and AED, professional first responder training in AED	• Bystander CPR and first-responder defibrillation increased from 14.1% to 23.1% over the study period • Neurologically favourable survival increased from 7.1% to 9.7% over the study period. • Survival was highest following bystander CPR and defibrillation 33.6%, followed by 25.2% in first- responder CPR and defibrillation, 24.2% following bystander CPR and first-responder defibrillation and lowest (15.2%) in EMS-alone given CPR and defibrillation
Nakahara, JAMA 2015[56]	Japan	16917 OHCA; 2005-2012	Population based cohort study	To examine the association between bystander intervention and survival	EMS with AED, PAD program of bystander CPR and defibrillation	• Bystander-only defibrillation increased from 0.1% to 2.3%, bystander defibrillation combined with EMS defibrillation increased from 0.1% to 1.4%. • Compared to EMS only delivered defibrillation, bystander-only defibrillation was associated with a 2-fold increase in neurologically intact survival as was combined bystander and EMS defibrillation (odds ratio 1.5), but no defibrillation was associated with significantly lower survival (odds ratio 0.43).

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Wissenberg, JAMA 2013[32]	Denmark	29,111; 2001-2010	Population based cohort study	To examine temporal changes in bystander resuscitation attempts and survival during a 10-year period in which several national initiatives were taken to increase rates of bystander resuscitation and improve advanced care.	EMS with AED; fixed AEDs; PAD program for bystander CPR and defibrillation. Several national initiatives rolled out in since 2001: implementation of mandatory resuscitation training in elementary schools (since January 2005), also when acquiring a driver's license (since October 2006), combined with an increase in voluntary first aid training; (2) free distribution of ~150 000 CPR self- instruction training kits between 2005 and 2010; (3) nationwide improvement of telephone guidance from emergency dispatch centres to bystanders witnessing a cardiac arrest, including the addition of health care professionals at dispatch centres, starting from 2009; (4) large increase in the number of automated external defibrillators located outside hospitals (approximately 15 000 were in place by 2011) (5) efforts to improve advanced care with updates of clinical guidelines, including introduction of therapeutic hypothermia starting from 2004, and increasing focus on early revascularization; and (6) overall strengthening of the EMS system with training of the ambulance personnel, including implementation of paramedics, mobile emergency care units staffed with specialized anesthesiologists dispatched as rendezvous with basic life support ambulances, or both.	• Bystander CPR increased from 22.1% to 44.9%. • Bystander defibrillation rates remained low, but increased 1.1% to 2.2%. • Increased rates of survival to hospital from 7.9% to 21.8%. • Improvement in 30-day survival 3.5% to 10.8% and 1-year survival 2.9% to 10.2%.
Caffrey et al, NEJM, 2002[74]	O'Hare, Midway, and Meigs Field airports, Chicago, USA.	21 OHCA; 1999-2001	Observational study	Whether random bystanders witnessing OHCA would retrieve and successfully use automated external defibrillators.	AEDs placed at brisk 60-to-90- second walk apart throughout passenger terminals; back up EMS. AED use promoted by public-service videos in waiting areas, pamphlets, and reports in the media.	• 11/21(52%) of OHCA person successfully defibrillation. • 8/21 (38%) survived to hospital. • 10/18 (56%) of patients who had a shockable rhythm survived and were neurologically intact at 1 year. • 19/21 (90%) of operators were 'Good Samaritan' volunteers. • 4/21 (19%) had OHCA without a nearby AED and all of these persons died.

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Hallstrom et al NEJM 2004[55]	USA and Canada	993 OHCA; 2000-2003	Randomised controlled trial	To evaluate if trained volunteer laypersons performed CPR plus defibrillation leads to better outcomes compared to CPR alone in persons who have experienced OHCA.	Eligible community units (e.g., shopping malls and apartment complexes) randomised to a CPR- only response system or a CPR plus AED response system. Lay volunteers trained in either CPR alone or in CPR and the use of AEDs.	• CPR plus AED was associated with a 2-fold higher percentage of patients who survived to hospital discharge compared to CPR only.
Kitamura et al, NEJM 2010[151]	Japan	312,319 OHCA; 2055-2007	Population-based cohort study	To evaluate the effect of nationwide dissemination of public- access AEDs on the rate of survival after an OHCA.	EMS equipped with AEDs, widespread dissemination of AEDs at public areas, including schools, medical and nursing-facilities, work places, sports and cultural facilities, and transportation facilities, depending on both public and private initiatives.	• Bystander shock was given in 3.7% of patients with OHCA with a shockable rhythm. • Bystander shock rates increased from 1.2% to 6.2%. • 14.4% of persons who had bystander witness OHCA who had VF survived had neurologically intact survival at 1 year. • 31.6% of OHCA persons who had bystander shock had neurologically intact survival ay there was a 9% reduction in neurologically intact survival with every 1-minute increase in tie to defibrillation regardless of type of provider. • Mean time to shock was reduced from 3.7 to 2.2 minutes. • With increase in public AEDs from fewer than 1 per square kilometre of inhabited area to 4 or more, the annual number of patients per 10 million population who survived with minimal neurologic impairment increased from 2.4 to 8.9.

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Kitamura, NEJM 2016[41]	Japan	43,762 persons with bystander-witnessed VF arrests of cardiac origin; 2005-2013	Population-based cohort study	To evaluate the effect of dissemination of public- access AEDs for VF cardiac arrest at the population level..	EMS equipped with AEDs, widespread dissemination of AEDs at public areas, including schools, medical and nursing facilities, work places, sports and cultural facilities, and transportation facilities, depending on both public and private initiatives	• 10.3% of persons with bystander-witnessed VF arrests of cardiac origin received bystander defibrillation with a significant increase over time (1.1% in 2005 to 16.5% in 2013). • Neurologically intact survival rates at 1 month doubled with PAD than without PAD (38.5% from 18.2%). • Estimated number of neurologically intact survivors attributed to use of PAD increased from 6 in 2005 to 201 in 2013.
Valenzuela et al, NEJM 2000[26]	USA (casinos in 5 states)	105 persons with OHCA in whom VF was in the initial rhythm; 1997-1999	Observational study	To evaluate outcomes when the easily available AEDs are used by nonmedical personnel for OHCA in casinos.	Casino security instructed in use of AEDs; AEDs located such that target interval ≤3 minutes from collapse to the first defibrillation. Defibrillation first (if feasible), followed by manual CPR	• 53% of OHCA with VF as the initial rhythm survived to hospital discharge. • Survival rate for defibrillation ≤3 minutes was 74%, for >3 minutes was 49%.
Colquhoun et al Resuscitation 2008[39]	England and Wales	1530 OHCA; 1999-2005	Population-based cohort study	To evaluate outcomes of a National c Defibrillator Program on survival of persons with OHCA.	National Defibrillator Program comprising of (1) EMS equipped with AEDs (2) AEDs placement in busy public places identified from routine ambulance data as sites where cardiac arrest was liable to occur such as airports and major railway stations; AEDs kept in unlocked protective cabinets within 200m walking distance from any part of the premises to which the public has access; staff working at these sites volunteered to be trained over 4 hours to provide BLS and to use Mobile AEDs placed amongst community first responders where EMS response times expected to be long such as rural areas; also included professional first responders	• Static AED use, compared to mobile AED (e.g. EMS-delivered or mobile first responder AED) resulted in: a.Higher incidence of return of spontaneous circulation (39% vs. 10%) b.Higher incidence of hospital discharge (26% vs. 2.9%)

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Lijovic et al, Resuscitation 2014[43]	Victoria, Australia	2270 OHCA; 2002-2013	Population-based cohort study	To assess the impact of bystander defibrillated OHCA persons vs. EMS- defibrillated persons on survival.	EMS equipped with AEDs; AEDs at fixed locations	• 93.4% of OHCA persons were first defibrillated by EMS compared to 6.7% by bystander using public AED. • There was 11-fold increase in public AED use between 2002/2003 and 2012/2013, from 1.7% to 18.5%. • First defibrillation occurred sooner in bystander defibrillation vs. EMS defibrillation (5.2 versus 10.0 min). • Survival to hospital discharge for bystander defibrillated patients was significantly higher than for those EMS defibrillated patients (45% versus 31%). • First defibrillation by a bystander using an AED was associated with a 62% increase in the odds of survival to hospital discharge compared to first defibrillation by EMS.
Claessen et al, Am J Emerg Med 2017[49]	Western Sweden	6675 OHCA; 2008-2015	Population-based cohort study	To assess the impact of dual dispatch first responders alongside emergency medical services for the treatment of OHCA	Dual dispatch of EMS equipped with AED and firefighters for OHCA; on site AEDs used when available.	• 15% of all VF cases were defibrillated before EMS arrival; 46% of such patients with public. • Proportion of patients defibrillated before EMS arrival increased 5% in 2008 to 20% in 2015. • 30-day survival increased in patients with VF from 22% to 28%. • On-site defibrillation conferred a 2.45-fold increase in 30-day survival compared to dispatched defibrillation.
Ringh et al, Resuscitation 2015[17]	Stockholm, Sweden	6532; 2066-2012	Population-based cohort study	To evaluate the effect of a PAD program on outcomes of patients with OHCA.	SALSA project comprised of (a) dual dispatch of fire-fighters and police in parallel with standard EMS and (b) a structured PAD program consisting of property owners, site managers and security companies of traditionally high incidence sites such as big shopping malls, transportation hubs and air- ports were approached with an offer to participate with a free instructional training in standard BLS and AED use; (c) onsite "unregulated" AEDs used by laypersons purchased over the counter by private owners.	• Sites within the PAD program increased from 60 to 135 while the number of unregulated AEDs outside the PAD program increased from 178 to 5016. • 69% of OHCA were defibrillated by the EMS, 11% by first responders and 16% by public AEDs. • 1-month survival was 31% EMS-defibrillation cases, 42% by first responders and 70% when defibrillated by a public AED.

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Saner et al, Resuscitation 2013[118]	Switzerland	1334 OHCAs; 2001-2008	Population-based cohort study	To evaluate the effect of a system based on minimally trained first responders dispatched simultaneously with EMS of the local hospital in a mixed urban and rural area in Northwestern Switzerland on survival of OHCA persons.	EMS with AEDs; minimally trained first responders (voluntary firefighters) with 4 hours of training in BLS and AED use.	• First responders reached patients 6 minutes earlier than EMS, reaching before EMS in 87% of cases. • 75% were defibrillated by first responders. • 14% of OHCA persons defibrillated by first responders were discharged form hospital in a neurologically good condition.
Stein et al, Resuscitation 2017[57]	Zurich, Switzerland	1393 OHCA; 2004-2015	Population-based cohort study	To evaluate if a system of dual dispatch of police officer trained in BLS and AED use in addition to EMS resulted in improved outcomes in treatment of OHCA persons.	Dual dispatch of EMS with AEDs and trained police officers with BLS skills and AED in period 2 (2010- 2015) was compared to EMS only system prior to the former program implementation in period 1 (2004-2009)	• In period 2, compared with period 1, police dispatch started CPR 3 minutes earlier, and performed defibrillation 6 minutes than EMS. • In period 2, compared to period 1, there was a significant increase in proportion of patients with: a) return of spontaneous circulation (35.8% vs. 24%); b) hospital admission 32.2% vs. 21.4% c) survival to hospital discharge (13.6% vs.6.9%). • The odds of return of spontaneous circulation were 2.6-fold higher and hospital admission were 2.8- fold if defibrillation was performed by trained first responders than EMS.

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Van Alem et al, BMJ 2003[31]	Amsterdam, The Netherlands	469 OHCA; 2000-2002	Randomised trial	To evaluate if a system of dual dispatch (EMS plus trained professional first responder of police or fire brigade) yields superior outcomes compared with EMS only activation in treatment of persons with OHCA	• EMS-dispatch (control) versus EMS plus police or fire brigade (experimental) who were CPR and AED capable as a controlled clinical trial. • Initial random allocation of AED to first responders in four of the eight participating regions; each region switched from control to experimental, and vice versa, every four months.	• Experimental arm had shorter median time interval between collapse and first shock (668 seconds vs. 769 seconds). • No significant difference in persons discharged form hospital between the experimental and control arms (18% vs. 15%). • Higher rate of return of spontaneous circulation in the experimental vs. control arm (57% vs. 48%).
Hansen et al, Circulation 2013[124]	Copenhagen, Denmark	1864 public OHCA, 1994-2011	Population-based cohort study	To assess how AED accessibility affects the coverage of OHCA	AEDs available for public-access defibrillation have been registered online in a Danish AED network (the Heart Start Network, www.hjertestarter.dk), dispatcher can identify local AED close to OHCA site or initiate its delivery from nearest site .	• Only 9.1% of all AEDs were accessible at all hours. • Limited AED accessibility decreased coverage of cardiac arrests by 4.1% during the daytime on weekdays and by 53.4% during the evening, night- time, and weekend, which is when 61.8% of all cardiac arrests in public locations occurred. • Uninterrupted availability, not only strategic placement of AEDs is needed.

Study Name, Journal, Year	Country of Origin	Number of Patients, study period	Study design	Primary Question	EMS and AED system Summary	Main Findings
Ringh et al, NEJM 2015[113]	Stockholm, Sweden	6532 OHCA; 2012-2013	Blinded, randomised controlled trial	To evaluate if rates of bystander-initiated CPR could be increased with the use of a mobile-phone positioning system that could instantly locate mobile-phone users and dispatch lay volunteers who were trained in CPR to a patient nearby with out-of-hospital cardiac arrest	• Lay volunteers trained in CPR recruited through advertising campaigns and at CPR training courses and called "short- message-service lifesavers." • OHCA activation involves dispatch of an ambulance and first responders (i.e., fire and police vehicles) and, if needed, the provision over the telephone of instructions on how to perform CPR. • Volunteers within a radius of 500 m from the patient received a computer-generated telephone call and a text message with information on the patient's location were randomised to be dispatched to the patients (the intervention group) or not dispatched to them (the control group). • Volunteer performed CPR.	• Rate of bystander-initiated CPR was significantly higher (62%) in the intervention group than the control group 48%.

Table 2: Summary of Health Economics Evaluations Referenced in this Review

Author	Country	Intervention	Cost- effective?*	Cost-effectiveness result	Health system 'enablers'	Costs included	Economic evaluation method	Determinants of cost- effectiveness	Quality assessment score** [152]
Moran et al. Resuscitation 2015[108]	Ireland	Different PAD placement in public places across Ireland	No	ICER for most comprehensive option = €928,450/ QALY, while for the most targeted program (transport stations, medical practices, entertainment venues, non-primary schools and fitness facilities) = €95,640/ QALY.	Study in response to proposed legislation mandating placement in particular public areas	Irish health service costs, device suppliers and training providers to train respondents	Cost-utility analysis (decision analytic model)	ICER results were most affected by the rate of survival to hospital admission and discharge for those receiving bystander defibrillation and the estimated number of OHCAs occurring in public areas within 200 m of an AED.	0.83

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Author	Country	Intervention	Cost- effective?*	Cost-effectiveness result	Health system 'enablers'	Costs included	Economic evaluation method	Determinants of cost- effectiveness	Quality assessment score** [152]
Sund et al. Eur J Health Econ 2012[91]	Sweden	Dual dispatch of ambulance and fire services for OHCAs	Yes	Cost benefit ratio = 36	Fire trucks equipped with AED	Equipment, training costs, healthcare costs, callouts for fire services, overheads and increased dispatch centre costs.	Cost benefit analysis	Cost-benefit ratio was influenced most by assumptions around the value of a statistical life, effectiveness (number of lives saved) of early defibrillation. The result was not dramatically affected by varying costs.	0.7
Sharieff and Kaulback Int J Technol Assess Health Care 2007[109]	Canada	Positioning of AEDs in different locations: in far reaches of hospitals, apartment buildings, office buildings, homes of high risk patients, homes of people >55	Yes in hospitals and high risk patient homes, No everywhere else	Cost per QALY was $12,768 in hospital settings, $87,569 in homes of high-risk patients, $511,766 in office buildings, $2,360,023 in apartment buildings, and $1,529,371 in homes of people older than 55 years of age.	Firefighters and 30% of police responders have machines under current response system.	Price of machines and price of training. There were no healthcare costs.	Cost-utility analysis (decision analytic model)	The cost-effectiveness results were most influenced by the likelihood of a cardiac arrest in the area.	0.79
Cappato et al. Eur H J 2006[90]	Italy	Deployment of AEDs across the County of Brescia for use by trained volunteers and laypersons.	Yes	Additional cost per QALY gained €39,388 during the start up phase and €23,661 in 'steady state'	Recent law allowing the use of AEDs by non-medical personnel	Costs of AEDs and maintenance, training costs, medical costs including diagnostic, cardiac and surgical procedures, ICD implants, outpatient and hospital costs	Cost-utility analysis	Not stated. The majority of the costs were accounted for by the cost of the AED.	0.62

Author	Country	Intervention	Cost- effective?*	Cost-effectiveness result	Health system 'enablers'	Costs included	Economic evaluation method	Determinants of cost- effectiveness	Quality assessment score** [152]
Cram et al. J Gen Intern Med 2005[94]	US	In home AED targeting different groups of American adults (all American adults over 60, adults with multiple risk factors, adults with previous myocardial infarction and adults with ischemic cardiomyopathy unable to receive an implantable defibrillator) plus standard EMS response	Generally not	Cost per QALY differed by the cohorts: • All adults over 60 - $216,000 per QALY gained • Multiple risk factors - $132,000 • Previous MI – 104,000 • Ischemic cardiomyopathy – $88,000	EMS provide defibrillation in base case	Medical costs, machine costs, training costs - all estimated from the literature	Cost-utility analysis (decision analytic model)	Cost effectiveness were most influenced by the relative risk of cardiac arrest for the patient cohort and the time to defibrillation	0.84
Nichol et al. Circulation 2003[106]	US	Targeted (and trained) non-traditional responders to provide defibrillation with AED in a casino	Yes	Compared with standard EMS, defibrillation by targeted non- traditional responders had an incremental cost per QALY gained of $56,700	EMS provide defibrillation in base case	Hospital and device costs	Cost-utility analysis (decision analytic model)	Cost effectiveness was most sensitive to changes in time to defibrillation, rate of cardiac arrests and whether responders are paid during training.	0.89
Kuisma et al. Resuscitation 2003[88]	Finland	Public Access Defibrillation in sites with at least one cardiac arrest per year (7 sites) with trained responders	NA	Total cost = 110,270 euro for three year trial, time benefit to reaching patient 4.8 minutes per arrest	Responders trained to use PAD	Market prices, salaries, medical supervision	Cost consequence analysis (not stated)	Costs were predominantly made up of non-machine costs	0.5

Author	Country	Intervention	Cost- effective?*	Cost-effectiveness result	Health system 'enablers'	Costs included	Economic evaluation method	Determinants of cost- effectiveness	Quality assessment score** [152]
Groenevald et al. JAMA 2001[107]	US (aeroplanes)	AED deployment on aeroplanes - either across all aircraft or selectively on larger capacity planes (>100 or >200). Different strategies of either training all flight attendants or selectively choosing some were also modelled.	Yes	• AEDs on passenger aircraft with more than 200 passengers would cost $35,300 per QALY gained. • AEDs on aircraft with capacities between 100 and 200 persons would cost an additional $40,800 per added QALY compared with deployment on large-capacity aircraft only. • Full deployment on all passenger aircraft would cost an additional $94 700 per QALY gained compared with limited deployment on aircraft with capacity greater than 100	NA (training provided to flight attendants at private cost)	Airline costs, published wage data, published estimates of medical costs for cardiac arrest, AED-manufacturers provided costs for AEDs	Cost-utility analysis (decision analytic model)	Cost effectiveness results were proportional to number of passenger hours covered by the strategy, the effectiveness of AEDs in improving survival and the rate of cardiac arrests on board	0.87

Abbreviations: AED – Automatic External Defibrillators; EMS – Emergency Medical Services; ICER – Incremental Cost Effectiveness Ratio; MI – Myocardial infarction; NA – Not applicable; OHCA – Out of hospital cardiac arrest; PAD – Public access defibrillation; QALY- Quality adjusted life year; US – United States of America.

*As assessed by individual study authors.

**Quality score calculated based on the methodology proposed by La Torre et al. (2011) which is based on 35 items across three main sections: study design, data collection and analysis and interpretation of results[1].

1. La Torre, G., et al., Development of a weighted scale to assess the quality of cost-effectiveness studies and an application to the economic evaluations of tetravalent HPV vaccine. Journal of Public Health, 2011. 19(2): p. 103-111.


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WHITE PAPER

A Call to Action to Improve Cardiac Arrest Outcomes: A Report From the National Summit for Cardiac Arrest

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Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) represents a major cause of premature mortality globally, with enormous impact and financial cost to victims, families, and communities. SCA prevention should be considered a health priority in Australia. National Cardiac Arrest Summits were held in June 2022 and March 2023, with inclusion from multi-faceted endeavours related to SCA prevention. It was agreed to establish a multidisciplinary Australian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Alliance (AuSCAA) working group charged with developing a national unified strategy, with clear and measurable quality indicators and standardised outcome measures, to amplify the goal of SCA prevention throughout Australia.

A multi-faceted prevention strategy will include i) endeavours to progress community awareness, ii) improved fundamental mechanistic understanding, iii) implementation of best-practice resuscitation strategies for all demographics and locations, iv) secondary risk assessment directed to family members, and v) development of (near) real-time registry of cardiac arrest cases to inform areas of need and effectiveness of interventions. Together, we can and should reduce the impact of SCA in Australia.

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Keywords Sudden cardiac death • Arrhythmia • Resuscitation • Cardiac genetics • Cardiomyopathy • Heart attack • Defibrillator

Introduction

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is when the heart stops meaningful contraction and life-sustaining output. Typically, this is the result of a rapid, unstable cardiac rhythm. This can be due to a primary or secondary electrical problem of the heart. Most commonly in adults, it is caused by a blockage of a heart artery (acute myocardial infarction or 'heart attack') or an abnormality in the heart structure or function (a cardiomyopathy). It is important to clarify that not all SCAs result from heart attacks, and not all heart attacks result in SCA; the two terms are commonly confused but are far from synonymous [1]. SCA may also have an underlying non-cardiac cause that typically leads to lack of oxygen and/or blood supply to the heart, such as asthma, choking, stroke, drug overdose or major physical trauma.

In Australia and New Zealand, there are more than 26,000 cardiac arrests occurring in the community every year, with a mortality approaching 90% in those treated [2]. In young and middle-aged populations of the developed world SCA is among the leading causes of death, resulting in more fatalities than road trauma, cancer, drug abuse or infectious diseases [3–5]. The incidence of sudden cardiac death (SCD) increases 100-fold from approximately 1–2 per 100,000 individuals in the young (age less than 30 years) [6,7] to approximately 1–2 per 1,000 individuals in middle-aged and older populations [8]. The health and economic burden of SCA is high, with annual losses approaching AUD$2 billion in Australia, an amount comparable to productivity losses from all cancers combined [9]. Despite this, investment in SCA research remains low on a global basis, with American data indicating that SCA remains underfunded compared to all other leading causes of death [10].

Despite the substantial personal and societal burden, Australia lacks a national governmental strategy aimed at preventing deaths associated with SCA. There have been some promising state government commitments to addressing the burden of SCD through provision of automated external defibrillators (AEDs), education and awareness initiatives [11–13]. A pilot study with the Victorian State Government is also underway to provide teachers with the materials needed to educate high school students in basic life support [14]. These are an early start to addressing the significant gap between the economic and emotional impact of the disease versus the current level of attention given to the problem. This White Paper documents the proceedings, outcomes, and aspirations of the inaugural National Summit for Cardiac Arrest[1], where a diverse group of medical providers, academics, persons with lived experience, philanthropic groups, government and non-government health organisations met to discuss what more can be done to prevent SCA in Australia.

Reducing the impact of SCD is a multi-disciplinary problem that requires: (i) fundamental, clinical and translational research, (ii) continuous development and refinement of clinical standards related to risk identification and treatments of SCA, and (iii) awareness, education, and advocacy to address factors before, during and after a cardiac arrest (see Figure 1). These objectives cut across multiple specialties including, but not limited to, family medicine, cardiology, intensive care, emergency response services, forensic pathology, and allied health services.

The rationale underpinning the National Summit for Cardiac Arrest was that:

- SCD represents a major health burden, and its prevention should be a national priority;
- Current investment in research and implementation of preventive strategies is modest relative to the health burden and societal impact;
- Enhancing coordination among the wide range of groups working on the prevention and treatment of SCA is necessary.

The Summit sought to define the current status of SCD/SCA research and clinical care in Australia, to identify priorities for advancement, and explore innovative 'blue sky' ideas with potential for large impact.[2] As detailed in Supplementary Table S3, there were 65 attendees at the Summit representing a range of stakeholders and disciplines including medical practitioners (cardiologists, anaesthetists, forensic pathologists and family practitioners), paramedical practitioners (state-based and St John Ambulance services), epidemiologists, non-government organisations (including the National Heart Foundation [NHF]), philanthropic SCA organisations, public servants and persons with lived experience.

While resuscitation in Australasia is guided by the guidelines from the Australian Resuscitation Council [15], these guidelines do not address the prevention or follow-up care of SCA. After the National Summit for Cardiac Arrest, two key documents have been published that were directly pertinent to the Summit's objectives; The European Society of Cardiology (ESC) published guidelines for the management

[1] The 1st National Summit for Cardiac Arrest was held in Canberra, ACT, Australia on 1 July 2022. The program for the Summit is provided in Supplementary Table S1. The Summit received sponsorship from several universities, medical research institutes and philanthropic groups (Supplementary Table S2) whilst all attendees were responsible for their own travel and accommodation costs. The list of attendees and the groups that they represented are detailed in Supplementary Table S3.

[2] The program and sponsorship for the Summit is provided in Supplementary Table S1 and S2.



Figure 1 The 'Circle of Hope' encapsulating goals in research, discovery, awareness, advocacy, and implementation.

of ventricular arrhythmias and prevention of SCD [16], and The Lancet Commission report to reduce the global burden of sudden cardiac death was released in 2023 [17]. Although these articles post-dated the Summit and were therefore not referred to during the meeting, they will be referenced as important international standards of care against which we can benchmark Australian policy and practices.

Setting the Scene–Definitions, Incidence and Cost of Cardiac Arrest

Definitions

The term **sudden cardiac arrest** (SCA) is when the heart stops meaningful contraction and life sustaining output. This is usually due to an abnormal or chaotic heart rhythm followed by cessation of cardiac electrical activity.

Multiple terms are used to describe the problem and are sometimes used interchangeably but have quite different implications. The term 'heart attack' is a lay term that refers to when there is a sudden blockage to one of the arteries that provides blood supply to the heart which results in some heart muscle damage. In some cases, a heart attack can cause a rapid unstable heart rhythm disturbance resulting in cardiac arrest. In middle-aged and older populations, myocardial infarction ("heart attacks") are the leading cause of cardiac arrest. As a result, the term heart attack is often generalised as being interchangeable with cardiac arrest, but this should be avoided. Only a minority of heart attacks are complicated by cardiac arrest, and heart attacks are but one cause of cardiac arrest.

Differences in the terms used to describe cardiac arrest (or "arrest") have considerable effects on the size of the population under consideration (see Figure 2). **Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA)** refers to people who have a cardiac arrest in the community (e.g., at home or in a public location). **Sudden cardiac death (SCD)** refers to approximately 90% of OHCA cases who do not survive to hospital [18,19]. These terms reflect the belief that the majority of these cases are due to a primary cardiac cause. However, recent data from large clinical registries (including Australian data), has demonstrated that in approximately 45% of OHCA cases the primary cause is non-cardiac (e.g., drug overdose, respiratory and neurological causes) [19–21]. There is some inherent linguistic inconsistency resulting from the historical medical assumption that a majority of sudden *cardiac* arrests are due to cardiac causes. This is illogical for the approximately 45% of SCAs caused by non-cardiac aetiologies resulting in the strange nomenclature of "non-cardiac sudden cardiac death" [19] (Figure 3).

Within reported discharge statistics, differing endpoints may also be used, raising further confusion. Overall, survival to hospital admission in OHCA in Australia is approximately 10%, while the proportion of OHCA victims who survive to hospital discharge with functional independence approximates only 5% [2,22–24]. Many of the aims of the Working Group address both improving survival to hospital admission and meaningful independent survival, and neurological recovery post-discharge.

The **'Utstein comparator group'** refers to OHCAs that are witnessed and in whom the initial rhythm is documented as ventricular fibrillation (i.e., those with the optimal chance of successful resuscitation) (Figure 2). This group is useful for benchmarking and assessing the availability and effectiveness

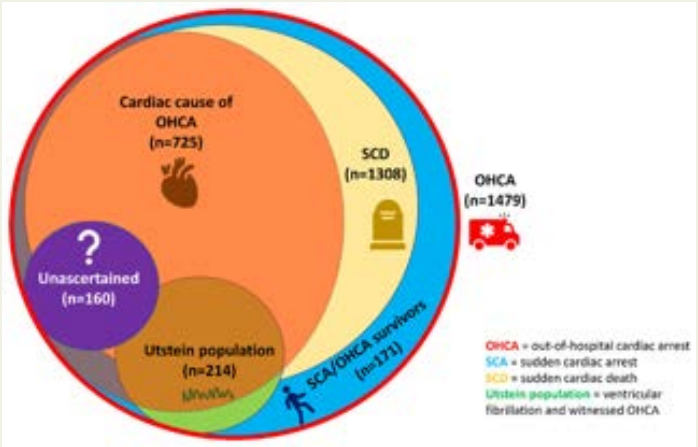

Figure 2 Impact of cardiac arrest definitions on the number of subjects that would meet criteria. Data obtained from 2 years of cardiac arrest cases aged 1–50 years in Victoria, Australia [19].

of treatments across the 'chain of survival' (see Figure 4). King County, in Seattle, WA, USA is quoted as the exemplar and world-leading with survival outcomes of up to 62% in 2013 in the Utstein group [25]. Whilst this is both inspirational and aspirational, this group of OHCAs represents only a minority of cases (11.3% in a United States cohort of more than 200,000 SCAs [26], 16.9% in Australia and New Zealand [2]).

For the remainder of this document, we will favour the term sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) as an umbrella term that includes all cardiac arrest cases presumed to be of cardiac aetiology, occurring in the community and in medical facilities, and independent of initial cardiac rhythm.

Rates and Causes of SCA by Age and Sex

One of the largest influences on the underlying cause of the SCA is the age group studied. Studies in Australia and New Zealand are among some of the largest and most comprehensive worldwide [6,19,27–29]. The most common cause of death observed in individuals aged under 35 years is 'unexplained cardiac death', sometimes referred to as 'sudden arrhythmic death syndrome' because of the assumed underlying aetiology being an electrical problem predisposing to malignant ventricular arrhythmias. While inherited arrhythmia syndromes such as long QT syndrome have long been suspected as an important cause of unexplained SCA,

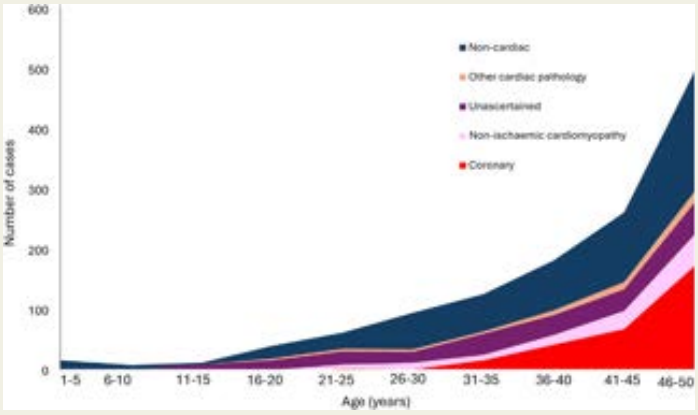

Figure 3 Causes of sudden cardiac arrest by age group in cases up to 50 years (modified from Paratz et al. [19] with permission).

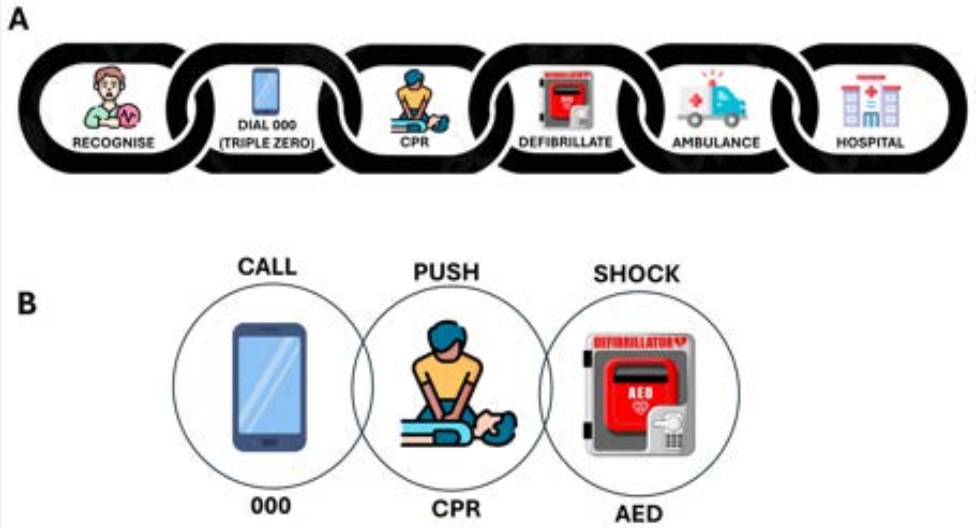

Figure 4 The Resuscitation Chain of Survival graphics display the series of actions or interventions in response to someone experiencing a sudden cardiac arrest. The graphics in A) begin with the bystander response and end with rehabilitation, and the graphics in B) provide simple messaging to the community to emphasise the important response by first bystanders. Abbreviations: AED, automated external defibrillators; CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

comprehensive genetic studies have recently identified causal variants in inherited cardiomyopathy genes leading to an arrhythmic phenotype that precedes overt structural disease, and which may account for approximately one in five cases of unexplained SCA in younger persons [30–32]. From the age of 30 years, particularly in men, ischaemic heart disease becomes the dominant underlying cause of SCA (Figure 3) [19]. Other important causes in the young and middle-aged groups includes cardiomyopathies, ion channel disorders, congenital and vascular cardiovascular anomalies. Despite community speculation, current evidence suggests that rates of SCA were not significantly influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic or vaccination [33,34].

It is important to recognise that statistics for older populations are likely to be less accurate as few older victims of SCA undergo a post-mortem examination and thus the underlying aetiology is more often assumed [35]. This is relevant in two respects; firstly, the evolving recognition that a substantial minority of SCA have a non-cardiac underlying cause and this may be even more pertinent in older populations in whom non-cardiac comorbidities are more prevalent. For example, a significant minority of those who suffer a presumed SCA are later found to have suffered a cerebrovascular accident or 'stroke' such as a ruptured intracerebral aneurysm or hypertensive haemorrhage, and this likelihood almost certainly increases with age [20]. Secondly, ischaemic heart disease is assumed to be the dominant cause of SCA in older individuals that have an underlying cardiac cause [36]. Thus, the incidence of SCA attributable to cardiomyopathies and channelopathies in older populations is likely underestimated and less certain [37]. This lack of accuracy likely contributes to the variance in quoted statistics regarding incidence of SCA in the general population [38]. Given that SCA in the elderly (>80 years of age) is the fastest-growing segment of SCA in Australia and already the dominant population in countries such as Japan [28], it is important to better define the causes and management of SCA in this age group.

SCA is 3–5 times more common in men than in women [38–42]. This is true for most age groups, although there is an attenuation in sex disparity in later decades. The excess SCA risk in males is true for most underlying aetiologies; ischaemic heart disease, cardiomyopathies, channelopathies and even cases of uncertain causation. The reasons for the sex disparities are unknown and likely due to many factors including physiological, social, and individual [41]. While women contribute an overall smaller proportion of SCA, their events generally occur later in life, without a prior cardiac diagnosis, and are more likely to be due to non-ischaemic causes, compared to men [43]. Numerous studies report lower rates of bystander cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), defibrillator pad placement and/or bystander defibrillation in women experiencing SCA [44–47]. Determining the causes of these discrepancies may provide insights into protective factors that could assist in improved preventive strategies for both sexes.

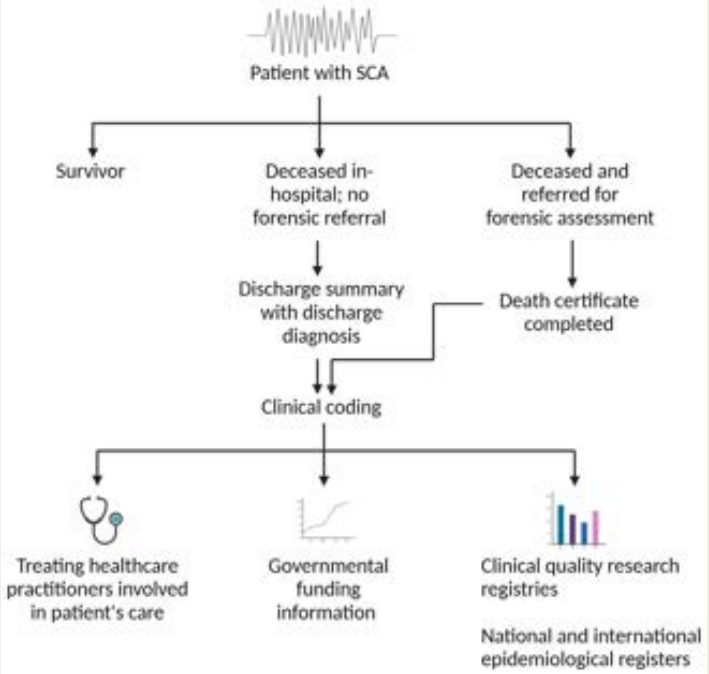

Figure 5 The impact of ambiguous hospital documentation on publicly available statistics related to sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) (adapted from Paratz et al. [48]).

It is notable that we have relatively scarce details on SCA in Indigenous populations, including the Australian and Torres Strait Indigenous populations. A greater understanding of the incidence and outcomes of SCA in the diaspora of Indigenous and ethnic groups is an important goal in the aim of reducing SCA burden.

Limitations in Public Statistics Regarding Cause of Death

In Australia, cause of death statistics are compiled by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). These rely upon hospital discharge summaries and death certification (Figure 5). As a large proportion of death certificates are completed with ambiguous or uninformative content, these statistics do not reliably enumerate the number of sudden deaths of the causes [48]. The potential harm of inaccurate diagnoses extends from the immediate counselling and care of surviving family members to the broader issue of estimation of burden of disease and resource allocation (Figure 5).

Data for every OHCA attended by paramedics is collected into registries by every Australian ambulance service. This data is then collated by the Australasian Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium (Aus-ROC) in the Australian and New Zealand OHCA Epidemiological Registry, known as the Aus-ROC Epistry [2]. Most ambulance services collect hospital or 30-day outcomes for patients that survive to hospital, and provide survival data for subgroups of OHCA in the Australian Government Productivity Commission Report on Government Services [49]. OHCA registries collect a presumed cause of the arrest based on international definitions [15], based on information available at the scene. The Victorian End-UCD registry is the only known Australian database to capture adjudicated data enabling accurate determination of aetiology of OHCA in young adults [50].

Improving the reporting of SCA is critical to defining priorities for how to improve outcomes and a National SCA Registry would allow greater appreciation of the incidence and burden of SCA in Australia. This Registry would complement existing initiatives, such as the Aus-ROC Epistry, in that it would include linkage with an adjudicated underlying cause, with reporting conformity to data captured by other international pathology beyond baseline International Classification of Diseases categories. In addition, the 11th International Classification of Diseases will have more nuanced diagnostic codes better aligned with capturing cause of

cardiac arrests [51]. There are challenges and limitations to a multi-source SCA registry. Access to post-mortems in rural and regional areas can be difficult and presents a geographic challenge in Australia, often affecting high risk populations such as Indigenous populations where reduced life expectancy is documented. However, some insights into the influences of Australian geography on SCA outcomes have been documented [52].

Financial Cost of Cardiac Arrest

The health and economic burden of SCA is substantial, predominantly underpinned by very high mortality. A study describing contemporary costs in the Australian setting estimated annual national losses approaching AUD$2 billion (USD$1.42 billion) in productivity losses alone [9], a cost exceeding that of all cancers combined. Another recent cost analysis using different methodology accounting for both direct and indirect costs estimated an upper boundary cost of up to AUD$51 billion to the Australian economy [53]. Prioritising research and state-of-the-art care for SCA patients appears economically sound. For example, modelling various scenarios in which AEDs could be made more available has potential to provide net cost-savings [54].

Bystander Response and Advanced Resuscitation

The Chain of Survival refers to a series of actions or interventions that can be made in response to someone experiencing a SCA [55]. These interventions traditionally begin with bystander response and end with rehabilitation (see Figure 4A). The first links in the Chain of Survival can be carried out by bystanders, regardless of age or the level of training in first aid or basic life support [14,56]. Simple messaging has been developed to help the community understand the role they can play, and graphics have been developed to emphasise the importance of these first bystander links (Figure 4B).

While each link in the Chain of Survival is important to achieving the best possible outcomes for the patient, the most important links are the first three [57]. Given these first three links (Recognise, Dial 000, CPR; Figure 4A) are usually carried out by members of the public, there exists an inherent responsibility on Governments and the community to ensure that lay-responders are well educated and practiced in resuscitation. In many cases where an AED is either not available or not indicated (due to absence of ventricular arrhythmia), CPR may be the only available strategy offering prognostic value in a cardiac arrest.

Defibrillation—the key link in the chain. CPR alone, whilst critically important, is not sufficient to restore a regular rhythm for most cases of cardiac arrest. Use of an AED in the early stages of a cardiac arrest (the first 3–5 minutes) more than doubles survival rates [58]. Thus, members of the community can have a substantial impact on SCA survival if they have received basic training and an AED is available [59]. Outcomes in these settings are superior to those when bystander CPR is commenced but defibrillation is only performed after the arrival of emergency medical services (EMS) [58].

Modern Challenges for EMS

The timely arrival of EMS and paramedics on the scene is a challenge in Australia due to many factors beyond the control of frontline paramedics [2]. There is evolving evidence that EMS delays are a world-wide phenomenon likely due to resource limitations and issues of transit times in built-up and increasingly congested urban environments [18]. As a result, there have been some innovative solutions for delivery of SCA care. In Victoria, Australia, for example, first responders are co-dispatched from Fire Rescue Victoria to maximise timely on-scene arrival [58]. A mobile phone-based app named 'GoodSAM' has been rolled out in multiple states of Australia for several years, and is continuing to expand coverage [60,61]. Internationally, some investigators have trialled the use of drones accompanied by video support to deliver AEDs [62]. Strategic approaches to AED placement are also becoming increasingly important to maximise availability and avoid the socioeconomic and other disparities seen in the availability of defibrillators [63–65].

Given that myocardial infarction is the most common cause of SCA in middle-age and older patients, several programs have been initiated that facilitate pre-hospital diagnosis of myocardial infarction and communication such that a patient can be transferred directly to the interventional cardiac catheterisation laboratory where percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) can be undertaken to ensure myocardial reperfusion in the shortest period of time [66–69]. These strategies may be as simple as pre-notification of electrocardiograms to enable advance cardiac catheterisation activation, to dispatch of teams initiating mobile extracorporeal cardiac membrane oxygenation cardiopulmonary resuscitation (ECPR) in the pre-hospital setting [67,70,71].

Hospital Treatment

Best practice in-hospital care has been informed by randomised controlled trial evidence, much of which has been conducted in Australia. Although a detailed discussion of current practice is beyond the scope of this White Paper, care inclusive of temperature regulation, oxygen supplementation, anti-arrhythmic agents, inotropic support and early coronary evaluation have all been the subject of major trials over the last decade [72–74].

Given only one in 10 SCA victims survive to hospital [75], delegates at the Summit involved with in-hospital care of SCA stressed that whilst optimised hospital care was essential, this formed the 'thin end of the wedge' in terms of improving overall outcomes and that SCA response times and pre-hospital factors had the greatest impact on overall survival and return to independent living [75].

Table 1 Summary of priority areas and framework to progress the goal of reducing the burden of sudden cardiac death (SCD) in Australia.

Priority areas for reducing the burden of cardiac arrest	
1	Increasing community CPR training rates
2	Strategic and enhanced provision of AEDs in the community
3	Development of innovative solutions to improve EMS response times
4	Development of nationwide family support services that encompass rehabilitation for survivors, genetic assessment of families and psychological support services
5	Better identification of patients at risk prior to a SCA
6	Personalised identification and care of high-risk or defined populations with unique needs
Framework for reducing the burden of SCD	
1	A multi-faceted SCD prevention strategy that includes:
	a. endeavours to progress community awareness;
	b. fundamental mechanistic understanding;
	c. preventive strategies;
	d. best-practice resuscitation strategies for all demographics and locations;
	e. secondary risk assessment directed to family members;
	f. (near) real-time registry of cardiac arrest cases to inform areas of need and effectiveness of interventions.
2	A new body that represents this multi-faceted agenda by:
	a. bringing awareness to the issues;
	b. advocating for resources that more closely match the burden of disease.

Abbreviations: AED, automated external defibrillators; CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation; EMS, emergency medical services; SCA, sudden cardiac arrest.

Rehabilitation

Without proper rehabilitation, the Chain of Survival is incomplete. Of those who survive SCA, standardised mortality rate is 5.6 times above baseline in the first year post-arrest, primarily due to a combination of factors related to the aetiology of the arrest and complications of the arrest [24,76]. Rehabilitation can play an important role in supporting patients and their families through the first 12 months following an OHCA event and may assist to improve functionality and outcomes [77]. There is great benefit in ensuring emphasis is placed on comprehensive cardiac rehabilitation from a mental and physical perspective for patients and families [78].

Comprehensive, evidence-based cardiac rehabilitation programs will be multidisciplinary, and include cardiac, neurological and psychological aspects, as well as education and information that support both the patient, and the family members who will be supporting the patient at home [79]. Education about diet, healthy choices and exercise as well as CPR education are also important elements [80].

Knowledge Gaps and Recommended Targets for High-Impact Interventions

The National Summit for Cardiac Arrest identified six key areas with potential to significantly impact survival from SCA (see Table 1).

1. Bystander CPR

There was consensus that the greatest potential strategy to increase community rates of effective CPR is maximising the population that can perform CPR. Bystander CPR rates in Australia are suboptimal, and regions with higher rates have a greater proportion of their population trained in CPR [81]. Suggestions for increasing rates of CPR include (i) aiming to have all school children taught CPR and (ii) consider making CPR competency a requirement to gain a motor vehicle license (as it is in many European countries) [14,82–84]. Basic life support also needs to be 'de-medicalised' and made more a part of everyday responsibility [85,86]. There is a need for simplicity of messaging (e.g. Call, Push, Shock) and assurance that 'any CPR is better than no CPR'. CPR training should also be more readily available by bringing training to the worker with frequent refreshers [87]. Additionally, CPR training should be targeted to those at high risk of cardiac arrest and has been successfully trialled for family members of cardiac patients during cardiac rehabilitation programs [88].

2. Greater Provision and Uptake of Public Access Defibrillation

Availability and confidence of use were the two major factors identified as limiting the more widespread and prompt use of AEDs. While most Australians state they know what an AED is, only one in five individuals are confident to use one [89]. It is critical that AEDs are in close proximity to where events occur [63]. A majority of arrests occur in private homes and, thus, community devices are a priority. There are many successful programs for rolling out AEDs in the community however, funding remains a barrier [63].

Even when AEDs are available, bystanders and first responders may not be aware of their location. There should be standardised signage and greater efforts to identify standard landmarks at which AEDs could be placed [90]. For example, in the United Kingdom, decommissioned telephone boxes are used as a standard location in which to house AEDs [63]. The technology to rapidly locate AEDs using smartphone-application-enabled global positioning system guidance is available, but there is a significant gap in population education and uptake of this technology that needs to be addressed [91]. Significant resources need to be dedicated to

ATTACHMENT NO: 2 - ATTACHMENT 2 - A CALL TO ACTION TO IMPROVE CARDIAC ARREST OUTCOMES: A REPORT FROM THE NATIONAL SUMMIT FOR CARDIAC ARREST

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awareness and education such that lay responders have the skills, technology and resources immediately available to provide the best opportunity for SCA victims.

Ideally, all first responder services should be trained and enabled with AEDs. For example, calls to the Australian emergency hotline (Triple Zero, 000) for a person who is unconscious, not breathing or has no pulse, are responded to in Victoria by Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) firefighters in addition to the nearest ambulance. The police force are often among the first to respond to emergencies but are not currently included in the cardiac arrest emergency response and not routinely equipped with AEDs, despite police being specifically named in Program 6 of the Global Resuscitation Alliance's Ten Programs to Improve Survival from OHCA [92].

Progression to smaller, cheaper devices with longer battery life and lesser maintenance requirement ('ultraportable defibrillators') was noted as a logical solution. There are some devices emerging that are small, portable and provide a solution that may be more appealing for some customers' needs [93]. Once again, the impact of this exciting technology is limited without accompanied education, awareness and data on efficacy [94]. There is also a need for centralised data on AED use, location, serviceability and resuscitation success rates to inform future resource allocation and identify barriers to care. A centralised registry identifying existing AED registries and patterns of use would be highly valuable [63].

3. Advanced Pre-Hospital Resuscitation

Worldwide data has suggested that improvements in OHCA survival rates are starting to plateau [1,2,95]. One factor is believed to be the increased urban congestion and resulting limitations in ambulance response times [95]. The time from OHCA to advanced resuscitation (inclusive of defibrillation) is the main determinant of outcomes with bystander CPR being an important factor in extending this window of success. The Summit attendees affiliated with emergency response organisations highlighted the need for advanced resuscitation responsibility to be shared among other groups if we are to meet aspirations of more prompt resuscitation and resulting improved outcomes. There was a call for innovative strategies to be investigated that could enable faster response times, particularly in areas of higher population density. The efficacy of diversifying the response to all emergency services and, potentially, to other community personnel should be investigated. Similarly, novel strategies such as drone delivery of AEDs, have been investigated in some sites throughout the world [96,97].

For refractory cases of SCA in which there is a failure to restore cardiac output with defibrillation, there is a need for advanced circulatory support. Traditionally, this has been performed in hospitals but there is evolving experience in the expedient use of circulatory support such as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO) [70]. There are current trials underway in Australia in which a specialist ECMO team may be deployed into the community for out of hospital implementation of circulatory support [98,99], to improve equity of access of this therapy in a cost effective manner.

4. Recovery Phase

Rehabilitation and psychological support were recognised as being often overlooked in the care of the SCA survivor. The recovery journey is complex, lengthy and often incomplete [100]. There are no specific funding pathways for the complex physical and psychological support required.

For patients who die, it is important to undertake a thorough SCA evaluation as this can positively impact on the physical and psychological health of family members and the community at large [75]. Determination of the cause of SCA is of utmost importance in preventive strategies given that inherited causes of SCA are common especially among young people. Furthermore, a better understanding of the circumstances and cause of SCA can inform community risk identification screening policies. Strategies aimed at reducing the impact of SCA in the community must include pathways to optimise post-mortem evaluation, appropriate post-mortem sample collection and storage, data collection and care that extend to potentially affected family members, including access to genetic testing.

5. Preventing SCA Through Upstream Risk Identification

Recognition of higher-risk individuals and disease-specific symptoms should be recognised when present, to provide an opportunity for preventive care [101]. These issues were discussed under the following four broad categories: coronary artery disease, cardiomyopathies and channelopathies, acquired heart disease (e.g., myocarditis, sarcoidosis) and vascular causes (including aortopathies, spontaneous coronary artery dissection and anomalous coronary arteries). This topic constitutes the biggest challenge in SCA prevention.

Coronary artery disease (CAD) is the dominant cause of SCA in middle-aged and older age groups. The risk factors for CAD are well known, many of which are modifiable with lifestyle and pharmacological interventions. Awareness combined with public health and personalised interventions has seen a marked reduction in myocardial infarction and SCA rates, particularly among older populations. However, it was noted that the improvement in SCA rates has plateaued and, moreover, there is an increasing prevalence of SCA and myocardial infarct victims who have few or no modifiable risk factors [102]. For example, a recent study of SCA in Victoria reported that almost two-thirds of victims had no standard modifiable cardiovascular risk factors [19]. Delegates at the Summit reinforced the value of current 'heart check' tools that quantify risk based on an assessment of risk factors [103]. These are important for two reasons: they identify subjects at higher risk, and the factors that can be addressed to reduce that risk. However, the Summit delegates also noted that new strategies are greatly needed to assist in identifying those who are at risk of SCA who are not identified using these screening tools [3, 104]. It was noted

that the catch cry to 'go and get a heart check' was a common response to every high-profile case of SCA but that this approach fails to identify a majority of those at risk. A more transparent discourse would inform the public that our current risk identification tools are coarse and that there is need for improvement given the massive impact and societal impost that SCA carries [105].

As many as one in three first time ST-elevation myocardial infarction (heart attack) have no standard modifiable risk factors [106,107], and these individuals have a substantially higher likelihood of cardiac arrest following myocardial infarct than do comparative individuals with cardiac risk factors [107–109]. There is a clear need to move beyond probability algorithms, to the identification and treatment of the underlying CAD [104, 110]. Strategies to enhance risk identification could include coronary imaging with coronary artery calcium scoring and/or computerised tomography (CT) coronary angiography, which has proven value in risk stratification. Other evolving tools including polygenic risk scores and protein or lipid biomarkers warrant further investigation. There was consensus that substantial investment should be directed at novel strategies to better identify subjects at risk of SCA and promote efficacious interventions to prevent CAD-related events.

Inherited cardiomyopathies and channelopathies, while rare, are a major cause of SCA in the young and therefore assume considerable importance in the discussion of SCA prevention. A genetic predisposition to SCA is relevant for individuals with a clinical phenotype of disease. In addition, a likely causative genetic variant can be identified in 10%–40% of SCA victims who have apparently normal cardiac function and structure [6, 111] . Studies performed prior to more rigorous gene and variant curation standards likely overestimated the diagnostic yield of post-mortem genetic testing, with the true rate likely being at the lower end of this range. The identification of a causal genetic variant indicating an inherited heart disease is important, as cascade genetic testing (i.e., genetic testing for the presence/absence of the genetic variant identified in the index case), in conjunction with clinical screening, can clarify risk among family members (Figure 6). This can allow more tailored diagnostics and interventions, which can prove lifesaving.

While world-leading models of care have been developed for comprehensive clinical, genetic and psychological assessment of families following a SCA, these have not been uniformly practiced [112]. Indeed, financial and geographical constraints have been highlighted for their potential to magnify health disparities in the assessment of patients post SCA. Multidisciplinary models of care enable grieving families to receive case-specific information regarding their family member's cause of arrest, psychological support and informed advice regarding the heritability of the disease leading to diagnostic and therapeutic options need to be made more accessible throughout Australia.

While Australia has pioneered research and policy to enable effective evaluation of young SCD, including establishing comprehensive post-mortem evaluation of young SCD with forensic autopsy, and collection and storage of a sample appropriate for DNA extraction and genetic testing in future [113], the Summit attendees highlighted the significant challenges in families routinely accessing post-mortem genetic testing. Forensic services in Australia in general have reported challenges in infrastructure and resourcing, with state-by-state variation on access to services such as post-mortem imaging

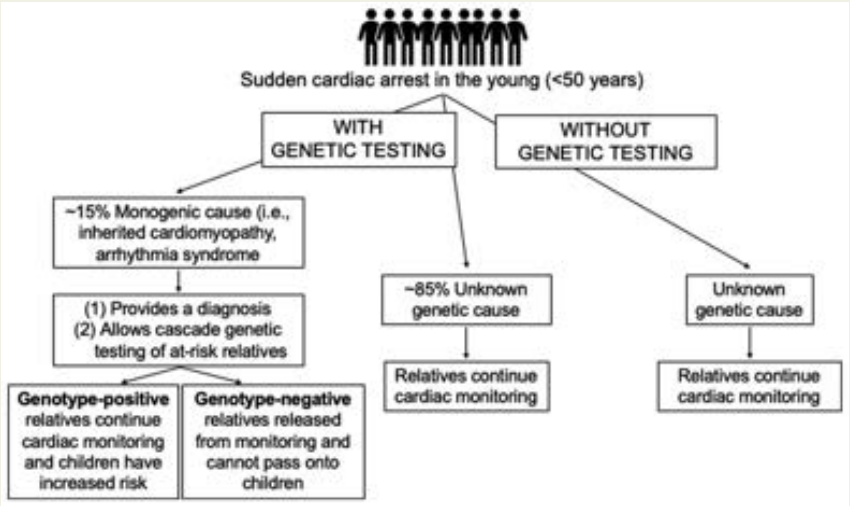

Figure 6 Role of genetic testing in sudden cardiac arrest.

[114]. Excitingly, in recent years genetic testing for inherited cardiomyopathies and inherited arrhythmia syndromes have been added to the Medicare Benefit Schedule. For family members of someone who has experienced SCD, however, the index case's Medicare number cannot be billed for genetic testing due to their death, precluding subsidised access to this testing. Therefore, families must deal with very long wait times via already stretched clinical genetics services, or access testing via research studies which can take >6 months for a result. The marked value where a genetic diagnosis can be made, allowing a cause of death and a powerful tool for risk stratification of family members, is clear [115]. However, the low diagnostic yield of genetic testing highlights the large gap in knowledge that exists in understanding the genetic causes of young SCA, which likely include complex polygenic and moderate effect size variation in combination with non-genetic factors. Taken together, very large datasets will be required to achieve sufficient statistical power to untangle such associations that might explain causes of SCA in young people or predict future events [116,117].

Several causes of **acquired cardiac disease (e.g., myocarditis, sarcoidosis)** can predispose to SCA. Often, diagnostic evaluation is commenced in a patient presenting with chest pain, palpitations or breathlessness and the diagnosis may be supported by the release of markers of myocardial injury. Cardiac magnetic resonance (CMR) imaging assumes a key role in the diagnostic workup of such patients. CMR can be used to identify myocardial inflammation and injury with high sensitivity and specificity and, moreover, the nature of the CMR abnormalities (such as pattern of late gadolinium enhancement) can be used to discriminate between the various disease entities commonly responsible [118]. An accurate diagnosis is critical in determining appropriate treatments that can help to prevent SCA recurrence in the individual. In some cases, the CMR findings will help identify familial heart disease thereby providing information of relevance to the family of the patient. Whilst CMR is an essential tool in the evaluation of patients who have suffered SCA or are at risk of SCA, access to this technology in Australia is limited. For most relevant indications, there is no current Medicare rebate and patients may be left to cover the cost. In addition to the cost, CMR is only available at specialist centres, and, in most cases, there are substantial waitlists. As a result, appropriate CMR tests are not available to many patients with a suitable indication.

Vascular causes of SCD (e.g., anomalous coronaries, coronary dissection, aortopathies, aortic dissection) can also result in SCA. Anomalous coronary arteries are a recognised cause of myocardial infarction, arrhythmias and SCA while spontaneous coronary artery dissection (SCAD) is an increasingly recognised cause of myocardial infarction, particularly in young-middle-aged women. Diseases of the major blood vessels can result in aneurysmal dilation, dissection, and catastrophic rupture. The extent to which these less common entities contribute to the burden of SCA remains incompletely resolved. There is a need for research to better quantify risk and prevention in these conditions.

6. SCA in Sports

At the Summit, note was made that SCA during sports activity has received significant attention because i) deaths in professional athletes are often seen by large audiences and so receive significant media attention and ii) the high profile of sports and high level of sport participation in Australia makes it an ideal environment to engage with the community. It was noted that Registries are being created with the aim of understanding the relationship between sports trauma and traumatic brain injury and this could provide an opportunity to leverage that experience and specifically evaluate the hypothesis of a link between trauma and cardiovascular injury.

International Efforts to Improve Prevention and Outcomes Following SCA

European Society of Cardiology (ESC) guidelines for the management of ventricular arrhythmia and prevention of SCD were released in August 2022 [16]. These were not available for reference at the time of the National Summit on SCA but are very pertinent to the aims and objectives of the Summit. Some of the key recommendations pertinent to the prevention of SCA are listed in Table 2. Each of these is listed as a Class I recommendation meaning that it is "recommended or is indicated".

The Lancet Commission to reduce the global burden of sudden cardiac death was published August 2023 [17] and likewise was not available at the time of the Summit, but reinforces key discussion points arising on the day. The commission highlights the substantial burden of SCA, with outcomes largely not improving in recent decades. Recognising the increased risk of SCA among certain high-risk populations, including those with inherited causes or with previous SCA, has been critical in curtailing future events, however in absolute numbers these individuals account for the smallest number of events. Most SCA occur in those in the general population with few or no known risk factors, highlighting the critical need to bring together multidisciplinary expertise in first-response, post-arrest care and research to identify new markers that could predict events. A complete revamp of existing approaches to SCA are needed to make a transformative impact to this problem, with countries encouraged to take this document and consider local applications.

National Strategy for a Multi-Faceted Approach to Prevent Sudden Cardiac Arrest

As evidenced throughout this report, Australian researchers and practitioners have contributed significantly to the evidence base underpinning SCA risk identification, prediction and response. However, the Australian community remains

Table 2 Summary of European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Guidelines recommendations (n=11) [16] with Class 1 evidence.

Public basic life support and access to AEDs

1. It is recommended that public-access defibrillation be available at sites where cardiac arrest is more likely to occur (shopping malls, stadiums, public transport stations and casinos).
2. It is recommended to promote community training in basic life support to increase bystander CPR rate and AED use.

Recommendations for evaluation of sudden death victims

1. Investigation of unexpected SD, especially in case of suspicion of inherited disease, should be made a public health priority.
2. In cases of SD, it is recommended to collect a detailed description of circumstances of death, symptoms prior to death, the family history, and to review prior medical files.
3. A comprehensive autopsy is recommended, ideally, in all cases of unexpected SD, and always in those <50 years of age.
4. In cases of SCD, it is recommended to retain samples suitable for DNA extraction and consult a cardiac pathologist when an inherited cause is suspected, or the cause of death is unexplained.
5. For SCD where the cause is known or suspected to be heritable, genetic testing targeted to the cause is recommended.
6. Following SADS, post-mortem genetic testing targeted to primary electrical disease is recommended when the decedent is young (<50 years) and/or the circumstances and/or family history support a primary electrical disease.
7. When an autopsy diagnoses possible heritable cardiac disease, it is recommended to refer first-degree relatives for cardiac assessment in a specialised clinic.
8. In non-autopsied cases of SD where inherited cardiac disease is suspected, it is recommended to refer first-degree relatives for cardiac assessment in a specialised clinic.
9. Familial evaluation of SADS decedents is recommended:
    a. for first-degree relatives;
    b. for relatives who must carry a mutation based on analysis of the family history;
    c. for relatives with suspicious symptoms;
    d. when the decedent's age is <50 years, or if there is other circumstantial data or family history to suggest heritable disease.

Abbreviations: AED, automated external defibrillators; CPR, cardiopulmonary resuscitation; SD, sudden death; SCD, sudden cardiac death; SADS, sudden arrhythmic death syndrome.

relatively naïve to the incidence, burden of disease, health care costs and the successes in improving outcomes to date. At the SCA Summit, there was agreement from all stakeholders that there was a clear need to increase awareness of this condition and optimism that awareness and advocacy would serve to partially address the marked mismatch between burden of disease and funding directed toward SCA research and preventive strategies, some of which could be instituted with immediate impact.

There was also agreement at the Summit that the 'sum of the parts' may prove synergistic. In a system in which funding has proved elusive, some attendees at the Summit voiced the concern that this had led to competition within SCA groups. For example, people debated whether limited money should be spent on AEDs when a large proportion of arrests are unwitnessed and the sentiment that prevention through mechanistic understanding may be better than incomplete treatment strategies. The general consensus was that the best strategy for a condition with such substantive burden of disease was for there to be sufficient funding to direct to all elements of the 'Circle of Hope' depicted in Figure 1. Fundamental discovery should not be competing with epidemiological science, implementation of best practice and subsequent auditing of survival. To re-state, the primary agreed outcome of the SCA Summit was to advocate for all elements of science and practice aiming to reduce the incidence and impact of SCA. It was felt that there was rationale to form a new 'umbrella organisation' that could represent all bodies in SCA science with broad representation and membership that would aim to advocate for awareness of SCA and improvement in SCA outcomes through greater resource allocation to the sector.

The Summit attendees recognised the important work that had been undertaken that sought to address the complimentary elements of the Circle of Hope in Australia and New Zealand. In the ideal world, the preventative strategies would be completely effective and resuscitation responses rendered obsolete. However, in a more realistic scenario, optimisation of emergency responses, post-arrest care, data collection for quality control, education and awareness are all critical elements of the ultimate challenge of saving lives. Thus, each element of the Circle of Hope strengthens, but does not replace, a need for a national strategy that addresses the whole of the SCA agenda.

The community currently working to reduce the burden of SCA in Australia risk being under-recognised for their contribution because most researchers and practitioners address SCA as only part of their remit. Again, using the example of the paramedic services, world-leading innovations in resuscitative care are only part of the

requirements of a modern ambulance service. Similarly, few researchers have funding enabling them to focus solely on addressing SCA causes, preventions and treatments.

The Agreed Framework

The framework to progress the goal of reducing the burden of SCA in Australia was agreed as follows:

1. The SCA prevention strategy should be multi-faceted, including:
   a. endeavours to progress community awareness,
   b. resource fundamental research aimed at improving the mechanistic understanding of SCA and its causes,
   c. develop and implement SCA preventive strategies,
   d. implement best-practice resuscitation strategies for all demographics and locations,
   e. ensure secondary risk assessment for family members,
   f. (near) real-time registry of cardiac arrest cases to inform areas of need and effectiveness of interventions.
2. A new body be formed that represents this multi-faceted agenda, bringing awareness to the issues and advocating for resources that more closely match the burden of disease, equally across all areas of need.

Conclusions

1. SCA is a major cause of death with a considerable cost to the Australian public.
2. Prevention of SCD is possible. Gains can be made in risk identification, investigation of SCA, resuscitation, post-arrest care and assessment of family members.
3. The prevention of SCD should be a national health priority.
4. There is currently a substantial gap between the large burden of disease and the modest investment into its prevention and treatment.
5. Recent international guidelines provide a framework for the prevention and management of SCD that is evidence-based and impactful but are not currently in routine practice in Australia.
6. It was resolved at the Summit that the multi-faceted endeavours related to SCD prevention in Australia are impressive in aggregate. However, a centralised voice that could provide focused advocacy to support research into preventing sudden death as well as improved resources and legislation to support best care in resuscitation interventions was deemed a critical need. The Summit attendees resolved to commence work on establishing a central SCA/ SCD focus group. Following the Summit, the **Australian Sudden Cardiac Arrest Alliance (AuSCAA)** was formed to address this manifesto.

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Appendices

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Public attitudes towards automated external defibrillators: results of a survey in the Australian general population

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Background: Swift defibrillation by lay responders using automated external defibrillators (AEDs) increases survival in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA). This study evaluated newly designed yellow–red vs. commonly used green–white signage for AEDs and cabinets and assessed public attitudes to using AEDs during OHCA.
Methods: New yellow–red signage was designed to enable easy identification of AEDs and cabinets. A prospective, cross-sectional study of the Australian public was conducted using an electronic, anonymised questionnaire between November 2021 and June 2022. The validated net promoter score investigated public engagement with the signage. Likert scales and binary comparisons evaluated preference, comfort and likelihood of using AEDs for OHCA.
Results: The yellow–red signage for AED and cabinet was preferred by 73.0% and 88%, respectively, over the green–white counterparts. Only 32% were uncomfortable with using AEDs, and only 19% indicated a low likelihood of using AEDs in OHCA.
Conclusion: The majority of the Australian public surveyed preferred yellow–red over green–white signage for AED and cabinet and indicated comfort and likelihood of using AEDs in OHCA. Steps are necessary to standardise yellow–red signage of AED and cabinet and enable widespread availability of AEDs for public access defibrillation.

KEYWORDS

automated external defibrillator (AED), public attitude, sudden cardiac arrest, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, society, Australia

Introduction

Out-of-hospital cardiac arrest (OHCA) is a prevalent global health concern where over nine in 10 patients do not survive, and most die before reaching a hospital (1–4). Rapid defibrillation is crucial to potential survival and long-term quality of life (5, 6). In cases of OHCA, chances of survival decrease by 3% every minute that defibrillation is delayed after cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is commenced (7). When OHCA occurs in the community, lay responders play a crucial role in giving patients a chance of survival, through alerting emergency medical services (EMS) and initiating CPR and early defibrillation (8). Initial defibrillation by lay first responders is associated with greater OHCA survival than initial defibrillation by dispatched EMS (9). The primary method by

which lay responders can deliver rapid defibrillation to OHCA patients is via the use of publicly accessible automated external defibrillators (AEDs), which is safe and effective for improving survival even with no training (10). However, within Australia, despite investments by many governments to increase the number of publicly accessible AEDs found within communities, many OHCA cases still occur over 100 m away from the locations where these are situated, indicating that current coverage is inadequate (11). This paucity of publicly accessible AEDs within communities (12) provides a potential explanation for bystander use of AEDs occurring in under 2% of non-EMS witnessed OHCA cases in Australia (4).

In situations of community OHCA, rapid defibrillation by lay responders relies on AEDs being swiftly identifiable and publicly accessible. The primary method of identification is via signage and the exterior of the cabinet in which the AED is placed. In 2008, the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR) proposed a sign indicating the presence of AEDs worldwide, utilising a green–white colour combination (13, 14). Further investigations of variants of AED sign designs have also utilised this green–white colour scheme (15). However, it has been demonstrated that public recognition and understanding of current green–white AED signage is limited and no single sign is unanimously recommended by national resuscitation councils or implemented in a standardised fashion in communities worldwide (16).

Colour perception is an important factor influencing human interaction with different environments (17). Past literature has found the colour green to be associated with lower alertness and greater calmness, whereas more vivid colours such as red and yellow have been associated with increased alertness and memory retention (18). Accordingly, the combination of vivid colours such as yellow and red is integral to the marketing strategy of some of the world's top corporations (19). In the emergency of OHCA, signage incorporating primarily vivid colours may be effective in facilitating a lay responder's rapid identification of a publicly accessible AED's location and potentially heightened awareness of their locations generally. Accordingly, we conducted a national survey of the Australian general public to evaluate a proposed new yellow–red sign and cabinet vs. the most commonly used green–white version for identifying AEDs.

Methods

Study design and oversight

This prospective, cross-sectional study was undertaken in collaboration with Heart of the Nation (an initiative of the registered Australian Charity, Our National Heart Pty Limited) and the Westmead Applied Research Centre. It followed the STROBE guidelines for reporting observational studies (20) and was conducted between November 2021 and June 2022 across Australia. The AED signs and cabinets investigated in this study are presented in **Figure 1**. The evaluated yellow–red sign and cabinet were designed by Heart of the Nation, in accordance with the International Organization for Standardization for Graphical Symbols and Test Methods (ISO 9186-1) (21). As co-authors and collaborators, members of Heart of the Nation and Westmead Applied Research Centre were responsible for the study's design and execution, including data acquisition, analysis and interpretation. They also critically revised the article for crucial intellectual content and made the final decision to submit the manuscript for publication. Ethical approval was obtained from the Western Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee (reference number: 2021/ETH12008).

Participants and data collection

The study population comprised members of the Australian general population. To ensure that the sample was representative, we included all demographic subgroups, and no restrictions or exclusion criteria were applied. An electronic, anonymised questionnaire was developed using a web application (REDCap, Vanderbilt University, TN, United States) (22) and distributed using emails and social media posts containing the survey link, inviting members of the general public to participate. No random assignment or balancing was conducted.

Outcome measures

The primary outcome was the validated net promoter score (NPS), which was used to investigate public engagement with the signs and cabinets presented in the survey and provide respective ratios of promoters to detractors (23). Other measures included Likert scales and binary comparisons evaluating the yellow–red vs. green–white signs and cabinets for preference, ease of identification in an emergency such as cardiac arrest and comfort and likelihood of using AEDs in situations of OHCA.

Statistical analysis

Quantitative data were analysed using descriptive statistics. The proportion of the community that would find the new sign easier to identify in an emergency such as a cardiac arrest, and similarly for the cabinet, was estimated with a 95% confidence interval. Logistic regression models were used to assess the effect of age, ethnicity and region on this proportion. NPS estimates were calculated, and 95% confidence intervals were presented for the new and original sign and cabinet. Ordinal regression models were used to assess the effect of age, ethnicity and region on the NPS for each cabinet and sign. The McNemar–Bowker Test was used to compare the distribution of promoters, passives and detractors between the new and original signs and similarly for the cabinets. Analyses were performed using R (version 4.0.2) (24) packages Gmisc (25) for plot and table output and knitr (26) for reproducible research. *p*-values of less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant unless stated otherwise. The full survey and



FIGURE 1
AED signs and cabinets investigated in this study. AED, automated external defibrillator.

statistical report can be found in the **Supplementary Appendix**. Details on the measurement of outcomes, including survey scores and raw data, are available on reasonable request to the corresponding author.

Results

Study sample

A total of 2,538 members of the Australian general population participated in the study by clicking on the survey link distributed by email and social media. The data regarding the number of people who had access to the survey link, but did not participate, were not available. The mean age was 30.9 (SD: 14.9) years. Regarding gender, 1,454 (59.4%) were female, 897 (36.6%) male and 70 (2.9%) non-binary, and the remainder preferred not to say. Regarding race and ethnicity, 2,055 (81.0%) were white, 293 (11.5%) Asian, 86 (3.4%) Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI), 36 (1.4%) Pacific Islander, 34 (1.3%) Hispanic, 24 (0.9%) African-American and 7 (0.3%) American Indian. Of the study population, 510 (21.0%) were healthcare workers.

Preference and ease of identification

The yellow–red sign was preferred by 1,778 (73.0%) as easier to identify in emergencies such as cardiac arrest vs. 658 (27.0%) for green–white. The yellow–red cabinet was reported as easier to identify by 2,139 (87.6%) vs. 302 (12.4%) green–white. With similar rates of preference by gender and ethnicity, older people had the greatest preference for yellow–red signs and cabinets (**Figure 2**). Age and ethnicity were significantly associated with the ease of identifying yellow–red signs or cabinets (**Table 1**). The likelihood of preferring the yellow–red over the green–white sign grew by 2% for every additional year of age.

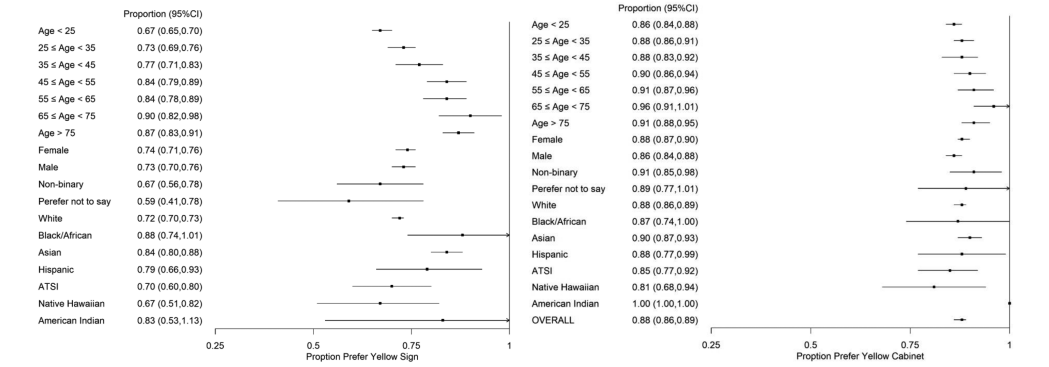

FIGURE 2
Demographics of yellow–red AED sign and cabinet preference.

TABLE 1 Variables significantly associated with stronger ease for identifying yellow signs and cabinets[a].

	Odds ratio and 95% confidence interval	*p*-value
Variables found associated with easily identifying the **yellow–red sign compared to the green–white sign**		
Age	1.024 (1.016–1.031)	<0.0001
Ethnicity: Asian	1.86 (1.33–2.60)	0.0003
Variables found associated with easily identifying the **yellow–red cabinet compared to the green–white cabinet**		
Age	1.014 (1.004–1.023)	0.0038
Ethnicity: Asian	1.70 (1.08–2.77)	0.0213
Ethnicity: White	1.89 (1.08–3.33)	0.0269

[a]Raw data in Supplementary Appendix.

TABLE 2 Net promoter score results[a].

	Promoters	Detractors	Passive	NPS and 95% CI
Green–white sign	19.4%	60.1%	20.5%	−0.41 (−0.44 to −0.38)
Yellow–red sign	53.5%	20.6%	26.0%	0.33 (0.30 to 0.36)
Green–white cabinet	11.6%	72.5%	15.8%	−0.61 (−0.64 to −0.58)
Yellow–red cabinet	62.3%	14.3%	23.4%	0.48 (0.45 to 0.51)

[a]Raw data in Supplementary Appendix.

Comfort and likelihood of using AEDs

Regarding comfort using AEDs in OHCA, 631 (26.0%) were very comfortable, 684 (28.2%) slightly comfortable, 344 (14.2%) neutral, 499 (20.5%) slightly uncomfortable and 271 (11.2%) very uncomfortable. Regarding the likelihood of using AEDs in OHCA, 1,013 (42.0%) were very likely, 536 (22.2%) slightly likely, 415 (17.2%) neutral, 233 (9.7%) slightly unlikely and 217 (9.0%) very unlikely.

Public engagement

Within NPS results, the yellow–red AED sign and cabinet demonstrated significantly higher proportions of promoters and lower proportions of detractors, vs. green–white (Table 2). The yellow–red sign achieved an NPS of 0.33 (95% CI 0.30–0.36) vs. −0.41 (95% CI −0.44 to −0.38) for green–white. The yellow–red cabinet achieved an NPS of 0.48 (95% CI 0.45–0.51) vs. −0.61 (95% CI −0.64 to −0.58) for green–white.

Discussion

This prospective, small, non-representative pilot study of the Australian general population found that yellow–red signs and cabinets may be significantly preferred and reported as easier to identify over green–white counterparts for the public identification of AEDs. Age and ethnicity may be associated with the ease of identifying the yellow–red signs and cabinets. Of note, increased age may be associated with an increased preference for the yellow–red sign over the green–white alternative. It was very encouraging that the majority of the general population may be comfortable in using AEDs in a situation of OHCA and the majority may be likely to use an AED if this situation did arise. In comparison with those of green–white alternatives, yellow–red AED signs and cabinets may have higher proportions of promoters and lower proportions of detractors regarding public engagement.

The societal toll of sudden cardiac arrest is large. Australia experiences over 20,000 sudden cardiac arrests each year, which is associated with annual economic losses of AUD 2 billion

(USD 1.42 billion) and productivity losses comparable to those from all cancers combined (27). To reduce sudden cardiac death, specifically that associated with OHCA, societal change is necessary (12). It is known that rapid defibrillation is a necessary complement to CPR for preventing mortality in cases of OHCA (5–7), and it is intuitive that the swift use of an AED by a lay responder in this situation (8–10) relies on them being able to quickly identify the AED's location within a community environment. In this emergency scenario, it is also intuitive that the use of signs utilising vivid colour combinations, such as yellow–red, would likely catch the attention of lay responders quicker and more effectively than the use of placid colour combinations, such as green–white (18). Further, the green–white colour combination is commonly used in society to indicate a range of signs, including those demarcating first aid kits and building exits, and, accordingly, it is likely to be less clear in the public's psyche as a sign specifically indicating the presence of an AED in life-threatening emergencies. However, given that only yellow–red and green–white colour combinations were evaluated in the present study, future research should consider investigating other vivid colour combinations that are different to these green–white colour combinations, such as blue–red.

There would likely be significant societal benefit from a unique, clearly recognisable sign, utilising a vivid yellow–red colour combination, for the broadly standardised identification of publicly accessible AEDs. The present study provides evidence that members of the Australian general population may engage more with, prefer and more easily identify yellow–red AED signs and cabinets compared with current green–white alternatives. As the public recognition of current green–white AED signage is limited and no single sign is implemented broadly (16), we propose that yellow–red signs and cabinets be considered by public health authorities for the standardised identification of publicly accessible AEDs. We also urge public health authorities to acknowledge the public's willingness to use AED and to take urgent steps to enable widespread availability of AEDs for prompt public access defibrillation in cases of OHCA. However, the issue of signage colour applies to all emergencies within society, especially those that involve EMS vehicles. Signage for emergencies should be vibrant wherever possible, to increase alertness and engagement for the situation in the members of the public that view them (17, 18).

However, colour combinations must be distinct for each respective emergency, to not confuse the lay responders.

This study has multiple limitations. Although the survey was open to all members of the Australian general population and no restrictions or exclusion criteria were applied so that the sample would be representative, potential bias may have been incurred as those that responded to the email and social media invitation to participate may have been those with greater engagement with the content evaluated in the present study. Further, data were not available regarding the number of people who had access to the survey link but did not participate. As the outcomes of the study were self-reported, there is the potential for either under or overreporting based on participant characteristics. Although no socioeconomic restrictions were employed within the study's inclusion criteria, only people within Australia were evaluated, and accordingly the translatability of the present findings to other countries is unknown and requires future investigation. The characteristics of the study population may provide a source of bias and may not be completely representative of the general population, particularly given that the mean age was just over 30 years old, about 60% were of female gender, over 80% were of white race and ethnicity and over 20% were healthcare workers. As no questions were proposed regarding participants' prior experience with OHCAs, it is challenging to infer from the present survey how and whether the colour of publicly accessible AED signs and cabinets may effectively affect the public attitudes to use a publicly accessible AED in the event of OHCA. In addition to this question, future research should also seek to investigate if participants have ever been involved in an OHCA resuscitation, if they found it difficult to locate an AED and, if so, was it due to AED location, sign or cabinet colour or another reason. These data are crucial to completely describing the role of sign and cabinet colours in influencing public attitudes to AED use in OHCA.

Conclusions

This prospective, small, non-representative pilot study of the Australian general population found that yellow–red signs and cabinets may be significantly preferred and easier to identify over green–white counterparts for the public identification of AEDs. There may also be a reasonable public willingness to use AEDs in OHCAs. As the public recognition of current green–white AED signage is limited and no single sign is implemented broadly, we propose that yellow–red signs and cabinets be considered for the standardised identification of publicly accessible AEDs. Public health authorities should be encouraged by the public's willingness to use AEDs and initiate steps to have widespread availability of AEDs in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest. However, further major and more representative, public consideration and investigation must be conducted.

Data availability statement

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/**Supplementary Material**, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

Ethics statement

The studies involving human participants were reviewed and approved by Western Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

Author contributions

JGK: conception, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, drafting article, revising the article critically for intellectual content, final approval of the version to be published. SM, AA, MN, GJP, CKC, AT, and PK: conception, analysis and interpretation of data, revising the article critically for intellectual content, final approval of the version to be published. All authors contributed to the article and approved the submitted version.

Conflict of interest

PK is currently the principal investigator of the PROTECT-ICD trial, which is supported by funding from Biotronik Australia via a research grant to Western Sydney Local Health District, Sydney, Australia.

The remaining authors declare that the research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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Supplementary material

The Supplementary Material for this article can be found online at: https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fcvm.2023.1178148/full#supplementary-material

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Amended Draft AED Delivery Program - Community Access to External Automated Defibrillators Across Council Facilities

The initial capital cost includes cost for the device, a cabinet, footings and installation and project management fees. The annual operational cost includes annual servicing, monitoring, administration and one replacement of consumables over the 10 year asset life. Note: Placement Criteria has been applied in alphabetical order (not priority order)

	Name of Facility	Suburb	Placement Criteria Qualification	Cabinet Type	Cost per device		
					Initial Capital Cost	Annual Operational Cost	Whole of Life (10 years)
1	Acron Oval	St. Ives	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
2	Allan Small Park Tennis courts	East Killara	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
3	Bannockburn Oval	Pymble	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
4	Barra Brui Reserve	St Ives	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
5	Blair Wark VC Community Centre	Lindfield	Q5	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
6	Canoon Road Recreation Area	South Turramurra	Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
7	Canoon Road tennis courts	South Turramurra	Q2/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
8	Cliff Oval	North Wahroonga	Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
9	Comenarra Reserve	Turramurra	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
10	Golden Jubilee Field	North Wahroonga	Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
11	Golden Jubilee Field (Back Field)	North Wahroonga	Q3/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
12	Gordon Golf Course	Gordon	Q2	Solar	$ 13,750.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 31,300.00
13	Gordon Recreation Grounds Tennis Courts	Gordon	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
14	Hamilton Park Tennis Courts	Turramurra	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
15	Hassall Park	St. Ives	Q3/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
16	Howson Oval	Turramurra	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
17	Jim Watson Main Arena	St Ives	Q3/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
18	Karuah Park	Turramurra	Q3/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
19	Kendall Village Green tennis courts	Pymble	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
20	Kent Road tennis courts	Turramurra	Q2/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
21	Killara Park Tennis Courts	Killara	Q2/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
22	Koola Park	East Killara	Q3/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
23	Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden Visitor Centre	St Ives	Q3/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
24	Lindfield Library	Lindfield	Q5	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00

25	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Oval 1	East Lindfield	Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
26	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park Tennis courts	East Lindfield	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
27	Lofberg Netball Courts	West Pymble	Q3/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
28	Lofberg Oval	West Pymble	Q3/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
29	Loyal Henry tennis courts	Roseville	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
30	Mimosa/ Rofe Park	Turramurra	Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
31	Morona Avenue Reserve tennis courts	Wahroonga	Q2/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
32	Norman Griffiths Oval	West Pymble	Q3/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
33	North Turramurra Golf Course	North Turramurra	Q2	Solar	$ 13,750.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 31,300.00
34	North Turramurra Recreation Area	North Turramurra	Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
35	Princes Park/ Primula Oval	Lindfield	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
36	Queen Elizabeth Reserve tennis courts	Lindfield	Q2/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
37	Regimental Park Tennis Courts	Killara	Q2	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
38	Richmond Park Tennis Courts	Gordon	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
39	Robert Pymble Park tennis courts	Pymble	Q2/ Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
40	Roseville Memorial Park Pavilion	Roseville	Q5	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
41	Samuel King Oval	North Turramurra	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
42	Sir David Martin Reserve (Auluba Oval 1/2)	South Turramurra	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
43	St Ives Community Centre	St Ives	Q5	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
44	The Glade Oval tennis courts	Wahroonga	Q2/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
45	Turramurra Memorial Park Sportsground	Turramurra	Q3/ Q4	Freestanding	$ 7,500.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 25,050.00
46	Wellington Sportsground	East Lindfield	Q4	Building	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
				TOTAL COST	**$ 334,100.00**	**$ 80,730.00**	**$ 1,141,400.00**

Summary of Amended Draft AED Delivery Program Costings

Facility Type	Delivery timeline	Number of New AEDs based on Cabinet type				Cost per Stage		
		Building	Freestanding	Solar	Total	Initial Capital Cost	Annual Operational Cost	Whole of Life (10 years)
Sportsfields	FY27	12	10	0	**22**	$ 154,200.00	$ 38,610.00	$ 540,300.00
Tennis and Netball Courts	FY27	9	8	0	**17**	$ 119,400.00	$ 29,835.00	$ 417,750.00
Golf Courses	FY27	0	0	2	**2**	$ 27,500.00	$ 3,510.00	$ 62,600.00
Passive Recreation	FY27	1	0	0	**1**	$ 6,600.00	$ 1,755.00	$ 24,150.00
Community Buildings - New	FY27	4	0	0	**4**	$ 26,400.00	$ 7,020.00	$ 96,600.00
				TOTAL	**46**	**$ 334,100.00**	**$ 80,730.00**	**$ 1,141,400.00**

The type of cabinet is based on desktop assessment of electricity provisions and will be clarified during detailed project scoping. A total of 209 locations have been excluded during desktop assessment with explanation provided in the revised draft delivery program. Operational costs of up to 16 existing devices will be included within annual operational costs of this program (not shown in table above).

Excluded Facilities - Amended Draft AED Delivery Program

The following facilities were excluded due to not meeting the placement criteria and/or due to a nearby existing or provision within the draft delivery program

	Name of Facility	Suburb	Comment
1	Abbotsholme Glen	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
2	Abingdon Road Reserve Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
3	Airman's Park	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
4	Allan Small Oval	East Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program. AED to be provided at Allan Small Tennis Courts
5	Allan Small Park Playground	East Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
6	Annie Forsyth Wyatt Garden	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
7	Applegum Way Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
8	Archdale Park	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
9	Arena Pavilion	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
10	Babbage Reserve	Roseville Chase	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
11	Balcombe Park Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
12	Balmaringa Reserve Playground	South Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
13	Bancroft Park Playground	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
14	Bandalong Reserve Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
15	Bannockburn Oval Playground	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
16	Barra Brui Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
17	Barra Wood	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
18	Bedes Forest	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
19	Bicentennial Park Lofberg Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
20	Bidwill Clearing	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
21	Blackburn Park Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
22	Boronga Avenue Reserve Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
23	Bowes Thistlewayte Park	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
24	Boyds Orchard Park Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
25	Browns Field	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
26	Bryce Oval	St. Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
27	Cameron Park Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
28	Carlotta Reserve	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
29	Carlyle Road Reserve Playground	East Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
30	Carrington Park	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
31	Charles Bean Sportsfield	Lindfield	Excluded due to close proximity to Blark Wark VC Community Centre
32	Cherrywood Reserve Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program

33	City View Park Playground	South Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
34	Claire Taylor Park Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
35	Claude Cameron Grove	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
36	Comenarra Playing Field Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
37	Creswell O'Reilly Lookout	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
38	Cross Country Track	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
39	Curtilage Park Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
40	Dairyman's Reserve	North Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
41	Dampier Clearing	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
42	Dog Hut B	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
43	Dog Ring 6/7	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
44	Douglas Pickering Pavilion	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
45	Duff Street Park	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
46	Dukes Green Playground	East Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
47	Dumaresq Park	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
48	East Gordon Park/ Darnley Oval	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
49	East Gordon Park/ Darnley Oval Playground	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
50	East Roseville Community Centre Playground	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
51	Echo Point Park	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
52	Echo Point Park Playground	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
53	Edenborough Park	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
54	Edenborough Park Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
55	Eldinhope Green Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
56	Elvenholme Wood	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
57	Eric Evans Park Playground	North Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
58	Events Area	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
59	Fiddens Wharf Oval	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage1 Draft Delivery Program
60	Fiddens Wharf Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
61	Florey Avenue Reserve	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
62	Follies Park Playground	East Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
63	Forsyth End	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
64	Founders Way Reserve	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
65	Friars Field	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage1 Draft Delivery Program
66	Frogmore Park Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
67	George Christie Playing Field	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
68	Golden Jubilee Field Playground	North Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
69	Gordon Glen Playground	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
70	Gordon Library Meeting Room 1	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
71	Gordon Library Meeting Room 2	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program

72	Gordon Recreation Grounds Playground	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
73	Gordon Youth Hub	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
74	Grayling Street Reserve	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
75	Green Toad Tea Gardens	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
76	Green Valley Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
77	Greengate Park Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
78	Guiders Park Playground	North Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
79	Gwydir Avenue Playground	North Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
80	Halfpenny Park	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
81	Hamilton Park Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
82	Hassell Park Playground	St. Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
83	Heritage Square	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
84	Hicks Avenue Reserve Playground	South Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
85	Honeysuckle Creek Reserve Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
86	Howson Reserve Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
87	Hyndes Park and dog off leash	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
88	Ibbitson Park Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
89	Irish Town Grove Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
90	Jane McGillivray Park Playground	East Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
91	Jim Powell Pavilion	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
92	Jinkers Green Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
93	Jubes Mountain Bike Park	North Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
94	Kalang Reserve	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
95	Kendall Village Green Playground	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
96	Kent Oval	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program. AED to be provided at Kent Oval Tennis Courts
97	Kent Oval Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
98	Killara Park Tennis Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
99	Killara Park/ W.A Bert Oldfield Oval	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program. AED to be provided at Killara Park Tennis Courts
100	Killara Park/ W.A Bert Oldfield Oval Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
101	Kirby Park	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
102	Kissing Park	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
103	Kissing Point Village Green (Auluba Oval 3)	South Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
104	Kissing Point Village Green off leash dog	South Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
105	Kissing Point Village Green Playground	South Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
106	Ku-ring-gai Bicentennial Park Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
107	Ku-ring-gai Town Hall Meeting Room	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
108	Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program

109	Lapwing Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
110	Lindfield Community Centre Tennis Courts	Lindfield	One AED to made externally accessible in this area
111	Lindfield Rotary Park	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
112	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Oval 2	East Lindfield	Excluded due to close proximity to Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Oval 1
113	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Park Playground	East Lindfield	Excluded due to close proximity to Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Oval 1
114	Lindfield Village Green	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
115	Little Digger Park	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
116	Loftberg dog park	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
117	Lorraine Taylor Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
118	Louise Lennon Pavilion	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
119	Loyal Henry Park	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program.
120	Loyal Henry Playground	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
121	McKenzie Park	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
122	McMahon Park Playground	North Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
123	Melaleuca Park Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
124	Memorial Avenue Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
125	Millwood Park	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
126	Mimosa/ Rofe Park Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
127	Mitchell Crescent Reserve dog off leash	Warrawee	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
128	Mitchell Crescent Reserve Playground	Warrawee	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
129	Morona Avenue Reserve dog off leash	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
130	Morona Avenue Reserve Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
131	Mountbatten Park	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
132	Myall Avenue Park	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
133	Nar-rang Park Playground	Gordon	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
134	Orange Green Playground	North Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
135	Paddy Palin Reserve Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
136	Patricia Gardener Reserve	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
137	Peewee Park Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
138	Phillip Lane Park	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
139	Picnic Area 4 Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
140	Pleasant Avenue Reserve Playground	East Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
141	Princes Park/ Primula Oval Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
142	Princess Anna Arena	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
143	Putarri Avenue Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
144	Pymble Soldiers Memorial Park	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
145	Quarry Masons Reserve	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
146	Queen Elizabeth dog off leash	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program

147	Queen Elizabeth Oval	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program. AED to be provided at Queen Elizabeth Tennis Courts.
148	Queen Elizabeth Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
149	Queens Park Lookout	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
150	Ramsay Avenue Reserve Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
151	Reading Avenue Reserve	East Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
152	Redfield Reserve Playground	East Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
153	Regimental Park Sportsground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program. AED to be provided at Regimental Tennis Courts.
154	Robert Pymble Park Playground	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
155	Roland Reserve Playground	Warrawee	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
156	Roseville Chase Oval	Roseville Chase	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
157	Roseville Memorial Park dog off leash	Roseville	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
158	Roseville Memorial Park Oval	Roseville	Existing at Roseville Park Pavilion to be made externally accessible
159	Roseville Memorial Park Playground	Roseville	Existing at Roseville Park Pavilion to be made externally accessible
160	Roseville Memorial Park tennis courts	Roseville	Existing at Roseville Park Pavilion to be made externally accessible
161	Rushall Street Reserve	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
162	Sainty Reserve	Warrawee	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
163	Samuel King Oval Playground	North Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
164	Sandakan Park dog off-leash	North Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
165	Savoys End	East Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
166	Selkirk Park Playgound	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
167	Sequoia Close Park Playground	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
168	Seven Little Australians Park	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
169	Sir Robert Menzies Park Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
170	St Andrews Forest Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
171	St Crispens Green Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
172	St Ives Library Meeting Room	St Ives	Excluded due to close proximity to St Ives Library
173	St Ives Rotary Park	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
174	St Ives Showground Regional Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
175	St Ives Skate Park	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria
176	St Ives Sports Centre	St Ives	Existing AED provided by operator
177	St Ives Village Green	St Ives	Excluded due to close proximity to St Ives Community Centre
178	St Ives Village Green Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
179	St Ives Village Green tennis courts	St Ives	Excluded due to close proximity to St Ives Community Centre
180	St Ives Youth Hub	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
181	St Colombans Park Playground	North Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
182	Sulman Park	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
183	Swain Gardens	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program

184	Terrum-bine Reserve	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
185	The Glade Oval	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program. AED to be provided at The Glade Tennis Courts.
186	The Glade Oval Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
187	The Mall Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
188	Ticket of Leave Park Playground	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
189	Toolang Playing Field	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
190	Transmission Park	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
191	Turramurra Memorial Park Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
192	Turramurra Memorial Park tennis courts	Turramurra	Excluded due to close proximity to Turramurra Memorial Park Sportsground
193	Two Turners Reserve Playground	Lindfield	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
194	Wahroonga Park	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
195	Wahroonga Park Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
196	Warrawee Park	Warrawee	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
197	Warrimoo Downhill Mountain Bike Trail	St Ives Chase	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
198	Warrimoo Oval	St Ives Chase	External accessible AED provided by St Ives Football Club
199	Warrimoo Oval Playground	St Ives Chase	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
200	Warrimoo tennis courts	St Ives Chase	Excluded due to close proximity to Warrimoo Oval
201	West Pymble Village Green	West Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
202	Western Arena	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Excluded Facility in initial Draft Delivery Program
203	William Cowan Sportsground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 1 Draft Delivery Program
204	William Lewis Park Playground	Wahroonga	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
205	Willis Avenue Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
206	Wombin Reserve	Killara	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
207	Yarrabung Reserve Playground	St Ives	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
208	Yarrara Walk	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 4 Draft Delivery Program
209	Yarrawonga Reserve Playground	Pymble	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program
210	Yeramba Street Reserve Playground	Turramurra	No to all AED Placement Criteria, Removed from Stage 3 Draft Delivery Program

Summary of Estimated Operational Costs for Existing AEDs

The following existing Council AEDs will remain internally accessible only. For unstaffed facilties, the annual operational cost includes monitoring.

	Name of Facility	Suburb	Comment	Cost per device		
				Initial Capital Cost	Annual Operational Cost	Whole of Life (10 years)
1	Caleys Pavilion	St Ives	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
2	East Lindfield Community Hall	East Lindfield	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
3	East Roseville Memorial Community Centre Hall	Roseville	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
4	Ku-ring-gai Town Hall	Pymble	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
5	Lindfield Resource Centre	Lindfield	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
6	Lindfield Seniors Centre/ Community Hall	Lindfield	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
7	Turramurra Seniors Centre/ Community Hall	Turramurra	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
8	West Lindfield Community Hall	West Lindfield	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
9	West Pymble Community Hall	West Pymble	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
10	Gordon Library	Gordon	Existing AED unit - annual operational cost only	$ -	$ 555.00	$ 3,330.00
11	Ku-ring-gai Art Centre	Roseville	Existing AED unit - annual operational cost only	$ -	$ 555.00	$ 3,330.00
12	Ku-ring-gai Community Groups Meeting Room	St Ives	Existing external AED - annual operational cost only including monitoring	$ -	$ 1,755.00	$ 10,530.00
13	St Ives Library	St Ives	No existing AED provision. Existing unit from St Ives Community to be relocated - annual operational cost only	$ -	$ 555.00	$ 3,330.00
14	Turramurra Library	Turramurra	Existing AED unit - annual operational cost only	$ -	$ 555.00	$ 3,330.00
15	Council Administration	Gordon	No change to existing device	$ -	$ -	$ -
16	Council Depot	Pymble	No change to existing device	$ -	$ -	$ -
			TOTAL COST	**$ -**	**$ 19,770.00**	**$ 118,620.00**

Community Engagement Report - AEDs at Ku-ring-gai Sportsgrounds and Community Facilities

Introduction

This report provides a summary of the community engagement outcomes captured during the consultation period for the proposed Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) installation program and its associated funding.

This document presents and analyses the data collected through Council's online engagement survey and written submission. It focuses on support the AED roll-out and funding to help inform Council's decision.

Summary

The community engagement process demonstrated a high level of shared commitment to public health and safety, alongside operational and financial feedback regarding the project's targeted funding model.

Feedback was accepted via both an online survey and written submissions between 28 April and 26 May 2026. There was a total of 30 responses received.

Survey feedback

Key findings from the online survey which had 17 responses indicated:

- **Strong support for safety goals:** The majority supported expanding access to AEDs as an important community safety initiative. Of those surveyed, 65% support or strongly supported the installations, while 35% were neutral. No survey respondents opposed the physical roll-out of the units.
- **Mixed views on the funding model:** Feedback on the proposed fee recovery structure (5.75% annual increase for sports fields, 1.10% for tennis/pickleball courts, and 2.60% for community rooms above standard CPI adjustments) was closely divided. Survey data showed 41% supported the funding mechanism, 47% did not support it, and 12% were uncertain.

Written submission feedback

Council received 13 submissions. Support for the AED installation itself was near-universal. Of 13 submissions received, 9 opposed the proposed fee structure, 3 supported it and 1 was conditional.

Opposition came almost entirely from sporting clubs, many of whom already have AEDs installed at their own cost. Common concerns were the size of the increase, the gap between sportsfield and tennis court levies, and the principle that AEDs are a community asset whose cost should not fall solely on hirers. Several clubs also noted fees for the current season had already been collected.

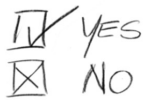
Supportive responses came from individual tennis court hirers and a seniors centre user, who accepted the increase as a reasonable trade-off for improved safety.

Communications and Engagement Snapshot



Communications and Community participation

- **Direct email to regular hirers and clubs/ associations** (416 recipients)
- **Survey responses:** 17 survey responses
- **Written submissions:** 13 received



Community views

Survey

Support for installation

- 65% support/strongly support
- 35% neutral
- 0% oppose

Support for funding model

- 41% support
- 47% do not support
- 12% uncertain (not sure)

Submissions (sentiment)

Broad conceptual support for AEDs. Re suggested funding:

- 9 opposed
- 3 supportive
- 1 mixed / conditional



Reasons to support

- Significantly improves public safety and emergency readiness
- Allows 24/7 external access.
- Ensures systematic, long-term compliance and maintenance



Reasons to oppose

- Financial pressure on volunteer-run, not-for-profit community clubs and local families.
- Duplication of costs for clubs that have already independently installed AEDs.
- Disproportionate cost impacts when increases are applied to higher-cost premium bookings, such as turf cricket wickets.

Engagement process

The formal community engagement period ran from 28 April to 26 May 2026 and was hosted via Council's online engagement portal. The platform outlined a planned delivery of up to 60 AEDs at sportsgrounds and tennis courts (stage 1) and up to 10 AEDs at community buildings (stage 2).

Participants completed a survey regarding their level of support for the infrastructure and proposed funding. They were also invited to provide written submissions.

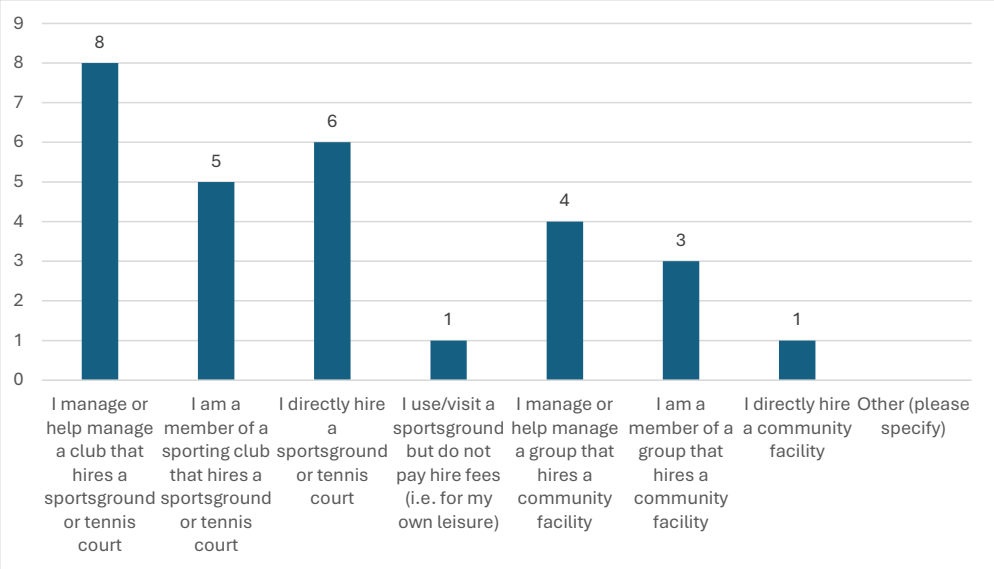
Direct notifications were sent to regular user groups and recreation booking contacts most affected by the proposed fee adjustments.

Engagement results

Survey

An online survey was run on Council's engagement hub platform.

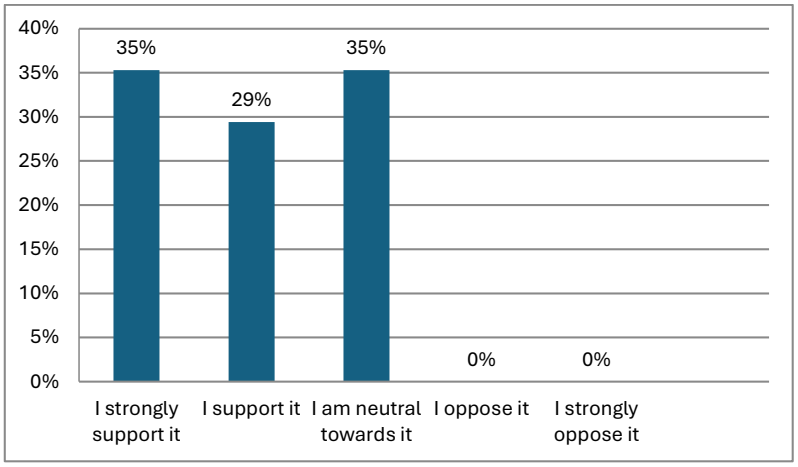
Participants were requested to identify how they used the facilities that are associated with the project. *Note they could identify more than 1.*



Overall support for installing AEDs

The survey data showed strong support for the core objective of installing AED's.

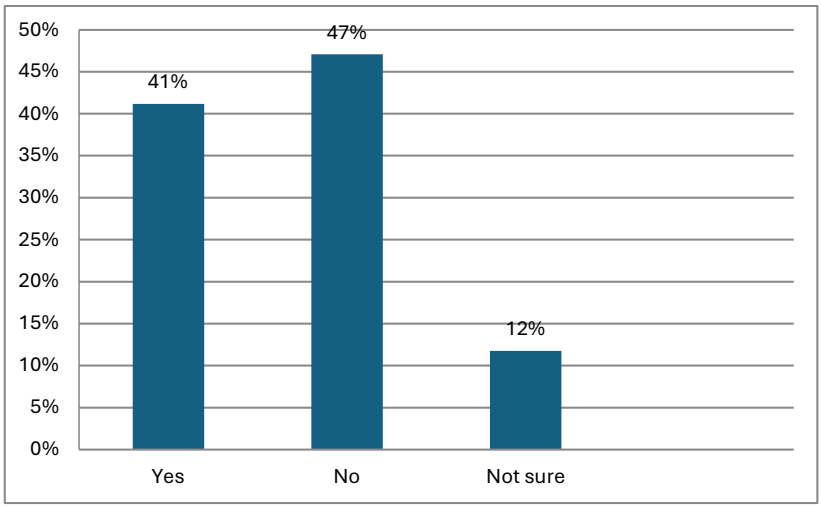
Sentiment	Percentage	Response count
I strongly support it	35%	6
I support it	30%	5
I am neutral towards it	35%	6
I oppose it / strongly oppose it	0.0%	0



Support for the proposed funding mechanism

Views were more evenly divided regarding the funding relating to facility fee structure as shown below.

Response	Percentage	Response count
Yes	41.2%	7
No	47.1%	8
Not sure	11.8%	2



Feedback summary

An analysis of the survey open text responses highlighted four primary themes:

- **Existing assets:** Clubs have already invested in their own AEDs. While they welcome 24/7 external Council cabinets for when clubhouses are locked, they want their prior investments recognized.
- **Financial sustainability:** A combined 9.65% increase (5.75% hire fee + 3.9% CPI) is too high for volunteer-run clubs to absorb, forcing them to pass costs onto local families through higher registration fees.
- **Fee equity:** Percentage-based increases unfairly penalize premium facilities. For example, cricket clubs pay a much higher dollar increase for turf wickets than synthetic users do, despite receiving the same safety benefit. Respondents suggested using general rates or grants instead.
- **Cost clarity:** Medical professionals and other respondents requested a detailed breakdown of the projected $1,755 annual servicing and monitoring fee per unit to justify the long-term cost.

Submissions

Council received 13 written submissions from regular hirers with broad support for the AED installation. Sporting clubs and associations were broadly opposed to the proposed fee structure, while individual court hirers and community users were more likely to support it.

During the consultation, there were other inquiries related to this program including requests to be excluded from the program as devices are already provided by the club to their members.

Sentiment of submissions relating mostly to fee structure

Total submissions	13
Opposed	9
Supportive	3
Mixed / conditional	1

Common objections

- Many clubs already have AEDs installed at their own cost — at Hassall Park, Killara Oval and Lofberg Oval among others.
- The combined 9.65% increase (3.9% cpi + 5.75% AED levy) was seen as excessive for volunteer-run, not-for-profit organisations.
- No explanation was provided for why sportsfield hirers face 5.75% while tennis court hirers face only 1.1%.
- Several submitters questioned whether the proposed per-unit and maintenance costs reflect market pricing.
- AEDs benefit the whole community, not just sporting hirers — the funding model should reflect that.
- NSFA noted fees for the 2026 winter season were already set and collected before the proposal was made public.

Support themes

- Supporters acknowledged the safety benefit and were comfortable with a modest fee increase to fund it.
- One submitter, while supportive, suggesting existing coverage may be under-mapped.

Matters for council to consider

- Will an audit of existing AED coverage be conducted before procurement, to avoid duplication?
- What is the basis for the levy rate difference between sportsfield and tennis court hirers?
- Have the per-unit and maintenance cost estimates been independently reviewed?
- Does the increase apply to bookings already accepted for periods after 1 July 2026?
- Could implementation be deferred to the summer 2026–27 season to allow clubs to adjust?

Full details are available in the verbatim written submissions as seen in Appendix 2.

Conclusion

The engagement process recorded broad conceptual support for AED installation, with no survey respondents opposed to the physical roll-out and only one written submission questioning whether the installation was justified.

Views on the proposed funding model were more divided. Opposition was concentrated among sporting clubs, many of whom have already installed AEDs at their own cost and raised concerns about the equity of the levy structure and the timing of the increase. Broader support for the funding model came from individual court and facility hirers.

Appendix 1 - Verbatim written survey responses

(Note: Identifying details have been removed for public reporting purposes)

The Association accepts the principle of AED installation as a positive community safety measure... That said we believe the proposed additional increase of 5.75% on top of the annual 3.9% CPI-linked increase to sportsfield bookings warrants closer examination... Applying the full AED-related rise to turf bookings produces a much larger daily increase than for synthetic wickets... We would welcome a revised approach that more fairly reflects actual AED costs."
This is completely unfair. We already have AEDs at our facility installed at our cost - and Council is proposing a fee increase of 5.75% on top of the 3.9% CPI increase to do something that we have already done.
We are not for profit organisations run cost effectively by volunteers... There is no doubt AED are important assets. That's why we already have one installed... If these devices are intended for 'general public' use then KMC should wear the cost and not pass on and burden the organisations that already pay their way.
The current AED at our cricket clubhouse is behind a locked door and inaccessible to anyone without a key. The football AED is inaccessible to cricket. Having an external AED has been discussed for 5 years with no action at all."
My club already has an AED on site it should not have to pay the levy... A proper cost benefit study of 24/7 public access vs Club AED when field is being used would be needed to justify the substantial cost. I am a Cardiothoracic surgeon and familiar with the use of evidence to drive decisions in the health sector.
An increase of 5.75% in field hire charges will be passed on in each year to membership fees... The Council proposal appears to be that the general community will benefit from a service that is paid for by the clubs that hire the fields - this sounds serious inequitable to me. As a ratepayer my opinion is that if the community needs this facility then it should be paid for by the community via the rates."
Just be wondering if we have the data about how many events of cardiac arrest have occurred in those facilities in Australia in past years. Without thise information it is hard to justify the necessity of installation of AEDs.
The sporting and community facilities in Ku-ring-gai require a major boost in funding before the projects like the proposed AEDs... KMC needs to focus on the priorities and do them really well.

Appendix 2 – Verbatim written submissions

(Note: Identifying personal contact details and/or financial information have been removed for public reporting purposes)

We've been informed that Ku-ring-gai Netball Association (KNA) will be subject to a 9.65% fee increase for 2026-27, consisting of 3.9% CPI increase and 5.75% to fund council's AED program. KNA pays council over $xxx a year to use netball courts. We already have an AED installed at the Canoon Road courts at our own cost. While we applaud council's motivations to provide AEDs at sporting facilities, it is completely unfair to add 5.75% to netball fees to do something we have already done. It also makes no sense that tennis courts are subject to a proposed 1.1.% increase at the same time as netball courts are increased 5.75%. Can you please explain why netball courts should be treated differently to tennis courts? Kind Regards
NSFA strongly supports publicly accessible AEDs. We have been actively funding and deploying them for years. NSFA has installed defibrillators at our managed facilities, supported clubs to install them at their grounds, and run our own community education and awareness initiatives. NSFA funded or supported AEDs are now in place across all five LGAs in which our clubs operate. The principle of broader public access to AEDs has our full support. That track record is directly relevant to this proposal. A significant number of Ku-ring-gai sportsgrounds used by our clubs already have AED coverage funded by NSFA, by clubs, or jointly. Before Council imposes a fee increase on sportsfield hirers to fund 60 new units, we ask Council to: 1. Audit existing AED coverage at proposed sites. If existing units are already in place and serviceable, the scope, capital cost and ongoing recovery requirement should be reduced accordingly to avoid duplication. 2. Engage NSFA directly to map current coverage. NSFA can provide this at short notice. On the funding mechanism and timing as proposed, NSFA does not support it, for the following reasons. NSFA clubs set and communicated their 2026 winter season registration fees to families in January 2026, before this proposal was made public. Registrations have closed. Families have paid. A 5.75% per year sportsfield hire fee increase, layered on top of the 3.9% CPI rise for 2026/27 and another 5.75% in 2027/28, produces an effective increase close to 10% in Year 1 alone, with further compounding in Year 2. There are only three ways to absorb that mid season: clubs absorb the cost from already committed budgets, the Association absorbs it on behalf of clubs, or families are billed a second time. None of those outcomes are feasible. NSFA position: 1. Support in principle. NSFA supports public access AEDs and would welcome being a partner in deployment. 2. Audit existing coverage before finalising scope. Council should map what is already in place, including NSFA and club funded units, before locking in capital cost and recovery requirement. Where existing coverage is already serviceable, the scope of this proposal should be reduced to avoid duplication. 3. Do not apply the fee increase to the 2026 winter season. Fees are already set, communicated and collected for this season.

4. Apply the change from summer 2026/27 bookings onwards, subject to genuine consultation on final scope and funding model. NSFA will support implementation on that basis. 5. Funding model. 60 of the proposed AEDs are at sportsgrounds adjacent to public tennis courts and will be publicly accessible at all times. The benefit extends well beyond paying hirers. The funding model should reflect that public benefit rather than placing the full annualised cost on sportsfield user groups. 6. Clarification requested. Please confirm in writing whether the proposed increase applies only to bookings made after 1 July 2026, or also to bookings already accepted and invoiced for periods after that date. NSFA welcomes a meeting with Council officers before the June Council meeting to work through a collaborative approach.
St Ives Wahroonga Cricket Club would like to provide feedback regarding the proposed Ku-ring-gai Council AED Installation at Sportsgrounds and Community Facilities project. There are two key points for consideration. 1. Costings of the Project St Ives Wahroonga Cricket Club is one of four clubs that use Hassall Park, St Ives, as a home ground and clubhouse facility. In 2020, the four clubs collaborated to install an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) within the clubhouse. The AED is serviced annually and provides an important level of safety assurance for all users of the facility. Ku-ring-gai Council's AED installation project presents an opportunity to further enhance this existing community asset by providing an externally mounted, wall-mounted housing unit for the AED. This approach would create efficiencies and cost savings for both Council and the community by utilising the already purchased device rather than duplicating infrastructure. We believe this collaborative approach would deliver improved community access to emergency medical equipment while reducing unnecessary expenditure. 2. Hire Fee Increases for Sportsground Hirers The current proposal appears to place a significant proportion of the funding responsibility for AED installations onto sportsground hirers, despite AEDs being a broader community asset. Hassall Park has recently undergone Council-led upgrades aimed at increasing opportunities for active and passive recreation, as well as broader community socialisation through the inclusion of cycle and walking paths, play equipment, BBQ facilities and sun shelters. Council planning documents identify the site as a community space intended for use by all residents. Importantly, AEDs are a community health resource, not solely for sporting participants. Local residents should be made aware of the AED's availability, as it may be required in emergency situations by any member of the public. In this context, the costs associated with the AED project should be considered a shared community investment rather than being disproportionately allocated to sporting user groups through increased hire fees. Thank you for considering our feedback on this important community initiative. Kind regards,
I have discussed this proposal amongst the shared users at Hassall Park, St Ives. Including St Ives Junior Rugby Club, St Ives Senior Rugby Club, St Ives Junior Cricket Club and St Ives Wahroonga Cricket Club. We are not for profit organisations run cost effectively by volunteers and offer very valuable community sporting activities. There is no doubt AED are important assets. That's why we already have one installed at the Hassall Park clubhouse. We are also aware of many other clubs in Ku-ring-gai that

also have readily available AED installed, and in some cases also available in each team kit.

We have a number of very valid concerns regarding your proposal. In particular, we believe the costings are totally unacceptable. In fact, some have expressed their concern that the costings are so far fetched that KMC may have been taken advantage of.

Our concerns;
1. It appears the proposal is not costed realistically.
2. The increase to hirers is excessive.
3. As AED are already installed at many locations the fee increase is unjustified to hirers. Noting if these devices are intended for “general public” use, then KMC should wear the cost and not pass on and burden the organisations that already pay their way by already having these devices.
4. Proposal increases sportsfield bookings by 5.75% but yet tennis and pickleball courts only 1.1% This appears grossly unfair.

Given the plan to install up to 70 new AED...

My calculations indicate each AED will cost $7355 each ($514,850 total for 70 units) and $1755 per year to maintain. ($122,850 total for 70 units)

The above figures by KMC are extremely concerning given the following readily available costings ;

1. AED devices (Philips Heartstart $1490 & St Johns X3 kit $1950, LifePak CR2 full bundle $3325)
2. Replacement AED batteries (Philips $145 & Heartstart HS1 $234)
3. Replacement AED pads (HeartSine $249 & Pad-Pak $263)

KMC is proposing to increase sportsfield fees by 5.74% and 2.6% extra for clubhouse rent. This is on top of the scheduled increase KMC has already announced of 3.9%. This is not a modest increase as claimed. This a huge increase and will increase financial stress to sporting clubs, that may result in less participation.

This is a counter intuitive result that essentially reduces community participation.

Given the Hassall Park hire fees would likely surpass $xxx per year. A 5.75% increase is a $xxx increase to our clubs. We believe this is an unacceptable outcome.

As mentioned, many clubs already have their own AED. There is already an AED located at the Hassall Park Clubhouse in a prominent position. This AED is maintained and shared by St Ives Rugby Club with both junior and senior rugby and cricket users. The cost to maintain is very minimal and only costs the odd few hundred dollars to maintain each year or so. (To change the battery and pads every few years).

We believe this proposal is an overstep of what is fair and reasonable to the NFP sporting organisations that do their very best to provide cost effective community sporting programs.

We kindly request KMC recalculate and either scrap or reconsider a fairer proposal that does not burden sporting clubs.

This is a great initiative by the council. SUNS pickleball always have our own AEDs at any of our sessions but having them close by if someone was to forget it would be critical.

We would be happy to endorse the increase in fees if it means safety for our members.
Anything that can help improve the safety of those at the seniors' centre has got to be worthwhile. With respect to that is there a training video that we could / should send around to some of our members who are at the seniors' centre more often?
As a tennis court hirer I agree with your proposal and recoup costs by way of increased hire fee.
Sounds insane. How many people needed a defibrillator in the last 5 years near one of these locations? 20% maintenance, sounds like an amazing contract for whoever gets it. Who has asked for this? I am spending over $1000 a year on court hire and am not a coach or pro player, just social. This makes that harder, and no benefit. Sounds like the person who suggested it should pay instead of imposing this on every rate payer and tennis court hire.
I think this would be reasonable to undertake.
As longtime annual hirers of the tennis courts in the Kuringgai area - we understand there may be annual price increases. Firstly though - we would like to bring to the attention of council the following - 1. We have been paying fees for the tennis courts we use for the last almost 20 years - we also pay our fees regularly on time and IN ADVANCE. 2. Across those almost 20 years we have seen so many members of KRG community use the same courts and these are just one set of courts WITHOUT BOOKING them, we ask all the time, and THEREFORE WITHOUT PAYING. 3. Before hiking up fees for those of us who HAVE been paying for now decades - why not have a bit of a brainstorm on how you can encourage people to do the right thing - perhaps like the other glossy signs on the courts - some very in your face signs saying..... "COURTS USED WITHOUT BOOKING AND PAYING IS AN ABUSE OF A COMMUNITY SERVICE AND IMPACTS EVERYONE - BOOK AND PAY FOR YOUR COURT USE". 4. The amount of fees that council has is and will keep missing out on due to this - must be a huge sum and again remember I'm just talking about 1 tennis court site - and we all know how many are in the LGA, State and Federal electorate areas here. 5. Private Coaches and School holiday camp organisers are the worst - these have also been asked by us and challenged when yes believe it or not even the coaches who are being paid private tuition fees for tennis training by a student customer - have not paid, booked the courts for the time they need them. And let's face it as we have also told people that abuse the system - there is no excuse because the booking system is online and easy to use. So in summary - we are all reasonable people but why slug those that do the right thing and do nothing about one major symptom of loss of finances to council due to people doing the wrong thing - that ends up costing those that do the right thing more money. When the council comes up with an answer to the above I feel we might be more amenable to an increase. In regards to AEDs being installed - this is a wonderful initiative - and here's a thought - some glossy signs on all tennis courts - saying WHEN YOU BOOK AND PAY FOR YOUR COURT HIRE YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO NOT ONLY THESE WONDERFUL COURTS TO USE BUT THESE AEDS AS WELL THAT MAY HELP SAVE A LIFE. ANY ALL PERSONS ABUSING THE USE OF THE COURTS BY NOT PAYING NOT BOOKING YOU'RE PART OF THE PROBLEM OF INCREASING FEES! STOP IT AND DO THE RIGHT THING
I am writing a submission on the KMC proposed fees and charges for 2026/27.

The proposed fee increase for Killara Oval is 9.65% - being 3.9% CPI increase and a further 5.75% to fund the roll out of Defibrillators.

This is a very substantial fee increase, especially as KMC fees for the hire of turf cricket ovals (Currently $438 per day for a turf cricket oval plus any groundsman costs on the day) are already one of the highest in Sydney.

Gordon Cricket Club is also currently charged a separate lease ($xxx) to use the pavilion – on top of the hire of the oval. At other councils, the use of a pavilion comes with the hire of the oval. Having the Pavillion under a separate lease means only Gordon Cricket Club can use the Pavilion and that casual hirers of Killara Oval don't get to use it. This seems a crazy situation that a community facility is not being used.

Based on the proposed fees and our typical useage (24 days by the mens club and 15 by the womens club) the current Gordon Cricket Club charges for use of Killara Oval and Pavilion, estimated at $xxx for season 2025/26 will increase for season 2026/27 by $xxx to $xxx. This is a very substantial financial burden for an amateur sporting club.

The proposed fees to fund the defibrillator roll out seem excessive. A 5.75% increase followed by an additional 5.75% increase in 2027/28 equates to a cumulative 11.5% , which would be > $xxx p.a for Gordon Cricket Club and more if you add other hirers. A fully automatic quality AED defibrillator can be purchased for a one off $1,550. The revenue generated from the fee increases appears to significantly over recover the cost of a defibrillator. I would also question why hirers of sporting ovals are expected to pay for a defibrillator which is for the use of the broader community. It is not fair to expect sporting clubs to fund this cost.

I would also note that Killara Oval is also in quite poor condition and has been one of the lowest rated grounds in Sydney Premier Cricket the last few seasons. It makes it very hard for our club when we have to pay high fees when the condition of the oval is sub par.

We would ask that council review the fee proposal, specifically
(i) remove the 5.75% increase for the defibrillators
(ii) remove the separate lease charge for the Pavilion, and instead have the use of pavilion included in the ground hire.

I should also highlight that there is already a defibrillator inside the Killara Oval Pavilion – which was obtained by Gordon Cricket club.

On behalf of KWP Rugby, permanent user of Lofberg Oval in West Pymble we would like to formally object to the proposed increase in hirer fees outlined below, based on the fact that there are already two operational & functioning AEDs on site paid for by our club/members, and we would be happy to pay for the wall bracket installation of one of these as proposed.

Our members (c.200 local West Pymble residents/families) and our club are already under great financial stress, and we see the proposed increase as an unnecessary additional financial burden on our community.

My feedback as a tennis court hirer is:

a) Very good initiative; and
b) I have no problem with the fee increase.

Summary of written submissions and responses

This table includes excerpts from written submissions. Submissions have been divided up based on the relevant topic and parts of submission may feature across multiple topics.

Topic	Submissions	Response
Cost of devices	- "We believe the costings are totally unacceptable. In fact, some have expressed their concern that the costings are so far fetched that KMC may have been taken advantage of." - "It appears the proposal is not costed realistically." - "The revenue generated from the fee increases appears to significantly over recover the cost of a defibrillator"	This feedback is noted. A cost breakdown was provided in the March OMC report. Council follows a transparent procurement process in accordance with approved Procurement Policy. The risk implication statement within the Council report highlights the reason why AEDs provided by Council need additional considerations including monitoring and maintenance. These services add additional costs to the program. More competitive pricing may be achieved when the project comes to tender and any savings may reduce any future increase to fees and charges.
Community use of Existing devices	- "This approach would create efficiencies and cost savings for both Council and the community by utilising the already purchased device rather than duplicating infrastructure. We believe this collaborative approach would deliver improved community access to emergency medical equipment while reducing unnecessary expenditure." - "there are already two operational & functioning AEDs on site paid for by our club/members, and we would be happy to pay for the wall bracket installation of one of these as proposed"	This feedback is noted. The use of third-party sporting club AEDs has not been considered in this program. The risk and liability associated with making third party sporting club AEDs public accessible has not been assessed and understood at the time of the writing of this report.
Unfair burden on sports clubs	- "The current proposal appears to place a significant proportion of the funding responsibility for AED	This feedback is noted and has been highlighted within the Council report.

	installations onto sportsground hirers, despite AEDs being a broader community asset" - "As AED are already installed at many locations the fee increase is unjustified to hirers. Noting if these devices are intended for "general public" use, then KMC should wear the cost and not pass on and burden the organisations that already pay their way by already having these devices" - "why hirers of sporting ovals are expected to pay for a defibrillator which is for the use of the broader community. It is not fair to expect sporting clubs to fund this cost." - "We kindly request KMC recalculate and either scrap or reconsider a fairer proposal that does not burden sporting clubs." - "Our members and our club are already under great financial stress"	
Inequity in the application of fee increase	- "Proposal increases sportsfield bookings by 5.75% but yet tennis and pickleball courts only 1.1% This appears grossly unfair."	This feedback is noted. The differentiation is that tennis courts have higher usage hours with fewer facilities to split the cost of service across.
Safety	- "There is no doubt AED are important assets" - "always have our own AEDs at any of our sessions but having them close by if someone was to forget it would be critical" - "this is a wonderful initiative" - "Very good initiative"	This feedback is noted.
Increase in fees and charges	- "We would be happy to endorse the increase in fees if it means safety for our members" - "The increase to hirers is excessive." - "This a huge increase and will increase financial stress to sporting clubs, that may result in less participation." - "As a tennis court hirer I agree with your proposal and recoup costs by way of increased hire fee" - "very substantial fee increase" - "I have no problem with the fee increase"	This feedback is noted and has been highlighted within the Council report.

Unauthorised use	- "The amount of fees that council has is and will keep missing out on due to this - must be a huge sum"	This feedback has been shared with Council's Recreational Booking Team.
Quality of the Facility	- "Killara Oval is also in quite poor condition and has been one of the lowest rated grounds in Sydney Premier Cricket the last few seasons. It makes it very hard for our club when we have to pay high fees when the condition of the oval is sub par."	This feedback is noted. Sportsfield works at Killara Oval/ Bert Oldfield Oval is included in the 10-year asset renewal plan for consideration.
Usage fees for pavilions	- "remove the separate lease charge for the Pavilion, and instead have the use of pavilion included in the ground hire."	This feedback has been shared with relevant staff in Council for consideratrion.

Amended Fees and Charges for Amended Draft AED Delivery Program

25/26 Status	26/27 Status	Fee Name	2026/2027 Fee (incl. GST)
Fees & Charges | Operations | Golf Courses | Gordon Golf Course			
		#Green Fees - Twilight Rate	$25.00
		#Green Fees – Visitor Thursday Pro Shop Competition Green Fee (inc. prizes)	$45.00
		#Green Fees School student 10 or 18 holes (primary, high school with student id)	$15.00
		#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 18 holes	$50.50
		#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 18 holes	$40.00
		#Green Fees – Golf Club Lease Rate	$13.00
		#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only 10 holes (includes pensioners & tertiary students – proof required)	$24.00
		#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only 18 holes (includes pensioners & tertiary students – proof required)	$31.00
		#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 10 holes	$31.00
		#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 10 holes	$35.00
		#Caddy / spectator / use of facilties for purpose of practice only	$15.10
Fees & Charges | Operations | Golf Courses | North Turramurra Golf Course			
		#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 18 holes	$60.00
		#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 18 holes	$45.00
		#Green Fees – Twilight hours	$32.50
		#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only 10 holes (includes tertiary students, pensioners, specials – proof required)	$25.00
		#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only – 18 holes (includes tertiary students, pensioners, specials – proof required)	$31.00
		#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 10 holes	$35.50
		#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 10 holes	$43.00
		#Green Fees School student 10 or 18 holes (primary, high school with student id)	$16.00
		#Caddy /Spectator / use of facilties for purpose of practice only	$15.10
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Athletics			
		#Athletics venue per hour – Seasonal Rate – Bannockburn Oval and Turramurra Oval	$18.60
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Baseball/Softball | Sports Fields - Class 1 | Pre Season Hire			
		#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$43.00
		#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$43.10
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Baseball/Softball | Sports Fields - Class 1 | Seasonal Hire			
		#Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$33.60
		#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$42.95
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Baseball/Softball | Sports Fields - Class 1 | Casual Sports Hire			
		#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$67.97
		#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$53.05
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Baseball/Softball | Sports Fields - Class 3 | Pre-Season Hire			
		#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$17.20
		#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$17.20
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Baseball/Softball | Sports Fields - Class 3 | Seasonal Hire			
		#Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$13.45
		#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$17.20
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Baseball/Softball | Sports Fields - Class 3 | Casual Hire			
		#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$27.35
		#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$21.85
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Cricket			
		#Casual – Cricket turf wicket full day only (no preparation or old wickets)	$559.00
		#Casual and Seasonal – Cricket Artificial practice nets (per wicket strip per hour)	$10.95
		#Seasonal – Cricket Turf Practice nets (per wicket strip per hour) (Lindfield nets)	$34.55
		#Seasonal – Cricket Artificial Wicket per hour	$10.80
		#Seasonal – Cricket Turf wicket per wicket prepared (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$465.00
		#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Saturday 4 hours	$280.00
		#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Saturday 2 hours	$122.05
		#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Sunday 4 hours	$315.35
		#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Sunday 2 hours	$159.30
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Facilities			
		#Casual Club House hire – Community per hour.	$33.00
		#Casual Club House hire – Commercial per hour.	$39.25

Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Futsal/Touch/Oztag (summer)	
#Sportsfields – Summer futsal, touch football, oztag	$30.00
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Netball or Basketball (Outdoor)	
#Casual – Netball or Basketball Courts per court/per hour	$18.50
#School – Netball or Basketball per court/per hour	$8.95
#Seasonal – Netball or Basketball Courts training per court/per hour	$10.70
#Seasonal – Netball or Basketball Courts Competition per court/per hour	$7.28
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Personal training	
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 15 hours per week).	$58.00
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 8 hours per week).	$37.50
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | School Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals	
#Cross Country Athletics Event (0-200 people) includes marshalling area, permit for PA and Cross Country Track Includes waste service & toilet cleaning	$389.00
#Cross Country Athletics Event (+200 people) includes marshalling area, permit for PA and Cross Country Track	$719.00
#Athletics Carnival/Gala Day (per day) . Includes additional waste service & toilet cleaning fee	$227.00
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Sports Field Hire | Sports Fields - Class 1 | Pre-Season Hire	
#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$42.95
#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$42.95
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Sports Field Hire | Sports Fields - Class 1 | Seasonal Hire	
#Winter Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$33.60
#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$42.95
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Sports Field Hire | Sports Fields - Class 1 | Casual Sports Hire	
#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$67.95
#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$53.05
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Sports Field Hire | Sports Field - Class 2 | Pre-Season Hire	
#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$25.85
#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$25.85
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Sports Field Hire | Sports Field - Class 2 | Seasonal Hire	
#Winter Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$20.15
#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$25.85
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Sports Field Hire | Sports Field - Class 2 | Casual Hire	
#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$40.95
#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$31.90
Fees & Charges | Operations | Sportsgrounds | Synthetic Fields	
#Casual - NTRA Training Area 1 & 2	$25.10
#Seasonal - NTRA Training Area 1 & 2	$21.25
#Casual Synthetic Field	$97.50
#Seasonal Weekday Training per hour	$61.60
#Seasonal Weekend Competition per hour	$61.60
#School bookings (School Hours only) per hour	$35.05
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 15 hours per week).	$64.75
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 8 hours per week).	$47.75
#Casual Hire	$79.00
#Permanent Hire	$44.00
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) Casual Hire Only	$104.25
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Halls - Large- Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, St Ives Community Centre & Blair Wark VC Community Hall | Commercial Hire	
#Casual Hire	$143.90
#Permanent Hire	$55.00
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) Casual Hire Only	$201.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Halls - Large- Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, St Ives Community Centre & Blair Wark VC Community Hall | Sale, Exhibition or Conference	
#Sale/Exhibition charge per day	$1,163.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Halls - Small - West Lindfield Hall, East Lindfield Hall, West Pymble Hall, East Roseville Hall,Lindfield Seniors Centre,Turramurra Seniors Centre | Community Hire	
#Casual Hire	$74.00
#Permanent Hire	$43.00
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) Casual Hire Only	$99.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Halls - Small - West Lindfield Hall, East Lindfield Hall, West Pymble Hall, East Roseville Hall,Lindfield Seniors Centre,Turramurra Seniors Centre | Commercial Hire	

#Casual Hire	$96.00
#Permanent Hire	$49.00
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) casual Hire Only	$129.50
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Halls - Small - West Lindfield Hall, East Lindfield Hall, West Pymble Hall, East Roseville Hall,Lindfield Seniors Centre,Turramurra Seniors Centre | Sale, Exhibition or Conference	
#Sale/Exhibition charge per day	$881.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Large Meeting Rooms - Gordon Meeting Rooms and Roseville Park Pavilion | Community Hire	
#Casual Hire	$47.00
#Permanent Hire	$32.35
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Large Meeting Rooms - Gordon Meeting Rooms and Roseville Park Pavilion | Commercial Hire	
#Casual Hire	$64.60
#Permanent Hire	$43.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Small Meeting Rooms - St Ives Meeting Room & Town Hall Meeting Room,Swain Gardens Room, Ku-ring-gai Community Groups Meeting Room and Lindfield Resource Centre | Community Hire	
#Casual Hire	$39.00
#Permanent Hire	$28.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Small Meeting Rooms - St Ives Meeting Room & Town Hall Meeting Room,Swain Gardens Room, Ku-ring-gai Community Groups Meeting Room and Lindfield Resource Centre | Commercial Hire	
#Casual Hire	$58.00
#Permanent Hire	$37.50
Fees & Charges | Community | Halls and Meeting Rooms | Meeting Rooms & Seniors Centres (concessional)	
#Permanent Hire	$17.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Tennis Courts | Casual booking	
#Tennis Court Charges – casual bookings	$23.40
#Tennis Court Charges – Professional Coaches – casual	$26.55
Fees & Charges | Community | Tennis Courts | Permanent booking	
#Tennis Court Charges – permanent rate	$16.00
#Tennis Court Charges – Professional Coaches – permanent rate (10 weeks or more)	$21.25
Fees & Charges | Community | Tennis Courts | Pickleball	
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - casual	$23.00
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - Professional Coaches Casual	$26.00
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - permanent	$16.00
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - Professional Coaches permanent	$21.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Wildflower Garden Facility | Wildflower Garden | Wildflower Garden Picnic Areas	
#Wildflower Garden Picnic Area, Shelter (per hour, min 2hrs weekdays and 3hrs weekends)	$42.15
#Wildflower Garden Picnic Area, Lamberts Clearing Shelter and Surrounding Greenspace (per hour, min 2hrs weekdays and 3hrs weekends)	$68.20
#Caleys patio per hour (non - exclusive use of garden, no internal access)	$62.00
Fees & Charges | Community | Wildflower Garden Facility | Caley's Pavilion Function Centre | Monday to Thursday	
#Monday to Thursday (per hour) 8am – 5pm	$120.50
#Monday to Thursday (per hour) after 5.00pm	$130.50
#Not for Profit, Permanent, Monday to Thursday (per hour) 8am - 10.30pm	$40.15
#Not for Profit, Casual, Monday to Thursday (per hour) 8am - 5.00pm	$60.20
#Not for Profit, Casual, Monday to Thursday (per hour) After 5.00pm	$70.25
Fees & Charges | Community | Wildflower Garden Facility | Caley's Pavilion Function Centre | Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays	
#Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays (per hour) 8am – 5pm	$145.50
#Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays (per hour) after 5.00pm	$175.50
Fees & Charges | Community | Wildflower Garden Facility | Caley's Pavilion Function Centre | Function	
#Full Day Function (8.30am – 10.30pm)	$1,914.50

POST EXHIBITION - REVISED RESOURCING STRATEGY, REVISED DELIVERY PROGRAM AND OPERATIONAL PLAN (NEW)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To adopt the revised Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036, revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027, incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program, Statement of Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges for 2026-2027.
BACKGROUND:	At its meeting of 28 April 2026, Council considered a report on the draft revised Resourcing Strategy, revised Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan. Council resolved that the draft plans, subject to adopted changes and minor corrections, be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days.
COMMENTS:	The draft plans and strategy were exhibited for a period of 28 days from 29 April to 26 May 2026. Council's Fees and Charges were exhibited in a separate document. On 2 June 2026, IPART released its decision to approve Council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) application. Note that the recommendation below is subject to any amendments to the exhibited project costs and Fees and Charges for the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program being considered separately at this meeting.
RECOMMENDATION: (Refer to the full Recommendation at the end of this report)	That Council adopt the revised Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036, revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027, incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program, Statement of Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges for 2026-2027, incorporating a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 24.6% to begin from 1 July 2026 which, when combined with the confirmed 4.4% rate peg, will result in a 29% rate revenue increase in 2026/27.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To adopt the revised Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036, revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027, incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program, Statement of Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges for 2026-2027.

BACKGROUND

Exhibition of draft Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan

On 28 April 2026, Council considered a report (ref: GB.9) on the draft revised Resourcing Strategy, draft revised Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan, incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program, Statement of Revenue Policy and draft Fees and Charges for 2026-2027. At that meeting Council resolved the following:

That Council:

A. *Amend page 67 of Attachment A1 to delete references to playground removals at Carlyle Road Reserve, Pleasant Avenue Reserve, McMahon Park, and Claire Taylor Park – and instead make it clear that nature play elements are being added to each playground to enhance utility and enjoyment. The specific wording changes are:*

   From
   - *East Lindfield, Carlyle Road, Carlyle Road Reserve – playground removal*
   - *East Lindfield, Pleasant Avenue Reserve, Playground removal and nature play*
   - *Wahroonga, Curtin Avenue, McMahon Park – playground removal and nature play*
   - *West Pymble, Camira Street, Clarie Taylor Park – playground removal and natural play*

   To
   - *East Lindfield, Carlyle Road, Carlyle Road Reserve – addition of nature play elements*
   - *East Lindfield, Pleasant Avenue, Pleasant Avenue Reserve – addition of nature play elements*
   - *Wahroonga, Curtin Avenue, McMahon Park – addition of nature play elements*
   - *West Pymble, Camira Street, Clarie Taylor Park – addition of nature play elements*

B. *Endorse the revised Delivery Program 2025-2029, draft Operational Plan 2026-2027 and revised Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036, for public exhibition for 28 days.*
C. *Note that a report will be provided to Council in June 2026 for consideration of any final changes, public submissions and adoption of the plans.*

Stage 1 and 2 implementation of AEDs in the 2026/27 draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for exhibition

On 17 March, Council considered a report (ref: GB.8) on the provision of community access to external AEDs across Council facilities. At that meeting Council resolved the following:

That Council:

A. Seek expert cardiac health advice to inform the placement criteria for AED locations and public awareness strategies, and to assist in refining the proposed locations for Stage 1 (Sportsfields) and Stage 2 (Community buildings);

B. Include the proposed implementation of Stage 1 (Sportsfields – up to 60 AEDs) and Stage 2 (Community buildings – up to 10 AEDs) in the 2026/27 draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for exhibition;

C. Include an increase to relevant fees in the draft 2026/27 Fees & Charges for exhibition, to offset the annualised whole of life cost of installing, maintaining and monitoring the AEDs, phased in over two financial years commencing 2026/27;

D. Consult directly with key user groups, in addition to the general exhibition process, prior to reporting back to Council for final consideration and adoption in June 2026;

E. Include the expert health advice and feedback from user groups in the report back to Council following the exhibition of the draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan including any recommended changes or reduction in the sites identified in B to be incorporated into the final DP&OP; and,

F. Consider funding Stage 3 (Playgrounds and Off-leash Parks) and Stage 4 (Reserves)in advance of preparing the next Community Strategic Plan, with a tailored consultation recognising the varied nature of users and considering the expert cardiac health advice.

COMMENTS

Consistent with statutory requirements and community engagement objectives the plans were exhibited concurrently for 28 days.

Delivery Program and Operational Plan

The exhibited revised Delivery Program and Operational Plan was informed by the strategies contained in the Community Strategic Plan, Council priorities over its term, policies and strategies, prioritisation of capital works projects, service delivery requirements, income from external sources and fees and charges.

As required by legislation, the Delivery Program and Operational Plan contains a Statement of Revenue Policy, Fees and Charges and Budget for Council over the coming year to support the delivery of Council's services and projects. To assist presentation and readability the Delivery Program and Operational Plan are integrated into one document.

Attachment A1 provides a copy of the post exhibition revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027 incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program and Statement of Revenue Policy. Attachment A2 provides a copy of the Fees and Charges for 2026-2027.

Resourcing Strategy

The Resourcing Strategy is the link between the long-term Community Strategic Plan and the Delivery Program. The Strategy includes a 10-year Long-term Financial Plan, 10-year Asset Management Strategy and 4-year Workforce Management Strategy. All three components of the Resourcing Strategy listed below were reviewed prior to exhibition to incorporate updated asset, financial and workforce information.

- Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 **(Attachment A3)**
- Asset Management Strategy 2026–2036 **(AttachmentA4)**
- Workforce Management Strategy 2026-2030 **(Attachment A5)**

Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP)

The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) aligns with the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program, highlighting community needs and Council's strategic priorities. It also aligns closely with the Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Strategy.

Asset Management Strategy (AMS)

The AMS provides information on how Council's asset portfolio supports the service delivery needs of the community both now and over the next 10 years. It has been revised to align with Councils revised LTFP. Capital expenditure data and the required renewal costs have been included in the AMS to establish Council's funding gap for infrastructure assets.

The AMS is supported by Asset Management Plans for each asset class. Together, these documents and supporting data and systems (including asset registers and technical databases) make up Council's Asset Management Framework.

A review of Council's Asset Management Plans is being completed. These will be updated in response to IPART's determination of Council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) application, if approved by Council and accelerated review of the scheduling and resourcing of projects (as resolved by Council on 17 March 2026). These plans will be separately reported to Council for adoption.

Council's Asset Management Policy is an overarching policy statement for asset management and forms part of the AMS. The Policy was revised and exhibited with the AMS. See **Attachment A6**

Workforce Management Strategy (WMS)

The third component of the Resourcing Strategy is the Workforce Management Strategy (WMS). An effective WMS establishes a framework for building the capability of the organisation's workforce and provides a link between the delivery of strategies and services and their associated workforce implications. In addressing the human capital requirements for Council's Delivery Program, the WMS spans four years.

Service improvement program

In accordance with the IP&R framework, Council is required to specify its program for service reviews within the DP&OP. Progress and outcomes of these reviews, including any service improvements or efficiencies identified, must then be reported via the Annual Report.

The following service reviews were included in the exhibited plans for completion in 2026/27:

- Stormwater renewal and maintenance
- Tree management
- Roads (under the Service Review in a Box Program)
- Workforce management (under the Service Review in a Box Program)

In addition to the above reviews, Council's Accelerated Project Portfolio and Resourcing Review has also been included in the review program for 2026/27 (see page 20 of the DP&OP)

The LG Professionals Service Reviews in a Box program is designed to assist councils in conducting service reviews by having a cohort of councils participate and progress through the stages of a service review together. This collaborative approach ensures that Council can share insights, experiences and best practices, at a significantly lower cost than engaging external consultants to undertake this review.

Inclusion of Stage 1 and 2 implementation of AEDs in the 2026/27 draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan for exhibition

The program was included in Council's exhibited draft Delivery Program and Operational Plan and draft Fees and Charges document with notification of the exhibition sent directly to regular hirers of sportsfields, tennis courts and community buildings. A report on the outcomes of the exhibition, as it relates to the proposed AED program, including received submissions is reported separately to the June OMC meeting.

The project costs listed in the Delivery Program and Operational and the Schedule of Fees and Charges attached to this report will be adjusted to incorporate any amendments resolved by Council on this item.

Update on Special Rate Variation (SRV) for Infrastructure

In February 2026, Council applied to IPART for approval to increase rates to help address ageing infrastructure. On 2 June 2026, IPART advised that Council's application was successful. A copy of IPART's final report is available here: Ku-ring-gai Council - Special Variation Application 2026-27 - Final Report. The approved increase to rates is 29%, including the 4.4% rate peg, and is proposed to take effect from 1 July 2026. This is outlined in detail in the LTFP, the DP&OP and the AMS.

Council will decide at its June meeting whether to proceed with the approved special rate variation from 1 July 2026. If approved by the Council, a rate increase of 29% including a 4.4% rate peg would apply to Ku-ring-gai ratepayers from that date.

If approved by Council, the SRV will secure an additional $20.7 million per annum in funding strictly earmarked to address Ku-ring-gai's increasing infrastructure backlog across the following asset classes:

Stormwater and drainage

Stormwater and drainage infrastructure will receive $5.9 million per annum. Council is responsible for nearly 300km of stormwater pipes and 12,100 drainage pits, mostly constructed between the early and mid-1900s, with recent reviews finding that 43% are now in poor or very poor condition. Current funding only allows for the renewal of 900m of pipes and 30 kerb inlet pits each year, which would cause the backlog to grow from $41 million to $79 million by 2034/35, leading to increased localised flooding, road closures and waterway contamination. The SRV funding is expected to accelerate pipe renewals up to 6.9km per year and inlet pit upgrades to 250 pits per year. Additional funding is expected to contain the projected 2034/35 stormwater backlog to $13 million.

Community buildings

Around $6.7 million per year will be directed toward community buildings. Council manages 300 buildings, of which approximately 53% currently require capital upgrades. At current funding levels, Council can only replace or refurbish an average of two buildings per year, with the backlog projected to grow from $63 million to $104 million by 2034/35. The SRV will enable the refurbishment or replacement of up to eight buildings per year, including sportsground amenity blocks, public toilets, bus shelters, community centres and childcare facilities. These works will directly address modern accessibility standards, provide improved changing facilities and toilets for female athletes and ultimately reduce the projected 2034/35 backlog down to $37 million.

Recreational facilities

Recreational facilities will be supported by an additional allocation of $1.9 million per annum. This includes sportsfields, parks, bushland locations, play courts, walking tracks, fire trails and the Ku-ring-gai Sports and Aquatic Centre. Without the SRV, Council is limited to completing around five to six minor improvement projects a year, with the infrastructure backlog projected to increase to $25.5 million by 2034/35 and increasing the risk of playing surface failures. The SRV boosts delivery to up to nine major projects per year. After 2031/32, this asset class will absorb an additional $1.46 million annually as the St Ives loan concludes. This is projected to reduce the infrastructure backlog to $6.7 million by 2034/35.

Existing footpaths

Under the SRV, an additional $0.94 million per year will be allocated to maintaining and renewing existing footpaths. Council services 377km of existing footpaths, and the current renewal backlog sits at $6.6 million. Due to limited funds, about 20% of existing footpaths are expected to fall into an unsatisfactory condition over the next decade, doubling the backlog to $13.58 million by 2034/35. The SRV funding is expected to double the rate of footpaths repaired and rebuilt each year, and capping the long-term infrastructure backlog to $6.98 million.

New footpaths

To improve the walkability of Ku-ring-gai's suburbs, $2.1 million per year will be allocated to constructing new footpaths. Currently, around 250km of local streets do not have a footpath. The additional SRV funding will fast-track this program towards having a safe footpath on every street in 30 years.

Traffic and transport

A further $1.7 million per year will be directed towards traffic and transport assets. While road surfaces, car parks and bridges maintain adequate baseline funding, this investment directly addresses the funding gap for targeted road safety improvements. This will include upgrades of bus stops to meet disabled access standards, as well as the construction of roundabouts, median islands and pedestrian crossings across the LGA.

The SRV will also allocate $1.46 million per annum through to 2031/32 to service the loan repayments for the construction of the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre. This joint partnership with the Department of Education has expanded the St Ives High School facility to a world-class four-court indoor sporting complex, including ancillary rooms, a café and car parking. Funding the $13.5 million loan via the SRV prevents costs from impacting general revenue, protecting day-to-day council operations and services.

Impact on ratepayers and affordability

As outlined in Council's independent report and IPART's determination, a common theme in submissions is concerns from ratepayers that they could not afford the rate increase.

The 29% increase corresponds to an estimated $499 average residential rate increase (or $9.60 per week) and an estimated $1,676 average business rate increase (or $32.23 per week) in 2026/27. In October 2025, Council considered an independent capacity to pay analysis report which found that, on balance, there is a capacity for ratepayers to pay the proposed increase.

Nonetheless, it is acknowledged that some ratepayers will find it difficult to afford an increase in living expenses. In response, Council has a variety of methods to help manage financial hardship. These include flexible payment plans, interest relief, pensioner concessions, hardship application processing and debt recovery and support.

Council's Rates, Charges and Sundry Debts - Assistance, Concessions and Recovery Policy was amended and adopted at the November 2025 meeting of Council. Under the policy, ratepayers experiencing financial hardship can apply for assistance. Applications are reviewed confidentially, in line with Council's policy and legislative requirements. Staff will offer guidance and support through the hardship application process.

Ratepayers facing financial difficulty may request customised payment plans. Arrangements are assessed individually, with consideration given to the applicant's circumstances and payment history. Council may also reduce or waive interest on overdue rates and charges for eligible applicants who demonstrate genuine hardship and adhere to agreed payment arrangements. As noted in the capacity to pay report considered at the October meeting, at the end of 2024/25 three ratepayers were utilising these provisions.

Statutory rebates and additional voluntary concessions are available to eligible pensioners under the policy. This includes a statutory concession of up to $250, which Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act. Council also provides an additional voluntary concession of 8.5% of total rates and charges, which is an additional $146 in 2025/26 for the average pensioner.

Furthermore, Council introduced a flexible payment solution (Payble) enables ratepayers to easily set up and manage payment plans for current and overdue rates. The platform aims to make

paying rates more convenient, reduce the number of overdue accounts and lower administrative costs associated with payment processing.

Cost containment and efficiency

Independent analysis by IPART confirms that Council operates with a high level of structural efficiency, maintaining a lower operating expenditure per capita and fewer staff relative to population than comparable councils. Its annual operating expenditure growth represents the fourth lowest of all Sydney councils, demonstrating a sustained commitment to lean operations.

Over the past five years (2020-21 to 2024-25), Council has delivered a range of efficiency initiatives that have delivered an estimated $7.4 million in savings. It also identified and forecasted an estimated 3.9 million in future savings from 2025-26 to 2026-27. A detailed summary of Council's cost efficiency measures is available in the application submitted to IPART (publicly available) and in the December 2025 OMC report.

IPART conditions

In making its determination, IPART has imposed the following conditions to ensure accountability to the Office of Local Government and the Ku-ring-gai community:

- That Council use the additional income for the purpose of funding the proposed program
- That Council report in its annual report for each year from 2026-27 to 2031-32 (inclusive):
    - the program of expenditure that was actually funded by the additional income, and any differences between this program and the proposed program
    - any significant differences between the council's actual revenues, expenses and operating balance and the projected revenues, expenses and operating balance as outlined in the LTFP, and the reasons for those differences
    - the outcomes achieved as a result of the additional income
    - whether or not the council has implemented the productivity improvements as set out in Appendix B, and if so, the annual savings achieved through these measures, and what these equate to as a proportion of the council's total annual expenditure, and if not, the rationale for not implementing them
    - any other productivity and cost containment measures the council has in place, the annual savings achieved through these measures, and what these savings equate to as a proportion of the council's total annual expenditure.

Council will be embedding these requirements directly into the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, including dedicated tracking to ensure additional funding is directed to the specific asset class it was intended to fund and the successful delivery of its efficiency initiatives.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Outcome 5 – Leadership and service excellence

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Task
L1: Provide strong and ethical civic leadership to ensure	L1.1: The Community Strategic Plan drives delivery of community priorities through	L1.1.1: Implement a new integrated planning and reporting framework to support the implementation of

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Task
good governance and build and maintain trust and confidence within the community.	effective strategic planning, prioritisation, advocacy, partnerships and reporting to the community on performance.	Council's strategies and plans, and prioritisation of projects and initiatives based on strategic alignment, community needs and availability of resources.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Council has a statutory obligation to review its Long Term Financial Plan and Delivery Program and prepare an Operational Plan for the forthcoming year, for community feedback to be considered, and for the plans to be adopted before the end of the current financial year. Consistent with past years the other two components of the Resourcing Strategy, the Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Strategy, were reviewed and placed on public exhibition with the Long Term Financial Plan.

RISK MANAGEMENT

There are no material risks that arise from the recommendations contained in this report. Minor issues may occur, but these can be managed within Council's current policies, procedures, resources and budget.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The 2026/27 draft budget projects an operating surplus of $40.8 million after capital grants and contributions. When these are excluded, the underlying operating result is a surplus of $20.7 million. This result is in line with the preferred scenario which includes the SRV and is presented in this report. Council's total operational budget for existing services is $177 million, with an additional budget for the capital works program of $76 million.

The primary focus of the budget in addition to funding core services, is to continue to fund asset maintenance, depreciation, renewal and upgrades to Council's infrastructure assets, valued at $1.8 billion. Out of the $76 million capital budget, 49% is allocated to renewing existing assets, and 51% is directed toward upgrading or constructing new assets. In addition, $19.6 million is allocated to asset maintenance.

Despite these funding allocations, infrastructure asset indicators still fail to meet long-term benchmarks; the infrastructure backlog ratio is forecast to reach benchmark towards the end of the ten-year period; however, the asset maintenance ratio is forecast to decline further. A continuing challenge for Council is maintaining long term financial sustainability while funding the ongoing maintenance and renewal of its large portfolio of infrastructure assets.

Council's key infrastructure assets (buildings, footpaths, drains and other assets) built decades ago require increased investment to remain fit for purpose. There is now a greater focus on improving these and constructing new and upgraded facilities to meet the needs of a growing population, especially in response to government housing reforms. Managing these assets is a financial challenge for both current and future generations, as they have been insufficiently funded over their lifecycle.

The years ahead are an important implementation phase, as Council responds to population growth and state housing policy. Council will manage these changes by continuing to update plans and strategies in a way that addresses local requirements. In response to population growth and housing reform, Council will prioritise planning, infrastructure and community investment while managing financial capacity to ensure long term sustainability. While future budgets allow for some growth, the timing and scale of this growth remain uncertain, requiring a balanced approach to investing in ageing assets and new infrastructure.

To successfully deliver key projects and increase funding to renew aging infrastructure like buildings, footpaths, and drains, and build and upgrade new facilities additional rates revenue will be necessary. This requirement is modelled in the long-term financial plan under the Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario.

Some key issues in the 2026/27 budget are discussed below.

Funding our operations

Council's budget forecasts annual operating surpluses (including capital income) that contribute to capital works, however changes in the economic environment mean that Council's financial capacity in the coming years may decline and result in operating deficits without additional funding or adjustment to current operations and services. This is due to a range of factors, including:

- In the current ongoing economic uncertainty and increasing costs, Council is carefully monitoring the impact of higher fuel and related costs. Internal reserves may provide some short-term flexibility; however, further adjustments may be required in future budgets.

- Rates income remains insufficient to fully offset rising expenses. While IPART has set the 2026/27 rate peg at 4.4%, which is higher than general CPI assumptions reflected in the budget, it does not adequately cover increasing operational and labour costs in the current high-cost environment. Labour costs (projected to increase by 5.3%) are projected to grow faster than previously expected over the next decade due to award rate increases and performance related costs.

- Council continues to face other cost pressures, as many of Council's major expenses including utilities, insurance, technology fees, materials and major contractor services have increased by more than CPI.

- The annual depreciation expense (representing the loss of value of assets over time) continues to increase as the asset base increases and has a significant impact on Council's annual operating expenses. Over time with additional new assets and further increases in the value of existing assets this cost will increase.

These factors will continue to strain Council budgets in the future, requiring a review and adjustments to Council's funding strategy.

An overview of the budget in the revised Delivery Program and Operational Plan is provided below.

2026/27 Budget Summary

Operating Budget: The draft 2026/27 operational budget is set at $177 million, representing a 7% increase from the current year, primarily driven by changes in employee costs, materials and contracts and depreciation expense. These variations have been offset by a projected income budget of $217.7 million, mainly from additional rates and annual charges, user fees, interest revenue and capital grants and contributions.

The budget forecasts an operating surplus of $40.8 million, after capital grants and contributions. However, when these are excluded, the underlying operating result reflects a surplus of $20.6 million which is allocated to infrastructure renewal and enhancement.

The following table provides Council's income statement, including comments on major budget variations between the current original 2025/26 budget and projected 2026/27 budget including a special rate variation.

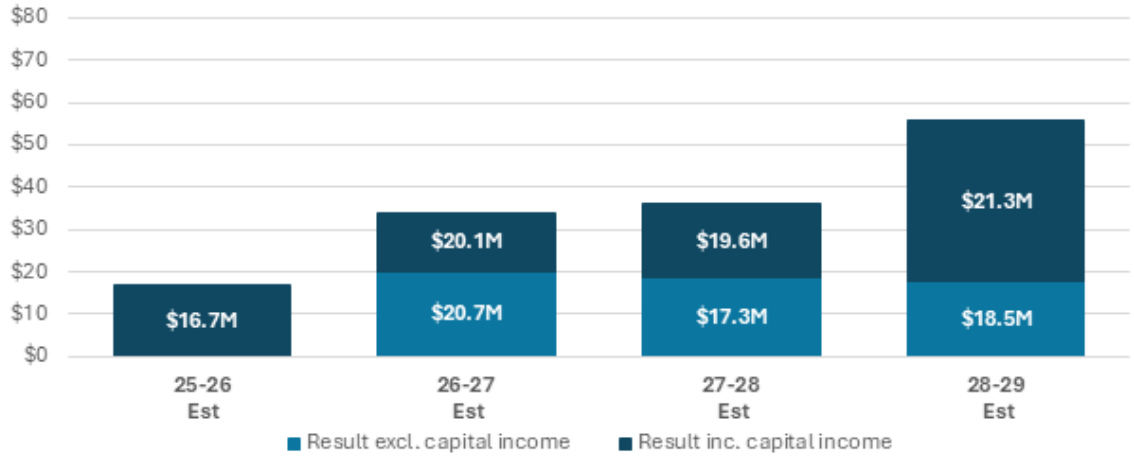


Diagram 1: Operating result including capital grants and contributions ($million)

The following table provides Council's income statement and comments on major budget variations between the projected 2026/27 budget and the original 2025/26 budget.

('$000)	Original Budget 2025/26	Projected Budget 2026/27	Variance ('$000)	Variance %	Comments
Income from Continuing Operations					
Rates	82,885	107,755	24,870	30%	Increase consistent with 29% special rate variation incl. rate peg and growth
Annual Charges (DWM)	27,178	28,175	997	4%	Partly increases in DWM charges 3.8% to align with increased costs
User Charges & Fees	23,956	27,254	3,298	14%	Mainly due to fee increases in line with CPI, plus additional income from DA fees, bus shelters and SIISC. Additional increases to halls, sportsfields and tennis for proposed AED implementation
Interest & Investment Income	8,204	9,289	1,085	13%	Larger investment portfolio and more competitive interest rates
Other Revenues	13,895	14,872	977	7%	3.9%increase, commercial leasing income
Grants & Contributions for Operating Purposes	9,188	10,215	1,027	11%	2.7% CPI, Early Careers Program
Grants & Contributions for Capital Purposes	16,594	20,123	3,529	21%	2.7% CPI, increase in projected grants and S7.11 contributions
Total Income from Operations	**181,900**	**217,683**	**35,783**	20%	
Expenses					
Employee Costs	54,159	58,556	4,397	8%	Employee costs 5.3%, Added resources in development assessment, - compliance and planning due to housing reforms, early careers program
Materials & Contracts	73,630	80,835	7,205	10%	Increase in DWM and infrastructure contractors, DA legal costs, SISSC, IT licences and leases
Interest Expense	1,139	915	- 224	-20%	Mainly due to decreased interest on loans
Depreciation	29,525	30,426	901	3%	Increased asset portfolio - Roads infrastructure and buildings
Operating Projects Expense	6,739	6,122	- 617	-9%	Rephasing of operating projects to future years
Total Expenses from Operations	**165,192**	**176,854**	**11,662**	7%	
Net Operating Result for the year	**16,708**	**40,829**	**24,121**		
Net Operating Result before Capital Income	**114**	**20,706**	**20,592**		

Capital Budget: In 2026/27 the allocated budget for the capital works program is $76 million (refer to diagram 5). A further $6.1 million is estimated for operational projects and is included in the operational budget.
The capital works program focuses on improving community facilities and infrastructure assets. The largest portion, $30.4 million (40%), will go towards roads rehabilitation, footpaths renewal, and traffic facilities. Parks, playgrounds, sports courts, sports fields, and open space assets will receive $16.6 million (22%), while $12 million (16%) is allocated for upgrading town centre streetscapes and public domain. Council buildings and amenities will receive $11.0 million (14%), and $2.7 million (4%) will be spent on stormwater assets. The remaining budget will support natural environment, planning and community projects.

The capital works program is mainly funded from general revenue from rates (through internal reserves) (65%), development contributions (27%), and grant income (8%).

Details of the capital works program for 2026/27 to 2028/29 can be found in the revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-20273

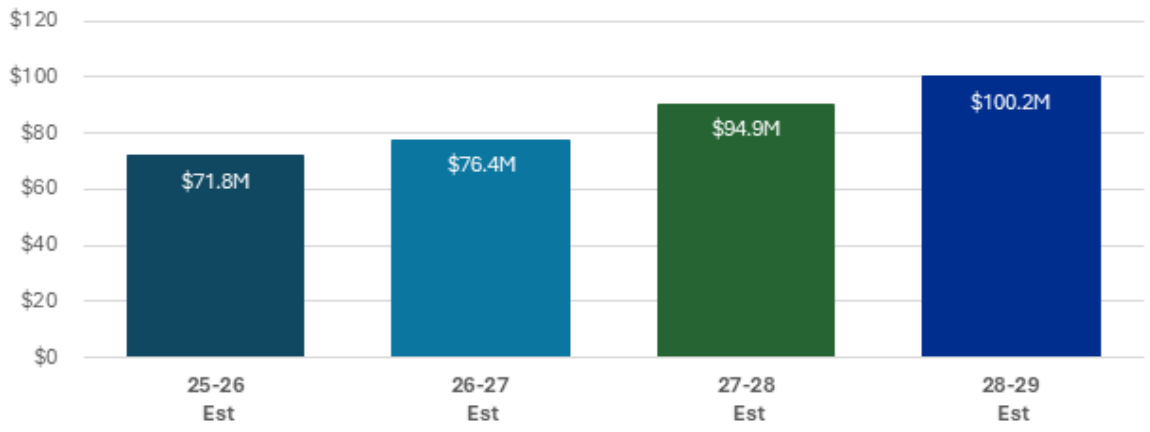


Diagram 2: Capital works ($million)

Liquidity position: Council's Long Term Financial Plan and budget ensures that Council maintains sufficient liquidity and has the ability to meet short term obligations for the unrestricted activities of Council. This is demonstrated by the 'unrestricted current ratio' (UCR). The UCR is specific to local government and measures the difference between Council's unrestricted short term assets and short term debts. The industry benchmark of greater than 1.5:1 is considered to be 'satisfactory' and greater than 2:1 to be 'good'.

Council's budget maintains a 'good' unrestricted current ratio of 2.2:1 on average which is favourable compared to the benchmark of 2:1. This is an indication that Council will be able to maintain adequate cash levels to meet current liabilities (see diagram 3).

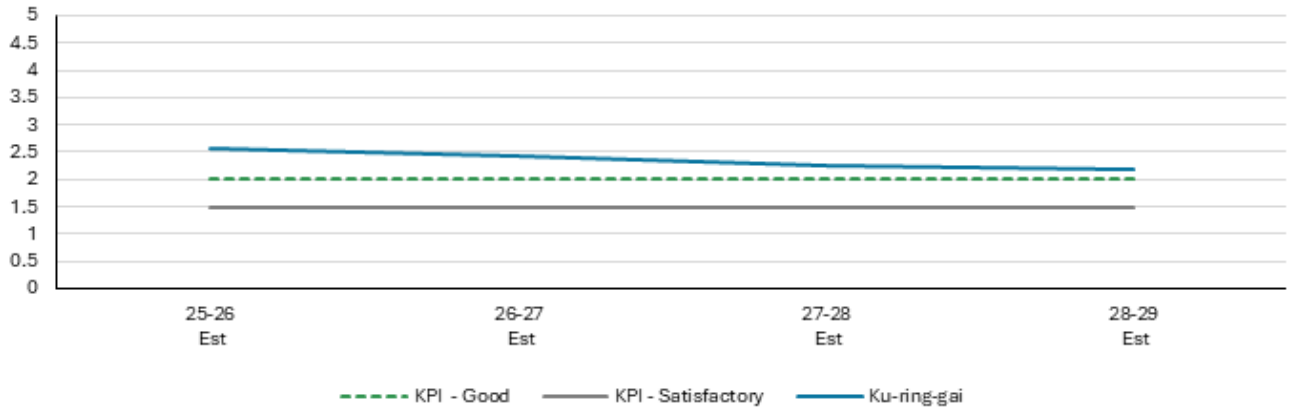


Diagram 3: Unrestricted current ratio

Debt management: Council's budget provides for loan capital repayments (interest and principal) of $4.2 million in 2026/27 and $4.1 million in 2028/29 reducing the outstanding debt to $10.6 million by the end of 2028/29. This will include the remaining loans of $5.7 million for the acquisition of Council's investment property at 828 Pacific Highway, Gordon and $4.7 million to fund a component of the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre.

Council has sufficient cash to discharge loan repayments as they fall due and is actively monitoring its debt portfolio. Debt management is discussed in more detail in Council's Long Term Financial Plan. Diagram 4 shows outstanding loan balances from 2025/26 – 2028/29.

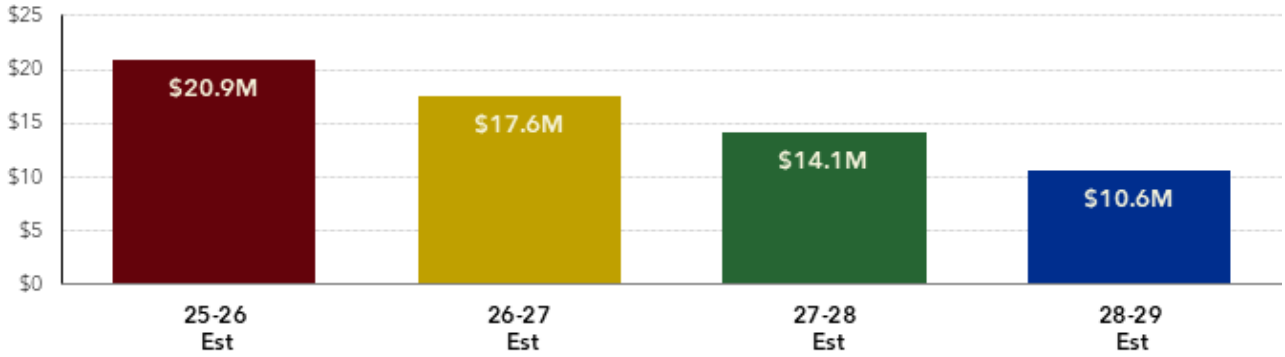


Diagram 4: Loan balance ($million)

Development Contributions (S7.11): Council collects s7.11 contributions from developers to help pay for new infrastructure and facilities for the growing population of the area. Some of the works to be undertaken in the Development Contributions Plan cater for the existing population and these works require a co-contribution from Council's general funds. A total of $18 million projects funded from s7.11 and grants and contributions will be delivered in 2026/27. Funding by specific project is detailed in the capital works program later in this report.

The funding allocated to works programmed to be undertaken over the next three years are shown in Diagram 5.

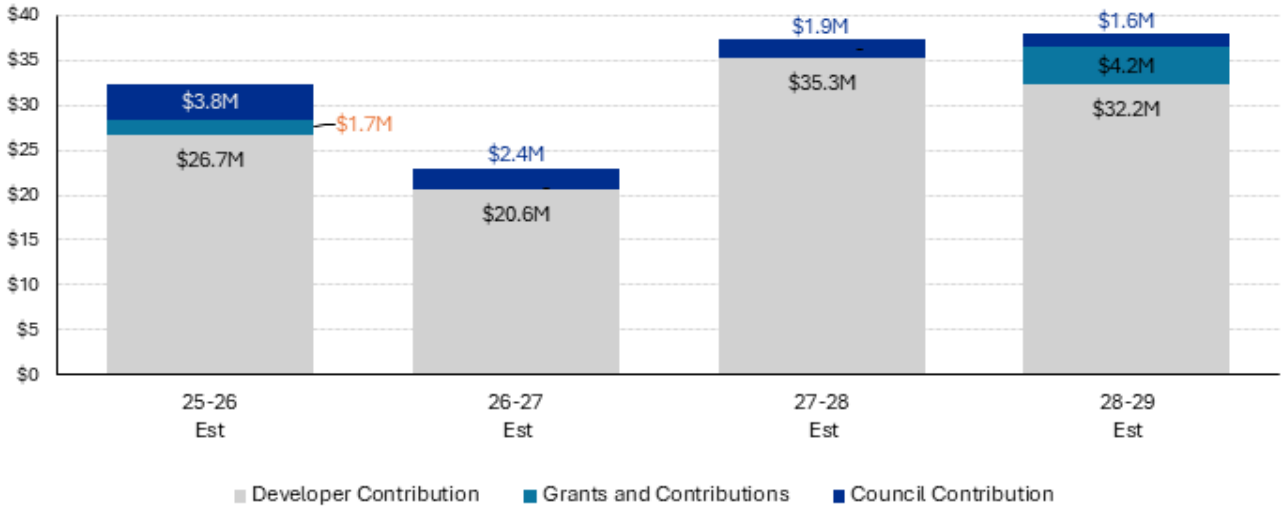


Diagram 5: s7.11 works program ($million)

Rates and Rates Structure: Council's total rates income is 'pegged' by the State Government and approval must be obtained for increases above this amount (known as Special Rates Variations). The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) announced the 2026/27 rate peg as 4.4%. The peg is still insufficient to cover increased operational and labour costs in the current environment of high inflation and rising costs. Council has successfully applied for a Special Rates Variation for a total rate increase of 29% to meet community needs and infrastructure renewal that will take effect for the rating year 2026/27.

In the 2026/27 budget the projected rates income is $87.5 million with the 4.4% peg or $108.1 million with the permanent SRV. This amount includes the permanent existing Special Rate Variations for Infrastructure/Roads ($4.7 million) and the Environmental Levies ($4.9 million) respectively.

The proposed rates restructure for 2026/27 is outlined below. The proposed rates structure includes the proposed SRV of 24.4% and the rate peg of 4.4%, totalling 29%.

Rates structure including rate pegging and Special Rate Variation increase of 29%

Type	Category	Rate in $	Min/base amount ($)	% of Revenue from Base for each rate	Yield $
Ordinary	Residential	0.00056195	698		50,625,980
Ordinary	Business	0.00408210	698		7,479,034
Special	Infrastructure - Primary Rate	0.0002855			20,205,494
Special	Infrastructure - Primary Rate		434	49.96%	20,172,754
Special	Infrastructure - Special Rate Variation	0.00003532			2,871,162
Special	Infrastructure - Special Rate Variation		40	39.30%	1,859,240
Special	Environmental - Special Rate Variation	0.00006069			4,933,645
Total					$108,147,309

Funding Statement: A summary of Council's Funding Statement for the next years is provided below. Following IPART's approval, a special rate variation (SRV) is proposed to commence in 2026/27 and has been included in the projected operating income from that year onward. The SRV funds will be allocated specifically to infrastructure assets.

The funding statement outlines the capital movements, the funding of the capital works program, and a stable forecast for working capital changes.

Funding Statement with SRV($000's)	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
Operating Revenue	181,900	217,683	224,412	233,757
Operating Expense	165,192	176,854	187,450	193,982
Net Operating Result for the Year (after Capital Grants & Contributions)	16,708	40,829	36,962	39,775
Net Operating Result for the Year (before Capital Grants & Contributions)	114	20,706	17,313	18,464
Operating Surplus (after Capital Grants & Contributions)	16,708	40,829	36,962	39,775
Plus: Depreciation & Amortisation	29,525	30,426	32,124	33,487
Plus: Book Value of Assets sold & Other Non-cash items	-	-	133	72
Plus/Less Net Loan borrowing	-3,338	-3,397	-3,460	-3,525
Plus/Less Net Transfers from Reserves	29,023	8,690	29,233	30,497
Capital Works	-71,818	-76,448	-94,892	-100,206
Net Change in Working Capital	100	100	100	100

Changes made to the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027 post exhibition:

- **Capital Works**. The funding statement and budget statements for 2026/27 financial year and onwards have been updated to reflect Councils resolution of the Ordinary Meeting of

Council 19 May 2026 (GB.13) to bring forward the allocated budget of $4.4m for Norman Griffith Oval Upgrade from 2026/27 to 2025/26. This change mainly results in a reduction of capital works in 2026/27 and some minor adjustment to interest earned on investments. The change reduces the Summary of Capital Works Program and Operational Projects 2026/27 as well as Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2026/2027 outlined in the Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027.

- Rates structure table have been updated to reflect rating data as of May 2026.

Fees and charges schedule for 2026-27

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs)

In March 2026, Council resolved to include an increase to relevant fees in the draft 2026/27 Fees and Charges for exhibition, to offset the annualised whole of life cost of installing, maintaining and monitoring AEDs, phased in over two financial years commencing in 2026/27.

Following exhibition, a revised AED placement program is proposed. As a result, amendments to the Fees and Charges schedule are required. These amendments are considered in a separate report to Council at the same meeting.

Updates to the Long-Term Financial Plan post exhibition

The LTFP covers the financial years 2026/27 to 2035/36. It recognises Council's current and future financial capacity to continue delivering services, facilities and infrastructure to the community to achieve the goals set down in its Community Strategic Plan. The LTFP notes that Council's financial position, and its current infrastructure backlog, will worsen without additional sources of funding. It also notes that Council is currently running an efficient operation, with a population to staffing level which is the second lowest in Sydney.

- Base case – NSW Government rate peg only (4.4%)
- Renew and Enhance Infrastructure (24.6% SRV above peg)

These scenarios will continue to be reflected in the LTFP under the Scenario planning section until next year's review as part of the 2027/28 budgeting cycle.

The Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario has been updated to incorporate the confirmed 2026/27 rate peg and is Council's preferred scenario as it will provide major infrastructure improvements, namely extensive renewal and upgrade work to existing stormwater and drainage, community building, recreational facility and footpath infrastructure, and build new footpaths and traffic and transport related infrastructure.

Some minor changes have been reflected because of bringing forward the allocated budget of $4.4m for Norman Griffith Oval Upgrade from 2026/27 to 2025/26 as per May 2026 Council resolution. This change mainly results in a reduction of capital works in 2026/27 as mentioned earlier in the report.

No other material changes are noted.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Preparation of the revised Resourcing Strategy, revised Delivery Program and Operational Plan was informed by a review of social and economic changes, including effects of the NSW government's housing and affordability policy initiatives, anticipated population growth and future service and asset management demands.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Preparation of the revised Resourcing Strategy, revised Delivery Program and Operational Plan was informed by a review of urban planning, environmental and sustainability changes and challenges, including the effects of Councils' alternative TOD plans and proposed NSW government's policy changes relating to planning for the Sydney Metropolitan area, employment lands and Council's local strategic planning strategy.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The draft revised Resourcing Strategy (including LTFP, AMS and WMS), revised Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan, including Fees and Charges, were exhibited for community input for 28 days, between 29 April and 26 May 2026.

Consultation on AED program

Details of communications and submissions related directly to the AED program are included in a separate report to this meeting.

Consultation on Resourcing Strategy, Delivery Program and Operational Plan

It is the responsibility of Council to consider all submissions made during the exhibition period, prior to adopting the plans and strategies.

Communications for the exhibition of the plans generally included the following:

Communications	Details
Council website and engagement portal	Exhibition advertised with draft documents on website and engagement portal 29 April – 26 May 2026 (28 days): DPOP webpage - 274 page views Engagement Hub: • 541 page views on portal • 778 unique visitors to portal • 27 document downloads Draft Documents included translated assistance information (6 languages).
Draft hard copy documents and flyers	Draft documents available at four Council libraries and customer service centre
Newspaper advertisement	North Shore Times ¼ page – 21 May 2026
Media release– inviting public comments on draft plans	7 May 2026
News item on Council website – inviting public comments on draft plans	8 May 2026

Your Say e-news notification	Sent to approx. 1600 subscribers on 30 April 2026
Social media posts	Facebook - 15 May 2026 (3202 reach) – 79 engagement, 74 clicks

A full copy of all submissions will be distributed separately to Councillors. The key issues in the non-AED submissions have been summarised in the table below. The summary includes responses and recommendations, with no changes proposed to the exhibited plans.

Submission/s	Issues raised
President Gordon Cricket Club	Objects to the proposed additional fees to fund Council's program for community access to AED's on the basis that: • the fees are excessive and place an additional financial burden on the club on top of hiring fees for turf cricket ovals and a separate lease change to use the Killara Pavilion • Gordon Cricket Club has already provided a defibrillator inside Killara Oval Pavilion • seeks removal of the separate lease charge for use of the Pavilion and its inclusion in the ground hire • queries the proposed imposition of additional fees on the club when the condition of Killara Oval is considered to be poor.
Response <u>Proposed fees to fund the AED rollout</u> The issues raised in relation to the costs of the AED rollout and proposed fees to be applied to the club are addressed in the separate report *Community Access to Automated* External *Defibrillators (AEDs) across Council Facilities* in this Business Paper. <u>Lease arrangement and charge for use of the Killara Pavilion</u> Council's Management of Community and Recreation Land and Facilities Policy mandates that a licence agreement is required where there is use and occupation of the premises (Killara Pavilion) separate to fees for booking sporting fields. Council officers have previously discussed a number of options for the club in relation to its use of the pavilion premises, including a new licence at reduced rates or a casual hire arrangement. The club has also previously been informed that its existing licence agreement permits usage by the club during their set usage times, and at all other times the premises is available for use by other users. <u>Condition of Killara Oval</u> Council undertakes an annual sportsfield renovation program that includes aeration, selective topdressing, weed control, fertiliser application and turf replacement as required. In addition to these scheduled works, additional drainage works have been undertaken in 2026 to address drainage issues at the main entrance to the ground from the pavilion. Council will continue to work with users on other reactive issues that come up and these are addressed on a priority basis. **Recommendation** Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the club to be advised in terms of the response above, relating to the licence agreement for Killara Pavilion and condition of Killara Oval.	
Resident –Pymble	Strongly objects to Council's proposal to increase rates by 29% in the exhibited Long Term Financial Plan for the following reasons:

	• Disagrees with the assertion that ratepayers / residents are supportive for the rate increase, on the basis that stating that 45% are 'at least somewhat supportive' does not indicate support • Ku-ring-gai Council is not considered to be fiscally responsible, based on unnecessary services and expenditure reported in the media • Advises Council to focus on maintenance of existing footpaths and fixing roads, not building new ones and undertaking excessive capital works • Raises concerns that developers should be paying for the infrastructure requirements generated by new developments, not residents and ratepayers. • Disagrees that Ku-ring-gai residents should pay for the rate increase because they are assessed as being able to pay

Response

Council's decision to proceed with the rate increase

Council undertook a comprehensive engagement process for rate rise options that was multi-staged, and robust, ensuring that the decision on the proposed 29% rate increase was well-informed by diverse community views.

The results of community engagement from the first phase (July-September 2025) were considered by Council in the Community Engagement Outcomes Report in October 2025. This was published on Council's YourSay page and was publicly available before Council's October meeting. Council's decision-making was informed by a statistically valid representative survey. This demonstrated that a majority of residents (over 60%) preferred a Special Rate Variation (SRV) option over a 'No SRV' scenario, which would have resulted in cuts to local services and worsening infrastructure.

Council's decision to proceed with the 29% rate increase (an amended Option 3) at its December meeting, balanced the community's desire for infrastructure renewal (as shown by majority support for an SRV option) with the need for a significant, long-lasting financial solution. While representative survey results showed that Option 2 (22% increase) was the most preferred SRV option, the 29% increase was ultimately selected because it represented an optimal balance of financial necessity and community benefit, as well as:

- aligning with the Community Strategic Plan to make Ku-ring-gai a better place to live by providing infrastructure that is more accessible, connected, modern, safe and enjoyable
- delivering a noticeable and significant improvement in the quality of Council's infrastructure, specifically targeting high-priority, low-satisfaction areas like footpaths and traffic and transport-related infrastructure
- reducing the infrastructure backlog by 39% over the next 10 years, ensuring assets are renewed faster than they are depreciating
- providing the necessary funding for the construction loan of the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre
- preventing future generations from being burdened with the increased costs of deteriorating infrastructure and temporary repairs.
- Council has a long-standing, disciplined approach to managing costs supported by a Service Improvement Review Program and other efforts to streamline business processes and reduce waste.

Funding Infrastructure

Council's current infrastructure backlog is primarily due to historical funding challenges. The backlog has developed over decades of structural financial shortfalls. Rate revenue, limited by the annual rate peg, has been consistently lower than the actual cost of renewing depreciating assets.

A key priority for Council continues to be maintaining existing core infrastructure. The majority of funds sought under Council's SRV application are tied to improving existing infrastructure, including deteriorating local footpaths.

Council has consistently endorsed the view that existing ratepayers should not bear all the financial burden of infrastructure required to support new housing developments. Under NSW planning legislation, Council utilises developer contribution frameworks (Section 7.11 and 7.12 plans) to ensure developers help fund the infrastructure generated by their projects.

Council has estimated a significant mismatch between future required infrastructure funding and planned housing capacity under the Ku-ring-gai TOD areas. At its meeting of 28 April 2026 Council resolved to request the DPHI to include Ku-ring-gai's TOD areas in the NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development Community Infrastructure Program, which is investing up to $520 million in community infrastructure (including road upgrades, transport links and high-quality public open spaces.)

Capacity to pay

While an independent financial assessment supported general capacity to pay the proposed increase in rates, Council has previously recognised that this does not reflect the individual financial hardships of every household. To protect vulnerable community members, Council has a policy that provides relief and assistance options for residents experiencing genuine financial hardship.

Recommendation

Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the resident to be advised in terms of the response above.

Resident – Ku-ring-gai	Raises concerns that: • active transport access along the strategically important Comenarra Parkway is fragmented and unsafe in many sections despite the corridor connecting significant residential areas, the SAN precinct, Thornleigh train station and shopping centre and Lane Cove National Park recreational destinations across council boundaries. • the latest SAN precinct plans propose further density increases, road junction reconfiguration and transport changes • now is the appropriate time to also plan and deliver integrated active transport infrastructure as part of those works and avoid costly and complex retrofitting connections in the future Seeks council support to: • formally support investigation of a shared walking and cycling path along Comenarra Parkway from Fox Valley Road to Pennant Hills Road. • work collaboratively with Hornsby Shire Council on future corridor planning • advocate to the NSW Government through submissions and engagement relating to SAN precinct development and associated transport planning • investigate opportunities for an initial feasibility or corridor study to help make the project grant-ready for future state or federal funding opportunities • early strategic and support and planning would ensure opportunities are not lost as surrounding development and infrastructure development proceeds

Response

As part of Council's submission to the Secretary's Environmental Assessment Requirements (SEARs) for the Wahroonga Estate Central Masterplan, additional documents and details were requested to be

submitted with any future Environmental Impact Statement for State Significant Development Application 111445995. Specifically, the following assessment requirements in relation to active and public transport were articulated:

The Sustainable Transport Initiative (**Appendix J**) that underpinned the Wahroonga Estate Concept Plan approval identified a suite of site opportunities, which have been largely sidelined or watered down over the delivery of various elements of the Concept Plan. This should be a starting point for sustainable and active transport provision.

Provision for active transport should be made on Fox Valley Road and The Comenarra Parkway frontages.
Provision of active transport infrastructure through the site should be made accessible to the public, with connections to The Comenarra Parkway (towards Thornleigh) and Fox Valley Road (towards Warrawee/Turramurra/Wahroonga).

Upgrade of existing 573 and 589 bus services to provide All Day Frequent Network (ADFN)-style service.

Council will work with Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Hornsby Shire Council and the Wahroonga Estate to ensure active and public transport opportunities are thoroughly explored, and suitable provision made for active transport infrastructure.

Recommendation

Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the resident to be advised in terms of the response above.

Resident - Ku-ring-gai	Requests information on Council's planning for the Turramurra Community Hub including information on development applications, approvals and timelines.

Response

Council continues to work with the major private land owner (Coles) on the site to progress towards the first stage of development. As endorsed by Council in April 2026, the Turramurra Community Hub project will be integrated into a placed-based strategic land-use planning framework for employment zoned land in Turramurra and St Ives (as a Stage 1 Primary Centre) within a Town Centre Revitalisation Program for Ku-ring-gai. Under the program, the formal strategic planning framework and community master planning phase is expected to commence in 2027/28.

There is existing development interest in the Turramurra town centre, including a private planning proposal for the Turramurra Plaza site (Pacific Highway and Kissing Point Road) and the Coles site on Ray Street.

It is anticipated that the Coles planning proposal will include the balance of Council landholdings in the Ray Street Precinct to ensure that development of those Council lands is not compromised by development of the Coles landholdings.

Recommendation

Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the resident to be advised in terms of the response above.

Resident – South Turramurra	Seeks information on Council's plans for the upgrade of Saddington Street, South Turramurra

Response

The project is currently planned to progress to detailed design in FY2026/27, with construction scheduled for FY2027/28. Due to competing priorities and the need to allocate resources to higher priority projects, the timing of this project has been adjusted. Council will continue to progress the design and planning to ensure the project is delivered in line with the FY2027/28. Works will be undertaken under the roads rehabilitation program and are listed in Council's Roads and Transport Asset Management Plan.

Recommendation

Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the resident to be advised in terms of the response above.

Four separate resident submissions –South Turramurra	Residents thank Council for its continued commitment to the Road Rehabilitation Program 2026/2027 particularly for Vernon Street, South Turramurra to complete the project from Chisolm Street to the cul-de-sac.

Response

The resident comments are noted.

Recommendation

Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the residents to be thanked for their feedback to Council's plans.

Resident – Lindfield	• Supports proposed new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue, Lindfield on the basis that it will provide safe access for pedestrians seeking to cross the highway • Supports progression of the Lindfield Village Hub project which has been in the planning stages for a long time • Raises concerns that the LVH will be delayed further • Raises concerns that the planned upgrade to Ibbitson Park, Lindfield is unnecessary and will not be used by community members

Response

<u>Proposed traffic signals and pedestrian crossing facilities - intersection of Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue, Lindfield</u>

The resident comments are noted.

<u>Lindfield Village Hub project</u>

In April 2026 Council endorsed a new planning framework to guide future development, infrastructure delivery and landuse outcomes across all town centres in the local government area.

The report noted that The Lindfield Hub site, located at the Woodford Lane car park, was planned to include a new library and community centre, park and plaza, underground parking, shops and housing. Council had negotiated an agreement for delivery of the development with a preferred proponent when in November 2023 funding of $9.8m for a commuter car park was withdrawn by Transport for NSW. As a result, the development did not proceed.

The April report noted that, as a result of amendments to Ku-ring-gai LEP 2015 in 2025, the planning controls for floor space and height on the Lindfield Hub site have been increased and this provides an opportunity for Council to revisit delivery of the project.

Feasibility and strategic options to progress the project have since been considered and will be the subject of a further report to Council.

Ibbitson Park upgrade, Wolesley Road, Lindfield

Ibbitson Park is one of the parks identified in the Lindfield Town Centre Public Domain Plan. The upgrade incorporates the existing closure of one end of Wolseley Road, Lindfield. The proposed park upgrade is to elevate the park to an urban park level befitting the Lindfield town centre character and support the increase in housing density and population planned in the vicinity through Transport Oriented Development. The upgrade will include additional amenities such as seating, bubblers, bins, picnic facilities, an improved play space and a bike track. The existing road closure will increase opportunities for passive recreation and improve pedestrian amenity.

Recommendation

Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the resident to be advised in terms of the response above.

Resident – Lindfield	Supports proposed new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue, Lindfield on the basis that it will provide safe access for pedestrians seeking to cross the highway Supports progression of the Lindfield Village Hub project which has been in the planning stages for a long time

Response

Proposed traffic signals and pedestrian crossing facilities – intersection of Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue, Lindfield

The resident comments are noted.

Lindfield Village Hub project

In April 2026 Council endorsed a new planning framework to guide future development, infrastructure delivery and landuse outcomes across all town centres in the local government area.

The report noted that The Lindfield Hub site, located at the Woodford Lane car park, was planned to include a new library and community centre, park and plaza, underground parking, shops and housing. Council had negotiated an agreement for delivery of the development with a preferred proponent when in November 2023 funding of $9.8m for a commuter car park was withdrawn by Transport for NSW. As a result, the development did not proceed.

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Feasibility and strategic options to progress the project have since been considered and will be the subject of a further report to Council.

Recommendation

Subject to Council's decision on the recommendations for this report, the resident to be advised in terms of the response above.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

A briefing and workshops were held with councillors and the organisation as part of the review, preparation and consultation phases for the plans and strategies. This included:

- Advice on budget parameters for 2026-2027 as well as challenges and opportunities affecting the financial, asset and workforce sustainability of Council and its ability to respond to identified long term priorities.
- Consultation across the entire organisation in reviewing the current plans and proposed projects, programs and services for 2026/27
- Consultation with Councillors and senior management at a briefing session in May to review Council's priorities and the proposed program of works and services.

As a result of internal consultation the wording of Action U3.1.3 (Page 34 - Outcome 2 – Delivery Program and Operational Plan) has been modified to more clearly reflect the first phase of concept planning for specified streetscape improvements to be completed in 2026/27. Detailed plan preparation and construction will be undertaken in subsequent years.

U3.1.3 – Prepare strategic brief and initial concept design for streetscape improvements for St Ives, Roseville and Turramurra local centres. (Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning)

Monitoring and reporting on performance

Under the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, councils are required to monitor and report on their progress in achieving the objectives, strategies and term achievements outlined in their Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plan. This ensures transparency, accountability and continuous improvement in local government service delivery.

Progress is principally measured each quarter through reviews of one year actions and four year term achievements, representing capital/operational projects, programs and service delivery. Progress against delivery timeframes or milestones can be flagged as on-track, off-track or completed.

To complement this reporting, the Delivery Program also include a series of performance indicators that provide further insights into how outcomes are being delivered to the community.

SUMMARY

At its meeting of 28 April 2026, Council considered a report on the draft revised Resourcing Strategy, revised Delivery Program and draft Operational Plan. Council resolved that the draft plans, subject to adopted changes and minor corrections, be placed on public exhibition for a minimum of 28 days. The draft plans and strategy were exhibited for a period of 28 days from 29 April to 26 May 2026. Council's Fees and Charges were exhibited in a separate document.

On 2 June 2026, IPART released its decision to approve Council's Special Rate Variation (SRV) application.

The recommendation below is subject to any amendments to the exhibited project costs and Fees and Charges for the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program being considered separately at this meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council adopt the revised Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036, revised Delivery Program 2025-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027, incorporating the Budget, Capital Works Program,

Statement of Revenue Policy and Fees and Charges for 2026-2027, incorporating a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 24.6% to begin from 1 July 2026 which, when combined with the confirmed 4.4% rate peg, will result in a 29% rate revenue increase in 2026/27.

Helen Lowndes
Integrated Planning Coordinator

Mette Kofoed
A/Manager Finance

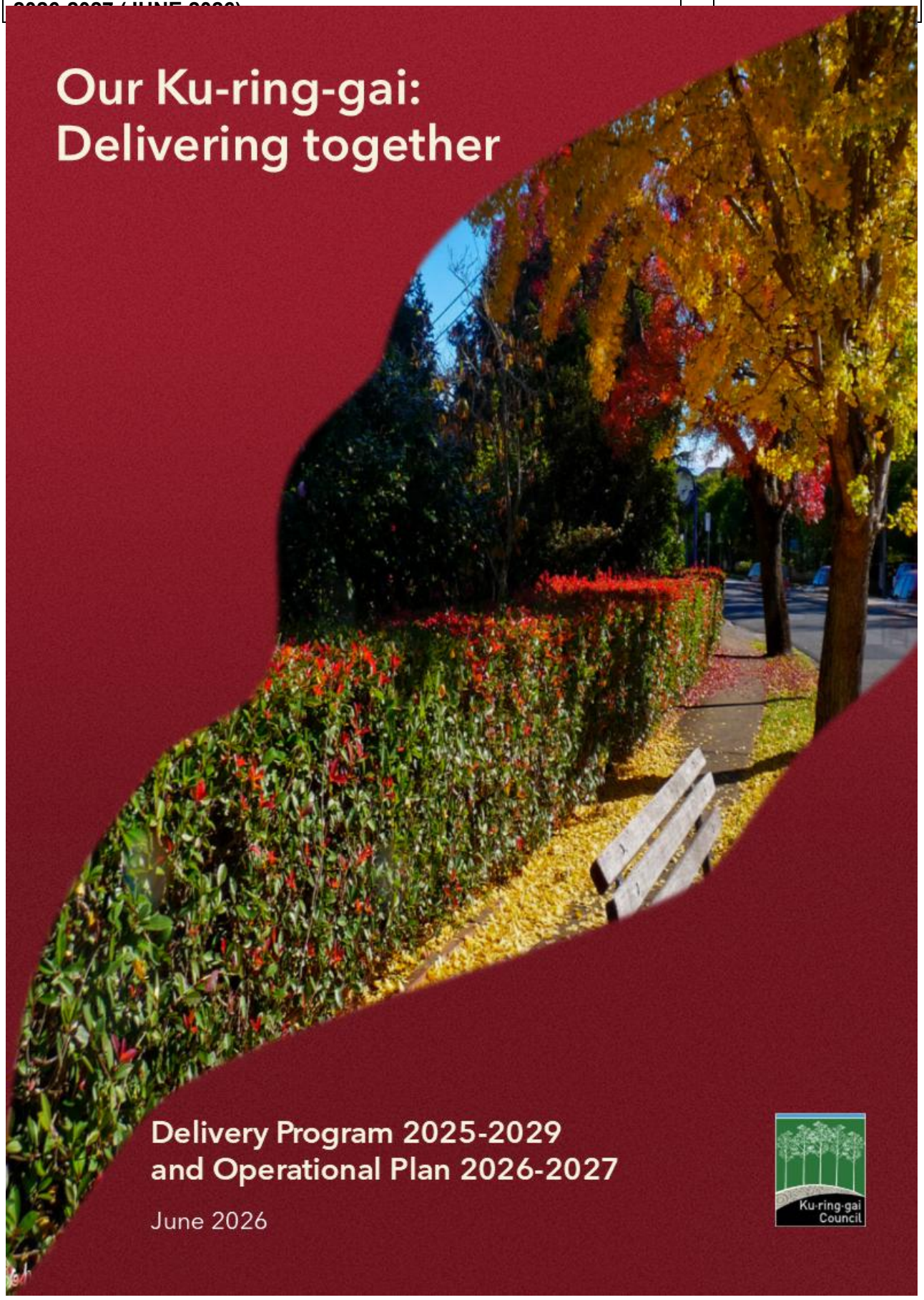
Cindy Venables
Corporate Planner

Christopher M Jones
Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy

Angela Apostol
Director Corporate

Attachments:

A1⇩	Post-exhibition Delivery Program 2026-2029 and Operational Plan 2026-2027 (June 2026)	2026/165975
A2⇩	Post-exhibition Fees and Charges 2026-2027	2026/166296
A3⇩	Post-exhibition Long Term Financial Plan 2026-2036 (June 2026)	2026/165965
A4⇩	Post-exhibition Asset Management Strategy 2026-2036 (June 2026)	2026/165944
A5⇩	Post-exhibition Workforce Management Strategy 2026-2030 (June 2026)	2026/165940
A6⇩	Post-exhibition Asset Management Policy v6 (June 2026)	2026/165971


Our Ku-ring-gai:
Delivering together
Delivery Program 2025-2029
and Operational Plan 2026-2027
June 2026
Ku-ring-gai Council

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Simplified Chinese

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本文件包含重要信息。如果您不理解本文件，请致电翻译口译服务 131 450。 让其代表您致电 9424 0000 联系Ku-ring-gai议会。营业时间：周一至周五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Traditional Chinese

需要幫助嗎？

本檔包含重要資訊。如果您不理解本檔，請致電翻譯口譯服務 131 450。 讓其代表您致電 9424 0000 聯繫Ku-ring-gai議會。營業時間：週一至週五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Korean

도움이 필요하십니까?

이 문서에는 중요한 정보가 담겨 있습니다. 여러분이 이해할 수 없다면, TIS (번역 및 통역 서비스)의 131 450번으로 전화하십시오. 9424 0000번으로 여러분을 대신하여 전화해서 쿠링가이 카운슬을 연락해 달라고 요청하십시오. 영업 시간: 월요일–금요일, 오전 8시30분–오후 5시.

Persian

آیا به کمک نیاز دارید؟

این مدرک حاوی اطلاعات مهمی است. اگر آنها را نمی فهمید، خواهش می کنیم به خدمات ترجمه نوشتاری و گفتاری (Translating and Interpreting Service) به شماره ۱۳۱ ۴۵۰ تلفن کنید و از آن سرویس بخواهید از جانب شما با شهرداری کورینگای (Ku-ring-gai Council) در ساعات کاری، دوشنبه تا جمعه از ساعت ۸:۳۰ صبح تا ساعت ۵:۰۰ بعد از ظهر با شماره تلفن ۰۲ ۹۴۲۴ ۰۰۰۰ تماس بگیرند.

Japanese

ご質問がありますか？

当文書には重要な情報が記載されています。もし何か不明な点があれば、月曜から金曜の午前8:30から午後5:00までの受付時間内に、まず131 450の通訳翻訳サービスにお電話いただき、通訳を介してKu-ring-gai Councilのサービス担当（電話:02 9424 0000）までお問合せください

Hindi

सहायता चाहिए?

इस दस्तावेज़ में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है। यदि यह आपको समझ नहीं आती, तो कृपया अनुवाद और दुभाषिया सेवा को 131 450 पर कॉल करें, और इस सेवा को आपकी ओर से फ़ोन: 02 9424 0000 पर व्यावसायिक घंटों के दौरान, सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 8.30 से शाम 5.00 बजे तक कू-रिंग-गई काउन्सिल से संपर्क करने के लिए अनुरोध करें।

These languages were chosen as they are the most widely spoken by Ku-ring-gai residents indicated by ABS Census data.

Need assistance with hearing or speaking?

Contact Ku-ring-gai Council using the 24-hour **National Relay Service:**

TTY users: Call 133 677 then dial 02 9424 0000.

Voice Relay users: Call 1300 555 727 then ask for 02 9424 0000.

NRS Chat: Go to https://www.accesshub.gov.au/services/nrs-chat and enter 02 9424 0000.

For all other assistance options see www.accesshub.gov.au

Need help to access Council's building?

Disability parking and access are available via a ramp and lift, off Radford Place at the rear of Council's building, at 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon, NSW 2072.

Call 02 9424 0000 Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm if you need further assistance.

KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL

818 Pacific Highway, Gordon, NSW 2072

P 02 9424 0000 | **E** krg@krg.nsw.gov.au
W krg.nsw.gov.au

Cover image: Pacific Highway, Killara - Colourful Autumn. Photographer: A. Chordia

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About this program

Ku-ring-gai Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan has been developed in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the NSW Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework.

The Delivery Program describes how Council will use its resources in support of the Community Strategic Plan (CSP), and what the elected Council intends to achieve during its four-year term of office.

The annual Operational Plan details the services, key actions, projects and programs to be undertaken during the financial year along with a budget showing how Council will fund the plan. It also includes a Statement of Revenue Policy, a list of planned operational and capital projects and a rates map. The Operational Plan details what Council will do in support of the term achievements in the Delivery Program.

To support clarity and accessibility, the Delivery Program and Operational Plan are presented in a single document in three sections:

- **Introduction** - This section provides background information on the Ku-ring-gai community, Councillors, the organisation and reporting requirements.
- **The Plan** - This section outlines the term achievements that Council aims to deliver in support of the CSP, the services, key actions, projects and programs that Council will undertake during the coming year and performance indicators.
- **Finance** - This section contains Council's 2026/27 budget, Statement of Revenue Policy, capital works program and operational projects, and funding allocations from the infrastructure special rate variation, road rehabilitation program and new footpath program.

A map showing Council's ordinary and special rates 2026/27 is included in the appendices.

Council's annual fees and charges are published separately.

Council's strategic plans are available on Council's website, Council libraries and Council's Customer Service Centre in Gordon.

Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners
Ku-ring-gai Council recognises the traditional custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging.

Photography
Photographs featured in this plan include entrants in various Ku-ring-gai Council photography competitions, and contributions from members of the community and staff. Thank you to all the talented photographers featured.

Mayor's message

It is with great pleasure that I present this update on the Ku-ring-gai Council Delivery Program for 2025 – 2029. The program represents our commitment to the priorities and aspirations of the Ku-ring-gai community over this four-year period.



The Delivery Program has been developed through workshops, surveys and engagement on vital issues such as housing, so we refine our understanding of what matters to our community.

Protecting the natural environment and Ku-ring-gai's character remain priorities, and we understand your concerns about increasing population growth and housing density.

We are also sensitive to the role that all councils need to play in delivering new housing for our growing population and making it more affordable.

This Delivery Program aims to chart a balanced path forward. We are implementing strategies to reduce the impacts of development through local planning controls, while ensuring that development is supported by necessary infrastructure upgrades.

Community engagement and transparency remain at the heart of our work, so that the community understands exactly how Council makes decisions and what constraints can influence decision-making.

Our priorities for the remainder of this term include the following:

Undertaking the planning work required to respond to the NSW Government's housing policies, including implementing Council's alternative to the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) plans and low-to-medium density changes, while continuing to lobby for a measured approach that ensures infrastructure keeps pace with growth.

Revitalising our town centres offering residents diverse opportunities for entertainment, social interaction and culture.

Protecting our tree canopy by encouraging environmentally responsible development, educating property owners and working with community groups on tree protection and planting programs.

Continuing to work with partners on services that meet the needs of young people, older residents, and vulnerable members of our community.

Continuing to provide recreation facilities and modernising existing community buildings.

Improving our roads and footpaths and working with the NSW Government on public transport solutions and improvements to the Pacific Highway and key intersections.

This year, our focus is on protecting the unique character of Ku-ring-gai through active participation. This includes a new Volunteer Treecare Program and Iconic Tree Register to empower residents to help protect our green canopy. Council is also delivering on its commitment to social cohesion through a new Multicultural Inclusion Plan, expanding our youth outreach through the Gordon and St Ives Youth Hubs and the range of events and festivals we deliver and support.

A critical focus for us is Council's long-term financial sustainability. Like all NSW councils, we face increasing pressures due to rising costs, the need to maintain essential services and limitations on our revenue streams.

Decades of under-investment have created a significant infrastructure gap. Too many of our community buildings, sport and recreational facilities and other essential infrastructure are starting to fall into disrepair.

Following extensive community engagement, Council successfully applied to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) for a Special Rate Variation (SRV). This will provide much needed funding for our critical infrastructure.

The Delivery Program reflects my dedication to listening, acting and working in partnership with you to build a new future for Ku-ring-gai.

We are committed to balancing the challenges of growth with the preservation of what we all love about the area.

I encourage you to read through this program. The Councillors and I look forward to working with you to shape a vibrant future for our remarkable area.

Councillor Christine Kay
MAYOR



General Manager's message



I am pleased to present this update to the Delivery Program for 2025 – 2029 and Operational Plan for the 2026 - 2027 financial year.

The Delivery Program aims to realise the Ku-ring-gai community's aspirations contained in our Community Strategic Plan. This year's Operational Plan emphasises a planned and strategic approach to local planning and development and effective project delivery.

Both plans are supported by our integrated planning and reporting framework. This year we will conduct a thorough review of our program of work to ensure it is practical and achievable.

To ensure we provide the best value for your rates, we are maturing our internal asset and project management functions. This includes the establishment of a Project Management Office (PMO) to guide and oversee our delivery program, aiming to deliver quality projects on time and within budget.

The years ahead mark a critical implementation phase for Ku-ring-gai's future. We will be proactively managing state housing policies by updating our local plans and strategies to reflect the NSW Government's expectations for increased housing while protecting local character.

Our other priority is to implement an evidence-based approach to providing new and upgraded infrastructure to support housing and population growth. This includes ensuring that community facilities and recreational spaces are delivered where they are needed most. We are also exploring ways to progress major hub projects and streetscape improvements in local centres that will advance Ku-ring-gai's longer term economic and social objectives.

Financial sustainability remains a fundamental challenge for this Council. We remain committed to prudent financial management, finding and realising more efficient ways of working and alternative revenue streams to minimise the impact on ratepayers. However, the reality of decades of under-investment, cost shifting from other tiers of government and a rate peg that consistently fails to cover increasing costs continues to impact on Council's bottom line.

To address these issues, Council successfully submitted an application for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) following extensive community engagement.

This year's plan focuses on setting the foundations for an enhanced capital works program. We are improving our internal systems and project management frameworks now, so that we are ready to hit the ground running and deliver the infrastructure improvements our community requires.

The Delivery Program and Operational Plan will continue to be reviewed each year to ensure it remains aligned to community needs.

Finally, I extend my sincere gratitude to Council staff for their commitment to delivering exceptional services to our community and for their dedication to implementing these plans.

David Marshall
GENERAL MANAGER

Financial sustainability

As detailed in the Resourcing Strategy, Ku-ring-gai Council currently maintains a satisfactory financial position. Council is maintaining operating surpluses that are reducing over time while delivering essential services, programs and infrastructure in accordance with its delivery programs and operational plans.

However, the long-term financial sustainability of Council is facing significant challenges from rising operational costs, ageing infrastructure and inflationary pressures exceeding rates income and other revenue streams. Ku-ring-gai will continue to pursue increased revenue through user fees, investments and grants and maintain robust controls on expenses. We are also continuing our efforts on finding efficiencies in service delivery.

The biggest challenge facing Council's long-term financial sustainability is the renewal and maintenance required for our infrastructure asset portfolio, valued at around $1.8 billion.

Historic funding levels have been insufficient to cover these costs of renewal, and independent reviews of stormwater and building assets have revealed significant deterioration and a need for substantial investment.

To address these challenges directly, Council has successfully applied for a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). This application followed extensive community consultation and an independent financial sustainability review, which concluded that a rate increase is the only viable pathway to securing Ku-ring-gai's future.

Benchmarking data demonstrates that Ku-ring-gai Council operates as a lean and efficient organisation, with lower operating expenses per resident than peer councils. The most recent comparative data from the NSW Office of Local Government shows that:

- Operating expenditure per capita was 16% lower than the Sydney average in 2023/24
- Operating expenditure per kilometre of road was 32% below the metropolitan average
- Council maintains the second highest ratio of residents serviced per staff member in Sydney (309 residents per full-time equivalent staff).

The SRV is a dedicated funding strategy designed to provide guaranteed funding for the renewal of footpaths, sports fields and community halls, critical upgrades to our stormwater drainage systems and ensuring our public spaces meet the quality, accessibility and safety requirements expected by our community.

The approved total rate increase for 2026/27 is 29% (comprising a 24.6% permanent SRV component and the 4.4% rate peg). This additional investment of $20.7 million annually will deliver a noticeable and significant improvement in the quality of community infrastructure across the following asset classes:

- Stormwater and drainage ($5.9 million): Council will be able to fix more stormwater pipes and repair or replace more kerb inlet pits each year. Council will prioritise relining stormwater pipes to save costs. This will reduce risk of service failures, localised flooding, potholes and sinkholes.
- Community buildings ($6.7 million): Council will be able to upgrade more buildings each year to improve safety, lighting, structural integrity, accessibility, energy efficiency and women's facilities.
- New footpaths ($2.1 million): Council will increase the construction of new footpaths, with the long-term objective of ensuring all streets have a footpath on at least one side of the street within 25 years.

- Recreational facilities ($1.9 million): Council will fund additional improvements to recreational facilities, such as fencing, lighting, drainage and pathways, as well as rejuvenation of field surfaces each year.
- Traffic and transport works ($1.7 million): Council will fund essential upgrades to transport-related infrastructure to improve traffic and pedestrian safety.
- Existing footpaths ($0.94 million): Council can now rebuild more footpaths each year, with a focus on renewal of footpaths in the poorest condition. This will improve safety and accessibility for everyone by removing trip hazards and improving surfaces.
- St Ives Indoor Sports Centre ($1.46 million): The SRV will also fund the loan for the construction of the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre. Once the loan is repaid in 2031/32, this funding will be redirected to the renewal of other recreational facilities.

This additional investment is forecast to reduce the infrastructure backlog from $194 million in 2025/26 to $119 million in 2034/35 (a reduction of 39%).

During comprehensive engagement in late 2025, independent research found that 56% of residents ranked an SRV option as their first preference. Furthermore, an independent analysis demonstrated a clear capacity to pay. Nonetheless, Council is committed to ensuring the rate increase does not create undue financial hardship. Council's Rates, Charges and Sundry Debts – Assistance, Concessions and Recovery Policy outline concessions available to eligible pensioners and assistance available to ratepayers experiencing hardship.

Housing

The NSW Government's Transport Oriented Development (TOD) and Low and Mid-Rise Housing policies are part of a package of reforms to deliver 377,000 new homes by 2029 under the National Housing Accord. These reforms will introduce significant changes to new housing development in Ku-ring-gai, presenting both challenges and opportunities that require careful long-term planning.

To accelerate the delivery of homes across NSW, the NSW Government established the Housing Delivery Authority (HDA) in January 2025. Council is also subject to State Significant Development applications primarily for residential developments and for large scale or complex projects deemed important by the NSW Government for economic, environmental or social reasons.

Following extensive community consultation and collaboration with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), Council successfully negotiated an Alternative TOD Plan, which was formally gazetted and came into effect in November 2025.

This alternative plan replaces the NSW Government's "one-size-fits-all" controls with a locally tailored approach for the Gordon, Lindfield, Killara and Roseville station precincts. Key features include:

- delivering the required housing capacity with some mixed-use building heights of up to 28 storeys in key locations
- introducing specific exclusion maps to protect Heritage Conservation Areas (HCAs) and reduce the impact on Ku-ring-gai's tree canopy
- ensuring appropriate height transitions between high-density hubs and existing low-density residential areas.

The NSW Government's Low and Mid-Rise Housing Policy was implemented in early 2025 and continues to expand housing diversity across the Local Government Area (LGA) by permitting:

- dual occupancies across most R2 low-density residential land
- terraces and townhouses within 800m of all train stations and the St Ives shopping centre

The draft Sydney Plan was exhibited in early 2026 and sets out the NSW Government's 20-year plan for growth, housing and jobs.

Significant population growth will increase demand on roads, open spaces, drainage and other infrastructure. Council will be reviewing its development contributions plans and other strategies to fund essential upgrades, while continuing to advocate for NSW Government investment in local schools, hospitals and road capacity.

These reforms provide an opportunity to increase housing variety. More affordable options will allow essential workers, young families and seniors downsizing within the area to remain in Ku-ring-gai. Increased density also stimulates the local economy, attracting new businesses and supporting the revitalisation of our town centres.

Over the short-medium term, Council will be proactively managing these changes through:

- **Updating our Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), Local Environmental Plan (LEP) and Development Control Plans (DCP)** to reflect the new state framework while protecting local character
- **Implementing an evidence-based approach** to ensure infrastructure is built where it is needed most
- **Advancing major projects**, such as the redevelopment of former bowling club sites in Gordon and Lindfield, to meet the recreational needs of a growing population.

We remain committed to community engagement. Council will continue to provide clear information and ensure our residents have a voice in the evolution of their suburbs.

Introduction



Hassall Park, St Ives

Our community vision

Our Ku-ring-gai -
Growing together

Our vision is for a thriving and connected community where we balance growth and change with the protection of our natural environment and heritage and work together to ensure a vibrant and inclusive future.

Our outcomes

- Our unique natural environment is protected and enhanced
- Sustainable urban growth and change
- Infrastructure and assets support community needs
- An inclusive, connected and safe community
- Leadership and service excellence



About Ku-ring-gai



Area

85.44 Km²
16 kms north of the Sydney CBD

17 suburbs
7 larger local centres
15 neighbourhood centres
1 business park

3 hospitals
8 railway stations

1 university
19 high schools
41 primary schools
79 preschools and children's care services
24 aged care homes

Heritage

Aboriginal heritage

101
recorded sites

European heritage

Significant built heritage primarily from the 1890s to the post-war periods.

Birthplace of the National Trust of Australia (NSW)

997
heritage items

46
heritage conservation areas

Residents

Population in 2025[1]

128,542

Median age[2]

42 years

Higher proportion of **children** and people **aged 60+** than Greater Sydney[2] 60+

Diversity[2]

Residents have recent ancestry from over

120 countries

71 Languages spoken

Volunteer participation

20,400[2]

volunteers undertake **357,000**[5] hours work a year

A highly educated community[2]

54%
of the working population have a **university education**

47.5%
of total households are **classed as high income**

[1] Australian Bureau of Statistics, Estimated Resident Population, 2025
[2] Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Housing, 2021 (Usual residence data). Compiled and presented in profile.id
[3] Operations statistics, Ku-ring-gai Council, 2026
[4] Ku-ring-gai Council June Biannual Report 2025
[5] NSW State of Volunteering Report 2023

About Ku-ring-gai continued

Features[3,4]

484 kms of road including 38 kms of regional roads

21 kms of arterial and state roads

376 kms of formed footpaths

30 kms of cycleways

294 kms of drainage

Adjoins **3 national parks**

132 bushland reserves covering **1,138 hectares**

1 active bio-banking agreement covering **98 hectares**

1 tiny forest of **320 square metres**

171kms of waterways and creeks

3 major sub-catchments



Over 800 native plant species

18 threatened plant species

28kms of walking trails

40kms of fire trails

120kms of bushland interface

4 endangered and **2 critically endangered** ecological communities

400 native animal species

38 threatened animal species

361 parks, playgrounds and sports fields and tracks

1 fitness and aquatic centre

115 sports courts

2 golf courses

2 mountain bike tracks

22 community centres

4 library branches attracting **452,980** visitors

Art centre with **2,313** enrolments and a public art program

a showground with **85,752** cars through the gate

a business engagement program with over **400** participants

2 youth hubs with **8,500** participants

A children's service for almost **900** children

Vacation care for **3,500** children

Senior's programs that attract over **5,500** people

An active recreation program with over **500** participants

1 nursery with **16** volunteers

6 environmental volunteer groups with **700** active participants

The Wildflower Garden attracting **105,000** trail walkers across **123** hectares

Events and programs attracting **111,476** people

Your councillors

The Ku-ring-gai Council local government area is divided into five wards – St Ives, Wahroonga, Comenarra, Gordon and Roseville with each represented by two councillors. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor are elected by councillors. For more information about the Mayor and councillors, visit www.krg.nsw.gov.au

St Ives Ward



Mayor Christine Kay
M: 0436 635 454
E: ckay@krg.nsw.gov.au



Deputy Mayor Martin Smith
M: 0436 663 376
E: martinsmith@krg.nsw.gov.au

Wahroonga Ward



Councillor Kim Wheatley
M: 0459 933 639
E: kwheatley@krg.nsw.gov.au



Councillor Cedric Spencer
M: 0436 661 911
E: cspencer@krg.nsw.gov.au

Comenarra Ward



Councillor Matthew Devlin
M: 0402 998 290
E: mdevlin@krg.nsw.gov.au



Councillor Jeff Pettett
M: 0478 489 430
E: jpettett@krg.nsw.gov.au

Gordon Ward



Councillor Indu Balachandran
M: 0457 411 083
E: ibalachandran@krg.nsw.gov.au



Councillor Barbara Ward
M: 0447 081 824
E: bward@krg.nsw.gov.au

Roseville Ward



Councillor Sam Ngai
M: 0436 655 543
E: sngai@krg.nsw.gov.au



Councillor Alec Taylor
M: 0459 907 375
E: ataylor@krg.nsw.gov.au

Our organisation

Council is dedicated to upholding its corporate values which demonstrate our commitment to being a progressive, ethical and results driven leader in local government. These values help guide the delivery of strategic outcomes and drive our organisation to deliver efficient and effective services to the community.

Our values



Do what is right

- We act with integrity in everything that we do and say
- We make transparent, ethical and consistent decisions that support the vision of Council

Show respect

- We are considerate towards others ensuring fairness, dignity and equality
- We practice and encourage transparent communication

Own our actions

- We are accountable for our decisions
- We take responsibility for the outcomes of our choices, behaviours and actions

Strive for excellence

- We work together as a team to achieve our full potential
- We have the insight and passion to lead Council into the future

Workforce

Council is committed to ensuring the organisation has the capacity and capability within our workforce to deliver the best possible services to the community and employs staff in a diverse range of service areas across the organisation.

446 Total number of employees[1]

48 years old Median age

Gender
48% female | 52% male

58% aged 45 years+ Age profile of employee

9.1 Average years of service per employee

90% Retention rate

Employment type
380 full-time | 66 part-time | 106 casual

Diversity in leadership roles
45% female | 55% male

308 Job types

Council employee snapshot as of 30 June 2025

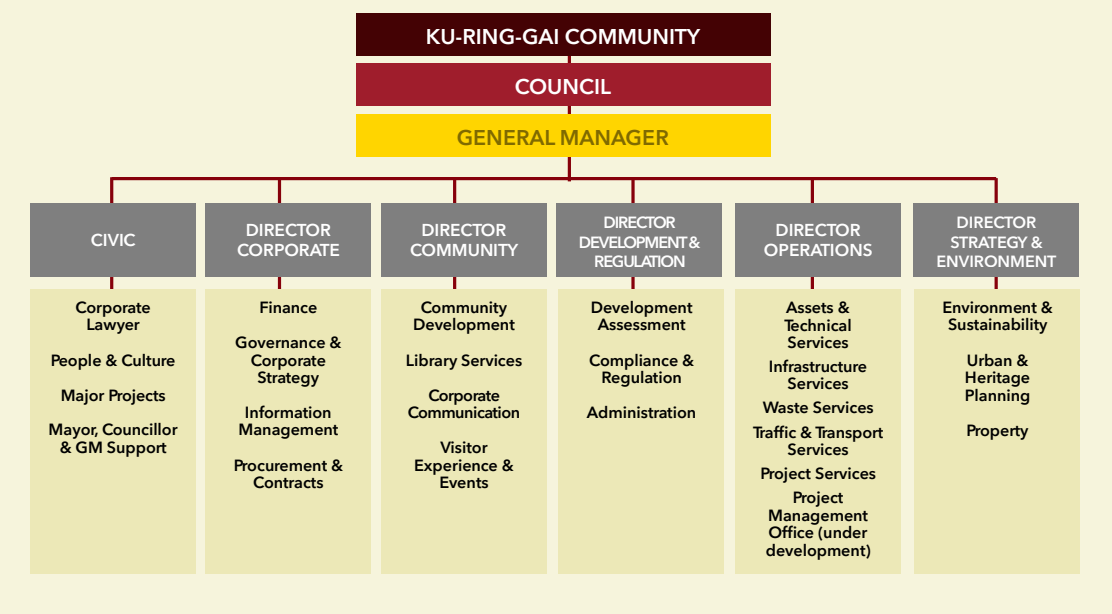
[1] Full-time and part-time employees

Leadership

Ku-ring-gai Council is made up of six departments – civic management, corporate, community, development and regulation, operations and strategy and environment as shown in the organisational structure in Diagram 1.

Council's executive management team comprises of the General Manager and directors. The General Manager is responsible for the day-to-day management of the departments, overall operation of the organisation and for ensuring the implementation of decisions of Council. The directors assist the General Manager in the development of long-term strategic plans and their delivery, whilst ensuring the organisation is meeting its obligations.

Diagram 1: Council's organisational structure



Service improvement program

Ku-ring-gai Council provides efficient, high-quality services to its community. Council's Service Improvement Program is designed to support the continuous evaluation, enhancement and cost-effectiveness of our service delivery.

The program directly aligns with the *Local Government Act 1993* and the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework, which requires NSW councils to identify areas for review, engage with the community to define service level expectations and report on the progress of its reviews.

The program provides a systematic and ongoing process to evaluate the quality, accessibility, efficiency and effectiveness of Council's services. Each review will draw on data analysis, customer feedback, benchmarking with other councils or organisations and process mapping to identify opportunities for improvement.

The following services are planned for review in 2026/27:

- Stormwater management
- Tree management
- Workforce management (through Local Government Professionals "Service Reviews in a Box" program).
- Roads (through Local Government Professionals "Service Reviews in a Box" program).
- Accelerated Project Portfolio and Resourcing Review

Progress and outcomes of these reviews will be reported in biannual performance reports and the annual report.

Beyond these formal reviews, all service units are being actively encouraged to look for innovations and improvement initiatives such as process streamlining, waste reduction and improvements to customer experience. These proactive efforts complement the formal program and are part of Council's culture of service excellence.

Integrated planning and reporting framework

The NSW Government requires local councils to deliver their community vision and objectives through long, medium and short-term plans which promotes best practice strategic planning and ensures a more sustainable local government sector.

NSW legislation requires councils to prepare strategic planning documents in consultation with the community and stakeholders, and monitor, review and undertake statutory reporting on progress.

Diagram 2 illustrates the hierarchy of IP&R plans, reporting required within the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework and their relationship to state and regional planning.

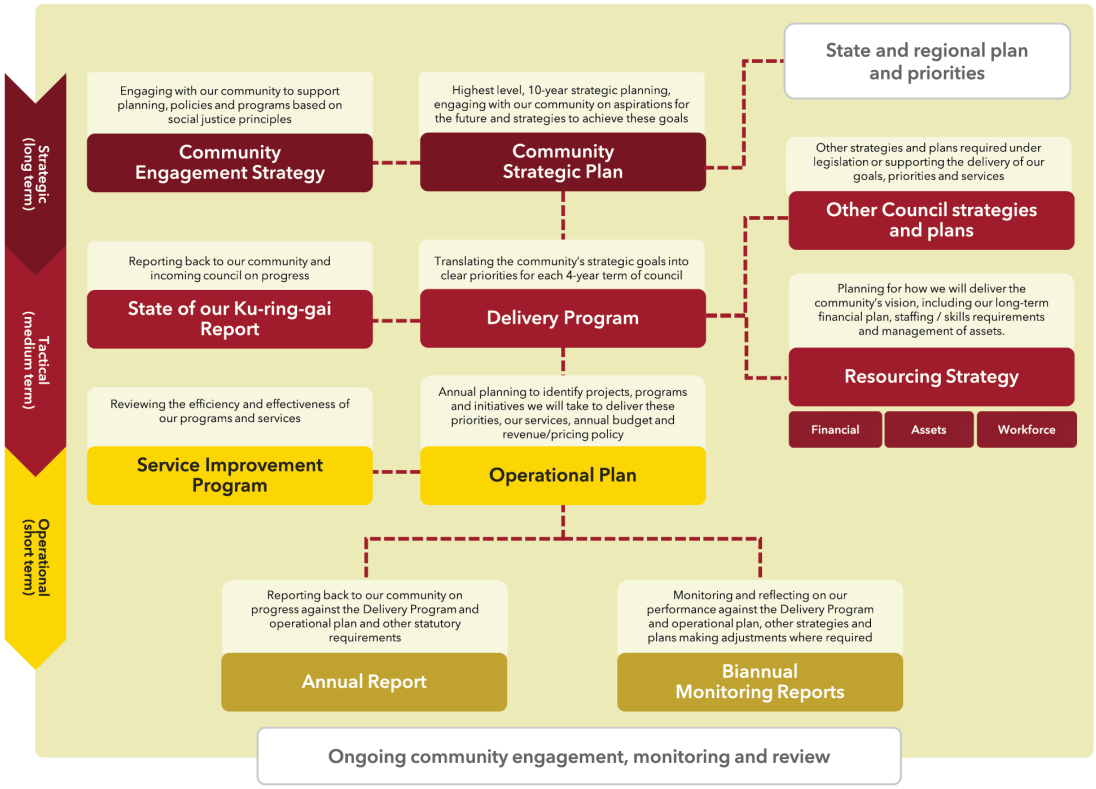


Diagram 2: Integrated planning and reporting framework

Delivering the plans

The Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework requires Council to regularly report on its progress towards achieving the strategies stated in the Community Strategic Plan (diagram 3).

Community Strategic Plan 2035 (Minimum ten years)

Ku-ring-gai's Community Strategic Plan 2035 - Our Ku-ring-gai: Growing together was prepared in consultation with the community and provides Council with the strategic direction needed to align its services, policies and programs with community needs and priorities, as well as state and regional planning priorities.

Resourcing Strategy 2026-2036 (ten years)

The Resourcing Strategy supports the priorities identified in the Delivery Program through financial, asset and workforce planning to deliver the 10-year strategic objectives in the Community Strategic Plan. The three components of the Strategy are the Long Term Financial Plan, Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Strategy.

Delivery Program 2025-2029 (four years)

The Delivery Program contains term achievements which are Council's commitments during its term of office. They identify how Council will work towards achieving the community's vision, strategies and priorities over the four years as identified in the Community Strategic Plan.

Operational Plan 2026-2027 (one year)

The Operational Plan is developed annually and details the services, key actions, projects and programs that Council will deliver for its community during the financial year. It also incorporates Council's Budget, Statement of Revenue Policy, Capital Works Program and Operating Projects, funding allocations from the Infrastructure Special Rate Variation, Road Rehabilitation Program and New Footpath Program. The Fees and Charges for the financial year are presented separately.



Diagram 3: Implementation of the Community Strategic Plan, Resourcing Strategy and Delivery Program and Operational Plan

Performance monitoring and progress reporting

Council is required to regularly report on its progress towards achieving the community's vision, objectives and strategies as well as term achievements and activities set by Council during its term.

Council's responsibilities under the Integrated Planning and Reporting framework for performance monitoring, reviewing and reporting on plans to the Ku-ring-gai community are summarised below.

Community Strategic Plan

The State of our Ku-ring-gai Report details progress made during the previous term of Council in progressing strategies in the Community Strategic Plan. It emphasises Council's delivery against its social, environmental, economic and civic leadership goals and highlights key challenges and opportunities for Council and the community moving forward. It is prepared in line with the local government election cycle and endorsed by the incoming Council.

Delivery Program and Operational Plan

Progress of the Delivery Program and Operational Plan is monitored quarterly by the General Manager and directors. Biannual progress reports are presented to Council on one-year actions and four-year term achievements, representing capital/operational projects, programs and service delivery. Progress against delivery timeframes or milestones can be flagged as completed, progressing as scheduled or behind schedule.

Performance Indicators

To complement this progress reporting, the plans also include a series of performance indicators that provide further insights into how outcomes are being delivered to the community. A comparison of results over time enables trends to be identified in progressing the Delivery Program and Community Strategic Plan.

Finance

Financial reports provide the results of quarterly budget reviews, and proposed adjustments based on actual financial performance. These reports are presented to Council for approval. End of year audited Financial Statements are also prepared for inclusion in the Annual Report to the community.

Annual Report

An Annual Report is prepared for the community and presented to Council for endorsement within five months of the end of the financial year. Following this, it is published on Council's website with notification sent to the Minister for Local Government. It includes Council's audited financial statements, required statutory reporting and a summary of achievements and challenges during the financial year.

The Plan



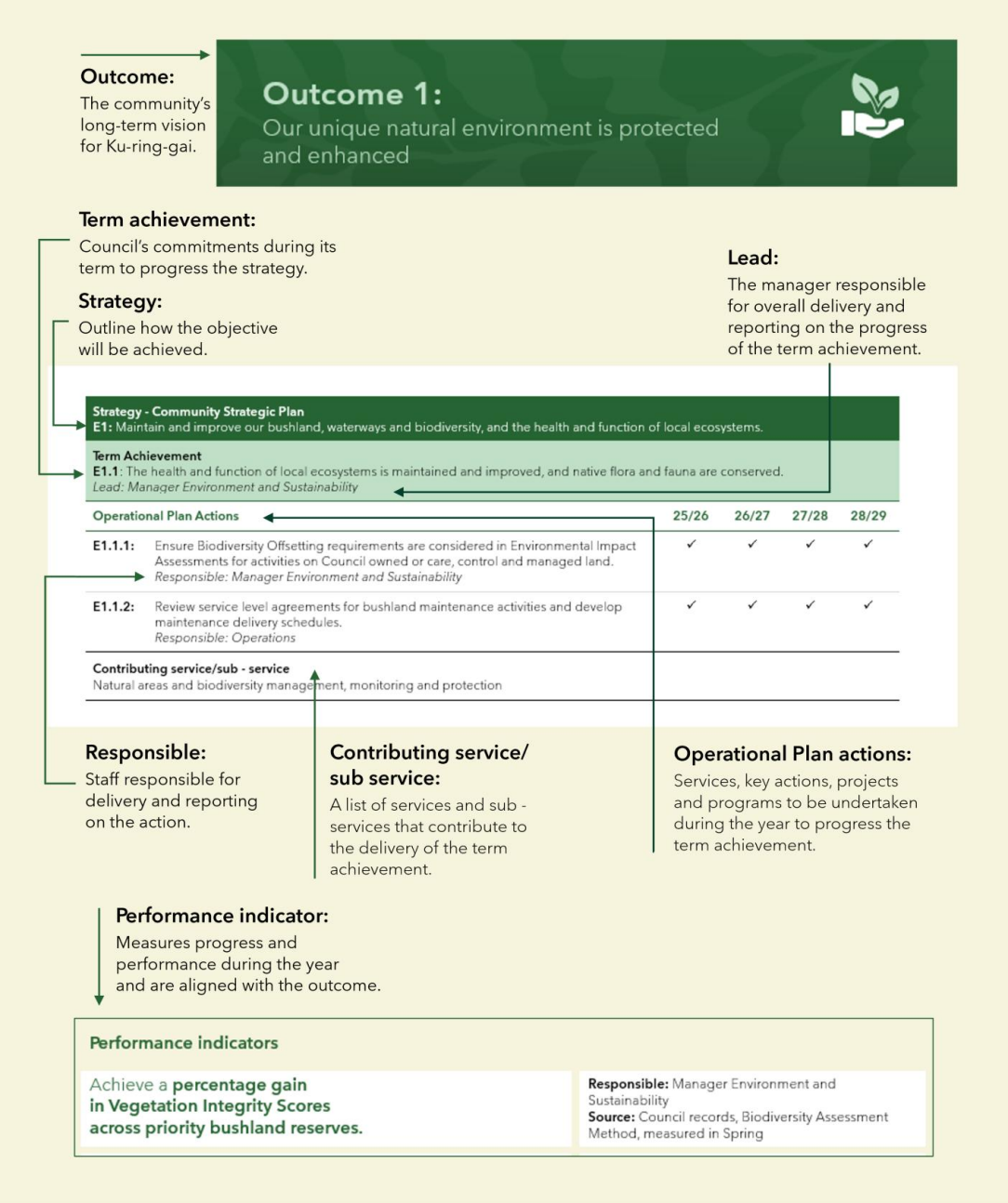
How to read the plan

Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan is presented under five outcomes as outlined in the Community Strategic Plan. These are:

Outcome 1: Our unique natural environment is protected and enhanced	**Objective** Ku-ring-gai's bushland, waterways and biodiversity is being protected, and a healthy tree canopy enhances our suburban landscape. Ku-ring-gai is a leader in sustainable resource management and environmental stewardship and is on track to achieve net-zero emissions.
Outcome 2: Sustainable urban growth and change	**Objective** Ku-ring-gai is a thriving community of safe and well-planned neighbourhoods. We are continuing to deliver diverse housing options, while balancing suburban growth with the preservation of our unique character, open spaces and heritage. We have a strong local economy with thriving businesses, and revitalised centres providing convenient access to shops, services and community facilities.
Outcome 3: Infrastructure and assets support community needs	**Objective** All residents have access to modern and accessible sport, recreational and community facilities that support active lifestyles. The area is connected by a high-quality road and footpath network that supports active transport alternatives. Public transport connects our neighbourhoods and access to Greater Sydney.
Outcome 4: An inclusive, connected and safe community	**Objective** Ku-ring-gai will be a safe, inclusive and connected community where diversity is valued. We cherish our rich history while welcoming new residents to the area. Strong community networks combat social isolation and support services are available for people who need them.
Outcome 5: Leadership and service excellence	**Objective** Ku-ring-gai Council is a high-performing organisation and a strong civic leader. Council builds strategic partnerships with other councils, government agencies, not-for-profit and community groups. Council has a focus on innovation and customer service to deliver continuously improving services to the community.

The strategies, term achievements and operational plan actions that contribute to the delivery of each outcome are detailed in the plan structure below, along with how progress and performance will be measured.

How to read the plan



Outcome 1:

Our unique natural environment is protected and enhanced

Council provides the following key services under this outcome. These services and their sub-services contribute to the delivery of actions, projects and programs in Council's 2026-2027 Operational Plan and term achievements in Council's four-year Delivery Program.

Environment and sustainability - Includes natural areas and biodiversity monitoring and protection, catchment and water management, climate change adaptation (emergency preparedness and resilience), climate change mitigation (transition to net zero emissions), community and corporate sustainability, community engagement and education, environmental volunteering programs, environmental assessment and approvals.

Waste and recycling - Includes domestic and commercial waste and recycling services including collections, disposal and community engagement, waste education programs.

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
E1: Maintain and improve our bushland, waterways and biodiversity, and the health and function of local ecosystems.

Term Achievement
E1.1: The health and function of local ecosystems is maintained and improved, and native flora and fauna are conserved.
Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
E1.1.1:	Ensure Biodiversity Offsetting requirements are considered in Environmental Impact Assessments for activities on Council owned or care, control and managed land. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E1.1.2:	Review service level agreements for bushland maintenance activities and develop maintenance delivery schedules. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
E1.1.3:	Review site management plans for priority bushland reserves. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
E1.1.4:	Review and implement the Biodiversity Policy and priority actions including the biodiversity monitoring program. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E1.1.5:	Review and implement the Fauna Management Policy and priority actions including the fauna monitoring program. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E1.1.6:	Implement the Natural Areas Plan of Management. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub - service
Natural areas and biodiversity management, monitoring and protection

Outcome 1:

Our unique natural environment is protected and enhanced (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued)
E1: Maintain and improve our bushland, waterways and biodiversity, and the health and function of local ecosystems.

Term Achievement
E1.2: The condition and quality of natural waterways and riparian areas have improved.
Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
E1.2.1:	Maintain cleaning of water sensitive urban design (WSUD) devices in accordance with asset management plan service levels. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
E1.2.2:	Investigate opportunities for swimming in natural places in Ku-ring-gai in line with Sydney Water's Urban Plunge initiative. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E1.2.3:	Implement priority actions from the Water Sensitive City Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E1.2.4:	Review the Water Sensitive City Strategy and Policy. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E1.2.5:	Develop a program to promote residential disconnection from the local sewage network to improve the health and resilience of local waterways. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance.*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub - service
Catchment and water management and monitoring

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
E2: Support the community to transition to net zero emissions.

Term Achievement
E2.1: Our community is effectively informed and engaged in activities that are reducing Ku-ring-gai's emissions towards Net Zero.
Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
E2.1.1:	Support the community in reaching net zero emissions by 2040 or earlier. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E2.1.2:	Update policies and strategies that support Council's Climate Change and Net Zero policies. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E2.1.3:	Optimise and report on the energy performance of Council assets to ensure energy consumption, emission and costs align with Council's Net Zero targets and Climate Change Policy. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E2.1.4:	Deliver a staged rollout of a fleet charging network to enable Council's fleet electrification strategy. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E2.1.5:	Deliver a fleet electrification strategy in line with Council's Net Zero targets and Climate Change policy. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Climate change mitigation

Outcome 1:

Our unique natural environment is protected and enhanced (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **E3:** Improve community resilience to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events.				
Term Achievement **E3.1**: Our community is aware of and recognises resilience as a shared responsibility. *Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
E3.1.1:	Identify opportunities to support the uptake of zero emission vehicles and distributed energy resources (DER) within the community. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E3.1.2:	Deliver the Climate Wise Communities program to build community resilience to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Climate change adaptation				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **E4:** Support the community to reduce its consumption of resources and engage in the circular economy.				
Term Achievement **E4.1:** The community is effectively engaged in improved waste reduction, reuse and recycling. *Lead: Manager Waste Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
E4.1.1:	Deliver effective and efficient waste management services responsive to population growth and change. *Responsible: Manager Waste Services*	✓	✓	✓
E4.1.2:	Investigate options for the introduction of Food Organics and Garden Organics (FOGO). *Responsible: Manager Waste Services*	✓	✓	✓
E4.1.3:	Participate in the Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) Regional Waste Disposal Contract. *Responsible: Manager Waste Services*	✓	✓	✓
E4.1.4:	Implement Agreed Regional Waste Plan Actions. *Responsible: Manager Waste Services*	✓	✓	✓
E4.1.5:	Deliver community waste education programs. Responsible: Manager Waste Services	✓	✓	✓
E4.1.6:	Manage Legacy Landfill sites. *Responsible: Manager Waste Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Waste and recycling				
Term Achievement **E4.2:** The community is effectively engaged in energy and water conservation and efficiency programs. *Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
E4.2.1:	Implement programs to assist the community to reduce energy and water use. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Climate change mitigation				

Outcome 1:

Our unique natural environment is protected and enhanced (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
E5: Foster a culture of environmental stewardship across the community through education, engagement and partnerships.

Term Achievement
E5.1: The community has an enhanced appreciation of local environmental issues and impacts and are provided opportunities to engage with environmental stewardship programs.
Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
E5.1.1:	Utilise a variety of communication mechanisms and channels for different target groups to deliver environmental information. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E5.1.2:	Progress re-evaluation of the project scope for the Cultural and Environmental Education Centre at St Ives Showground. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓		
E5.1.3:	Deliver environmental programs and events for residents in collaboration with the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
E5.1.4:	Deliver environmental resources and programs for businesses. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Community engagement and education

Term Achievement
E5.2: Partnerships are established with educational institutions, businesses, government agencies and community groups.
Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
E5.2.1:	Proactively pursue partnerships with highly regarded institutions or government agencies on environmental matters that will be of benefit to Ku-ring-gai. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Community engagement and education

Outcome 1:

Our unique natural environment is protected and enhanced (continued)

How we will measure our performance

In addition to reporting progress on the delivery of Operational Plan actions, the following performance indicators will be used to assess Council's progress toward achieving **Outcome 1**.

Performance indicators	
Achieve a **percentage gain in Vegetation Integrity Scores across priority bushland reserves.**	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records, Biodiversity Assessment Method, measured in Spring
Maintain the **overall health grade of waterway sites at an average of B or better.**	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council's Water Quality Report Card. (Measured at sample sites in Spring and based on physical and chemical condition, bacterial contamination and the presence of water bugs)
Increase the total kilowatt hours provided through Council's public electric vehicle chargers.	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records
Increase the number of residents actively involved in **Council's Climate Wise Communities program above 500 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records
Decrease the kilograms of **waste generated per resident to below 164kg per year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Waste Services **Source:** Council records
Maintain expenditure from Council's community rebate program for smart energy and water saving **initiatives at 100% each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records
Monitor the number of approvals and partnerships for environmental research projects with Council.	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records (includes MOUs, research approvals and collaborations)
Increase the number of residents involved in Council's community environmental programs and events to **above 7,500 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records
Monitor the **number of hectares of bushland under regeneration.**	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records

Outcome 2:
Sustainable urban growth and change

Council provides the following key services under this outcome. These services and their sub-services contribute to the delivery of actions, projects and programs in Council's 2026-2027 Operational Plan and term achievements in Council's four-year Delivery Program.

Heritage and Urban Planning - Strategic land use planning, zoning and management, heritage planning, development contributions planning and management, strategic and integrated transport planning, public domain planning, open space planning, master planning and consultation, special projects, community engagement and consultation.

Development Assessment - Assessment and management of development and related applications, specialist landscape, heritage and ecological advice, engineering and traffic advice, Land & Environment Court representation, coordination and support to the Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Panel and Sydney North Planning Panel.

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **U1:** Facilitate a diverse mix of housing options to accommodate the needs of a growing and changing population, including increased density in appropriate locations.			
Term Achievement **U1.1:** Planning for housing is responsive and addresses the supply, choice, adaptability and affordability needs of the community and the changing population. *Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*			
Operational Plan Actions	**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U1.1.1: Monitor and process proponent led and Council's planning proposals for additional housing. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
U1.1.2: Implement the Affordable Housing Policy and Affordable Housing Contributions Plan consistent with the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS). *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	
Contributing service/sub – service Strategic land use planning			
Term Achievement **U1.2:** Expanded community engagement in shaping the future of the Ku-ring-gai area provides enhanced opportunities to provide input on strategic planning policy decisions. *Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*			
Operational Plan Actions	**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U1.2.1: Undertake engagement activities for identified strategic land use plans and policies consistent with Council's Community Engagement Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Community engagement and consultation			

Outcome 2:
Sustainable urban growth and change (continued)

		26/27	27/28	28/29
Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **U2:** Ensure land use strategies, plans and processes are in place to protect existing character and effectively manage growth and change.				
Term Achievement **U2.1:** Community confidence has continued in our assessment and regulatory processes. *Lead: Manager Development Assessment Services*				
Operational Plan Actions				
U2.1.1:	Development is assessed against all relevant federal, state and local planning policies and their objectives to ensure consistent quality urban design outcomes for the natural and built environment, that ecologically sensitive areas are protected and enhanced and the natural and built heritage of Ku-ring-gai is conserved and enhanced. *Responsible: Manager Development Assessment Services*	✓	✓	✓
U2.1.2:	Review and improve development assessment processes to increase efficiency, improve decision times and deliver outcomes consistent with Council's policies. *Responsible: Manager Development Assessment Services*	✓	✓	✓
U2.1.3:	Facilitate community participation through Council's Community Participation Plan and the Ku-ring-gai Local Planning Panel (KLPP) consistent with the Code of Meeting Practice. *Responsible: Manager Development Assessment Services*	✓	✓	✓
U2.1.4:	Provide regulatory compliance services consistent with state and local controls including community education and engagement in local policy reviews. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
U2.1.5:	Review and monitor Council's design quality and building sustainability standards. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Assessment and management of development and related applications				
Term Achievement **U2.2:** Ku-ring-gai's visual and landscape character is preserved and enhanced. *Lead: Manager Environment and Sustainability*				
Operational Plan Actions				
U2.2.1:	Administer and implement Council's tree preservation policies and procedures. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
U2.2.2:	Maintain a register of properties under order to restore tree canopy and report six-monthly on compliance progress. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
U2.2.3:	Continue implementation of tree replacement orders and investigation of illegal tree works. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
U2.2.4:	Oversee implementation of the Urban Forest Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
U2.2.5:	Progress the urban forest replenishment program for Ku-ring-gai. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
U2.2.6:	Undertake priority monitoring from the Urban Forest Strategy through regular updates of remotely captured spatial data and implementation of Ku-ring-gai's Tree Inventory. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
U2.2.7:	Establish an appropriate governance framework for Council's Community Nursery to improve output, integration and coordination across Council. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓		
U2.2.8:	Undertake preparatory work for the establishment of an Iconic Tree Register. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓		
U2.2.9:	Develop and implement a volunteer based Treecare program to assist in the protection, enhancement and monitoring of selected indigenous canopy trees in key locations. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
U2.2.10:	Deliver programs to reduce litter and graffiti and provide street cleaning operations to improve drainage and the appearance of Ku-ring-gai. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Tree management, street and public space cleaning, graffiti removal, biodiversity monitoring and protection				

Outcome 2:
Sustainable urban growth and change (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **U2:** Ensure land use strategies, plans and processes are in place to protect existing character and effectively manage growth and change.				
Term Achievement **U2.3:** Strategies, plans and processes are prepared, implemented and reviewed to effectively manage the impact of new development. *Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U2.3.1:	Continue to review the effectiveness of existing strategies, local environmental plans, development control plans and processes across all programs. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
U2.3.2:	Monitor implementation of Local Character Controls within the Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
U2.3.3:	Commence review of the implementation of Ku-ring-gai's Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) to align with The Sydney Plan (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure). *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	
U2.3.4:	Commence review of the Cultural Facilities Strategy and Community Facilities Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓		
U2.3.5:	Commence preparation of an Employment Lands Strategy in accordance with the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure guidelines. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓		
Contributing service/sub – service Strategic land use planning, land zoning (retail, commercial residential, infrastructure, open space)				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **U3:** Facilitate the transformation of local centres as vibrant residential, business and community hubs through partnerships and appropriate mixed-use development.				
Term Achievement **U3.1:** Plans to revitalise local centres are progressively implemented and achieve quality design and sustainability outcomes in collaboration with key agencies, landholders and the community. *Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U3.1.1:	Integrate all transport modes for the primary local centres through the traffic and transport studies in collaboration with Transport for NSW. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
U3.1.2:	Undertake detailed design for the Pymble Streetscape Improvements. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓		
U3.1.3:	Prepare strategic brief and initial concept design for streetscape improvements for St Ives, Roseville and Turramurra local centres. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓		
U3.1.4:	Commence construction of streetscape improvements (Gordon Public Domain works) at Heritage Park and Werona Ave, Gordon. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	
U3.1.5:	Finalise design and commence construction of streetscape improvements in the Lindfield Avenue and Tryon Road Precinct, Lindfield. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
U3.1.6:	Undertake construction works for the Gordon North Streetscape Improvements (Fitzsimons Lane/Merriwa Street (east)/Pacific Highway (north)). *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	
U3.1.7:	Provide Council with a pathway to progress the Lindfield Village Hub. *Responsible: General Manager*	✓		
U3.1.8:	Subject to the actions of private landowners, progress planning for the staged delivery of new retail and public infrastructure in the Ray Street/William Street precinct in Turramurra. *Responsible: General Manager*	✓		
U3.1.9:	Examine options for development of Council facilities and land holdings in Gordon. *Responsible: General Manager*	✓		
U3.1.10:	Update and monitor the implementation of the Ku-ring-gai Public Domain Plan. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓

Outcome 2:
Sustainable urban growth and change (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **U3:** Facilitate the transformation of local centres as vibrant residential, business and community hubs through partnerships and appropriate mixed-use development.				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U3.1.11:	Oversee and monitor the implementation of Council's Open Space Acquisitions Program. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing services/sub – services Urban planning • Integrated transport planning • Public domain planning				
Term Achievement **U3.2:** Appropriate place making programs are implemented to suit the needs and character of centres and locations. *Lead: Manager Project Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U3.2.1:	Undertake construction of the forest urban park at Bedes Forest, St Ives. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	
U3.2.2:	Finalise design and commence construction of streetscape improvements including traffic improvements (HPAA) at East Turramurra Neighbourhood Centre. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Project delivery - design and construction				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **U4:** Protect Ku-ring-gai's heritage and character through appropriate planning controls.				
Term Achievement **U4.1:** Strategies, plans and processes are in place to effectively protect, preserve and manage Ku-ring-gai's heritage assets. *Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U4.1.1:	Protect and effectively manage Ku-ring-gai's Aboriginal heritage assets in conjunction with the Aboriginal Heritage Office. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
U4.1.2:	Promote local heritage in consultation with key stakeholders. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
U4.1.3:	Develop service levels for cultural and heritage assets in open space areas and ensure they are protected, preserved, restored and maintained in accordance with the Parks and Recreational Asset Management Plan. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
U4.1.4:	Implement, monitor and review Ku-ring-gai's heritage planning controls and Heritage Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Heritage planning				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **U5:** Work with partners to support local businesses and strengthen Ku-ring-gai's local economic base.				
Term Achievement **U5.1:** Strategies and plans are in place that support business growth, including a night-time economy. *Lead: Manager Corporate Communications*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U5.1.1:	Implement actions as detailed in the Night-time Economy Action Plan. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Business engagement and support				

Outcome 2:
Sustainable urban growth and change (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **U5:** Work with partners to support local businesses and strengthen Ku-ring-gai's local economic base.				
Term Achievement **U5.2:** Ku-ring-gai's business community, government agencies and regional partners are working in an effective and integrated way to strengthen Ku-ring-gai's local economy. *Lead: Manager Corporate Communications*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U5.2.1:	Continue to engage and collaborate with the local business community on local centre upgrades, economic development priorities, actions and relevant issues. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
U5.2.2:	Collaborate with Chamber of Commerce, other local councils, NSW State Government and other stakeholders to identify and implement initiatives to support local businesses. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
U5.2.3:	Continue Council's comprehensive business engagement events program offering a range of in person and online events. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Business engagement and support				
Term Achievement **U5.3:** Destination business has been strengthened and expanded through attractions and events that draw local and regional visitors. *Lead: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
U5.3.1:	Promote destination-related facilities and events using Council channels including social media. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
U5.3.2:	Implement the Destination Management Plan. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
U5.3.3:	Implement an annual program of destination festivals and events, including key destination partners in events programs. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
U5.3.4:	Continue to develop and promote the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and St Ives Showground as multi-purpose venues to host community and commercial usage. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Destination attractions and events management including Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and St Ives Showground				

Outcome 2:
Sustainable urban growth and change (continued)

How we will measure our performance

In addition to reporting progress on the delivery of Operational Plan actions, the following performance indicators will be used to assess Council's progress toward achieving **Outcome 2**.

Performance indicators	
Monitor the number of **community engagements facilitated by Council that relate to strategic policy decisions.**	**Responsible:** Manager Urban and Heritage Planning **Source:** Council records
Reduce the **average determination times for development applications to 105 days or less.**	**Responsible:** Manager Development Assessment Services **Source:** NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure, Development Application Lodgement Performance
Maintain the proportion of **tree health inspections required annually for replacement tree orders at or above 95%.**	**Responsible:** Manager Regulation and Compliance **Source:** Council records
Maintain expenditure from **Council's Heritage Home Grant contributions at or above 80% each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Urban and Heritage Planning **Source:** Council records
Maintain the number of **participants involved in Council's business engagement activities facilitated by Council at or above 400 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Corporate Communications **Source:** Council records
Increase the number of **cars visiting St Ives Showground and Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden to above 104,000 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Visitor Experience and Events **Source:** Council records
Maintain the percentage of **tree management requests actioned within agreed service delivery standards at or above 80%.**	**Responsible:** Manager Assets and Technical Services **Source:** Council records

Outcome 3:

Infrastructure and assets support community needs

Council provides the following key services under this outcome. These services and their sub-services contribute to the delivery of actions, projects and programs in Council's 2026-2027 Operational Plan and term achievements in Council's four-year Delivery Program.

Asset management – Establish, review and implement asset management plans for all Council assets in line with Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Strategy.

Project delivery - design and construct - Deliver projects in accordance with Council's programs for capital works and community engagement.

Infrastructure services - Maintenance of roads infrastructure, footpaths, drainage, buildings, parks, open spaces, sports fields, golf courses, playgrounds, bushland, trees, public place cleansing, litter and fleet. Emergency management including planning and hazard reduction.

Traffic and transport including road safety - Traffic management, transport planning, parking management, traffic investigations and compliance, stakeholder engagement, secure state and federal funding for infrastructure upgrades and implement road safety programs.

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **A1:** Strategically plan, manage and fund public infrastructure and assets to meet the needs of the community, defined levels of service and intergenerational equity.				
Term Achievement **A1.1:** Plans are in place to effectively fund public infrastructure and assets to meet the needs of a growing and changing population. *Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A1.1.1:	Continue to progress the review of the s7.11 Contributions Plan. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A1.1.2:	Oversee the implementation of the s7.12 Contributions Plan. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A1.1.3:	Oversee the implementation of the s7.32 Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Development contributions planning and management				
Term Achievement **A1.2:** Assets are managed in accordance with asset management plans and agreed service standards. *Lead: Manager Assets and Technical Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A1.2.1:	Programs to upgrade, renew and maintain infrastructure and assets are developed in accordance with the adopted Asset Management Plan, including capital works programs. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.2:	Asset management plans are reviewed to align with the Resourcing Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.3:	Implement the Asset Management Framework consistent with the ISO55000 including planning, reporting and performance evaluation. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.4:	Develop an asset management plan for Fleet. Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services	✓	✓	
A1.2.5:	Review the fleet management policy and develop a staff fleet procedure for the management of light fleet. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.6:	Plan, design and deliver projects and assets in line with Council's Project Management Framework to ensure best practice in project delivery. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓

Outcome 3:

Infrastructure and assets support community needs (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **A1:** Strategically plan, manage and fund public infrastructure and assets to meet the needs of the community, defined levels of service and intergenerational equity.				
Term Achievement (continued) **A1.2:** Assets are managed in accordance with asset management plans and agreed service standards. *Lead: Manager Assets and Technical Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A1.2.7:	Deliver approved Road and Carparks Capital Works Programs. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.8:	Deliver approved Stormwater Drainage Capital Works Programs. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.9:	Deliver approved Stormwater Relining Program. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.10:	Develop and implement a Project Management Office (PMO). *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
A1.2.11:	Review and refine the Corporate Project Management Framework (PMF). *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Asset management				
Term Achievement **A1.3**: The community is engaged on infrastructure priorities and the design and upgrade of new facilities with regular updates on project progress. *Lead: Manager Project Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A1.3.1:	Undertake engagement activities for identified projects consistent with Council's Community Engagement Strategy and provide regular updates on progress. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Community engagement and consultation				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **A2:** Provide, upgrade and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.				
Term Achievement **A2.1:** A program is implemented to provide, improve and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities including multi-use facilities. *Lead: Manager Project Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A2.1.1:	Deliver approved Open Space Capital Works Program. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.2:	Maintain existing recreation and sporting facilities in accordance with the Asset Management Plan. *Responsible:* Manager Infrastructure Services	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.3:	Actively engage with sporting organisations and clubs, user groups and residents during the preparation of plans, policies and strategies for sport and recreation. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.4:	Progressively review Plans of Management for community land in consultation with Crown Lands. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.5:	Review and implement priority actions from the Recreation in Natural Areas Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.6:	Progress preparation of recreation and open space strategies, plans and policies identified as priorities in the Recreation Needs Study. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.7:	Finalise design and commence construction of the new amenities building at Bannockburn Oval. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.8:	Continue to engage with the relevant stakeholders in progressing the development of the North Turramurra Recreation Area grandstand if required. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓		

Outcome 3:

Infrastructure and assets support community needs (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **A2:** Provide, upgrade and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.				
Term Achievement (continued) **A2.1:** A program is implemented to provide, improve and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities including multi-use facilities. *Lead: Manager Project Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A2.1.9:	Manage water harvesting and reuse sites according to Water Reuse Management Plans. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.10:	Implement the Green Grid Strategy consistent with Council's Local Strategic Planning Statement. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.11:	Progress design for the implementation of masterplan works including relevant service adjustments at Robert Pymble Park Precinct. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓		
A2.1.12:	Prepare a masterplan for the future recreational use of the former Gordon Bowling Club site (4 Pennant Avenue, Gordon)) consistent with Council resolution. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.13:	Prepare a masterplan for the future recreational use of the Roseville Bowling Club site (former site at 47 Warrane Road, Roseville Chase) consistent with Council resolution. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.14:	Implement an amenities improvement program for recreational and sporting fields in line with the adopted building prioritisation matrix or in conjunction with other funded and programmed capital upgrades. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A2.1.15:	Deliver Play Spaces in accordance with the adopted Ku-ring-gai Play Space Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing services/sub – services Project delivery - design and construct • Maintenance of parks, open spaces, sports fields, golf courses, playgrounds, bushland • Open space planning				
Term Achievement **A2.2:** Partnerships with community groups and organisations assist to optimise the availability and use of open space, recreation and sporting facilities. *Lead: Manager Assets and Technical Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A2.2.1:	Engage with community partners to improve sporting, leisure and recreational facilities through partnerships, grant funding and other external funding opportunities. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A2.2.2:	Facilitate a regular sporting forum and ongoing communication with sporting users. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Community partnerships				
Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **A3:** Provide, upgrade and maintain community buildings and facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.				
Term Achievement **A3.1** The condition, environmental performance and functionality of existing assets is improved, including multipurpose opportunities, and new assets achieve agreed standards. *Lead: Manager Assets and Technical Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A3.1.1:	Develop and implement a prioritised program of improvements to community meeting rooms, halls, buildings and facilities. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A3.1.2:	Integrate sustainability, Net Zero, electrification and climate resilience measures into the building upgrade and renewal program. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
A3.1.3:	Take action to achieve substantial commencement by August 2026 in order to preserve the current Marian Street Theatre development consent. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓		
Contributing services/sub – services Project delivery - design and construct • Maintenance of buildings • Sustainability • Climate change mitigation				

Outcome 3:

Infrastructure and assets support community needs (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **A3:** Provide, upgrade and maintain community buildings and facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.				
Term Achievement **A3.2:** Usage of existing community buildings and facilities is optimised. *Lead: Manager Assets and Technical Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A3.2.1:	Maximise the use and efficiency of the existing community property portfolio to facilitate greater public access, including multi-use, in line with Council's Management of Community and Recreation Land and Facilities Policy. *Responsible: Manager Property*	✓	✓	✓
A3.2.2:	Continue to develop and deliver professional services including programs, services and ongoing marketing to club members and public players at Council's golf courses to industry standards. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A3.2.3:	Continue to manage Gordon and North Turramurra Golf Courses to maximise utilisation and commercial viability. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A3.2.4:	Continue to implement the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre (KFAC) management contract to maximise utilisation of this facility. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A3.2.5:	Continue to implement the St Ives High School Indoor Multipurpose Sports Facility management contract to maximise utilisation of this facility. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A3.2.6:	Align capital works programs with adopted open space and recreational assets management plans to ensure Council's recreation services meet customer needs. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing services/sub – services Leasing and licensing of Council properties • Recreational services – KFAC and golf courses • Project delivery - design and construct				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **A4:** Provide, upgrade and maintain Ku-ring-gai's local road and footpath network, traffic facilities and other road infrastructure.				
Term Achievement **A4.1:** The footpath network is expanded and maintained to provide improved connectivity, safety and accessibility. *Lead: Manager Assets and Technical Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A4.1.1:	Programs for infrastructure and asset maintenance management are aligned with the adopted Asset Management Plan. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A4.1.2:	Deliver approved annual Footpath Program for new footpaths. *Responsible: Manager Project Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing services/sub – services Maintenance of footpaths • Project delivery - design and construct (new footpaths)				
Term Achievement **A4.2:** The local road network and associated traffic facilities are improved and maintained. *Lead: Manager Traffic and Transport Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A4.2.1:	Obtain endorsement and approval from the Local Transport Forum and Council for new or upgraded traffic and pedestrian facilities at identified sites and secure funding. *Responsible: Manager Traffic and Transport*	✓	✓	✓
A4.2.2:	Support monthly meetings of the Local Transport Forum or as required. *Responsible: Manager Traffic and Transport*	✓	✓	✓
A4.2.3:	Deliver road safety education programs and initiatives to the community. *Responsible: Manager Traffic and Transport*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing services/sub – services Project delivery - design and construct (roads, traffic facilities) • Maintenance of roads and traffic facilities				

Outcome 3:

Infrastructure and assets support community needs (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
A5: Work with the NSW government and partners to improve local integrated transport connections, public transport and the regional road network.

Term Achievement
A5.1: A network of safe and convenient links to local centres, major land uses and recreation opportunities, including active transport, is progressively implemented and promoted to meet the access and travel needs of the community.
Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
A5.1.1:	Implement the improvement plan for bikeways, pedestrian facilities and footpath networks having regard for the access, health and recreational needs of the community. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.1.2:	Progressively upgrade bus stops in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act requirements to allocated budget. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
A5.1.3:	Review and implement appropriate recommendations from the Ku-ring-gai Integrated Transport Strategy to align with the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), North District Plan and Future Transport Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.1.4:	Coordinate the design for traffic signal upgrades in Lindfield. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.1.5:	Facilitate the implementation of paid parking in major project car parks. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.1.6:	Deliver community education and awareness programs focused on alternatives to private car use, including walking and cycling. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing services/sub – services
Integrated transport planning • Project delivery - design and construct (traffic and pedestrian safety facilities)

Term Achievement
A5.2: Advocate to relevant government agencies and private companies for integrated public transport facilities and service improvements that meet community needs.
Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
A5.2.1:	Liaise with Transport for NSW to improve access (via all modes) to rail stations in Ku-ring-gai. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.2.2:	Advocate to Transport for NSW and bus operators to target improvements to bus services connecting nearby centres with Ku-ring-gai including Mona Vale-Macquarie Park route, and Chatswood-Dee Why/Northern Beaches route. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.2.3:	Collaborate with Transport for NSW to co-ordinate and implement connections and upgrades to bus interchanges. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Integrated transport planning

Term Achievement
A5.3: A strategic access, traffic and transport plan is being implemented for the Northern Sydney region.
Lead: Manager Traffic and Transport Services

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
A5.3.1:	Collaborate with regional partners to advocate for improved traffic and transport in the Northern Sydney region aligned with the Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), North District Plan and Connecting NSW Strategy. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.3.2:	Plan for works in response to development in local centres. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
A5.3.3:	Continue to implement the 10-year Traffic and Transport Program. *Responsible: Manager Traffic and Transport*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Integrated transport planning (advocacy and collaboration)

Outcome 3:

Infrastructure and assets support community needs (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **A5:** Work with the NSW government and partners to improve local integrated transport connections, public transport and the regional road network.				
Term Achievement **A5.4:** Council engages with the State Government to upgrade regional roads and reduce congestion in the local road network. *Lead: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
A5.4.1:	Pursue funding opportunities with Transport for NSW for improvement works on regional roads and at blackspot locations. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Integrated transport planning (advocacy and collaboration)				

Outcome 3:

Infrastructure and assets support community needs (continued)

How we will measure our performance

In addition to reporting progress on the delivery of Operational Plan actions, the following performance indicators will be used to assess Council's progress toward achieving **Outcome 3.**

Performance indicators	
At least 85% of Council's capital works programs for roads, carparks and stormwater drainage are completed each year.	**Responsible:** Manager Project Services **Source:** Council records
Monitor the number of **Council's community engagement activities on infrastructure projects**.	**Responsible:** Manager Project Services **Source:** Council records
At least 85% of Council's capital works program for open space assets is completed each year.	**Responsible:** Manager Project Services **Source:** Council records
At least 85% of Council's prioritised program of improvements to building assets is delivered to agreed milestones each year.	**Responsible:** Manager Assets and Technical Services **Source:** Council records
Monitor potable water consumption from Council operations.	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records
Monitor energy consumption of Council's fixed assets.	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records
Total greenhouse gas emissions from Council operations are trending downwards on a pathway to Net Zero by 2040.	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records (tonnes of CO2-e emissions from Council operations including electricity, gas, fleet, street lighting)
Monitor the **usage of the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre recreational facility**.	**Responsible:** Manager Assets and Technical Services **Source:** Council records
Complete the **construction of at least 2.5kms of new footpaths each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Assets and Technical Services **Source:** Council records
Monitor the number of **improvements to traffic facilities delivered each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Traffic and Transport Services **Source:** Council records
Monitor the **patronage of rail services in Ku-ring-gai**.	**Responsible:** Manager Urban and Heritage Planning **Source:** Transport for NSW
Progress **at least 2 improvements to regional traffic and transport facilities** that benefit Ku-ring-gai.	**Responsible:** Manager Urban and Heritage Planning **Source:** Council records
Maintain the number of grant applications for blackspot or improvement works submitted by Council at or above 3 each year.	**Responsible:** Manager Urban and Heritage Planning **Source:** Council records

Outcome 4:

An inclusive, connected and safe community

Council provides the following key services under this outcome. These services and their sub-services contribute to the delivery of actions, projects and programs in Council's 2026-2027 Operational Plan and term achievements in Council's four-year Delivery Program.

Community development - Community engagement and inclusion initiatives, children's services including early childhood education at Thomas Carlyle Children's Centre, vacation care centres and family day care, targeted youth and aged services, programs and initiatives supporting diversity, vulnerable and disability groups, volunteer support and coordination, active lifestyle and recreation programs, community hall and meeting room bookings, community safety and local crime prevention initiatives.

Library services - Local library services provided through central library (Gordon), branch libraries (Lindfield, St Ives and Turramurra), e-Library and home library service. Includes a range of physical and digital resources, local history collection, internet and computer access, programs and events and study/meeting spaces.

Ku-ring-gai Art Centre - Provision of classes (adult, children and young adult), workshops, school holiday programs and an exhibition space.

Visitor experience and events - Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and St Ives Showground destination management and venue hire, Visitors Centre management (Wildflower Garden), community and commercial events and festivals, tours and workshops, environmental education programs, community nursery and citizenship ceremonies.

Community health, safety and regulation - Public health services, companion animal administration and control, building inspections, building fire safety compliance, development compliance, parking and traffic regulation and control, area rangers, waste investigation, swimming pool safety and compliance, information and advice on environmental health matters, community education and engagement.

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
C1: Work with partners to promote a diverse and inclusive community that cares and provides for all residents.

Term Achievement
C1.1: Access to services and programs is equitable for all community members.
Lead: Manager Community Development

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
C1.1.1:	Oversee the management and booking of community facilities, including tennis courts, recreational spaces and other venues, and ensure facilities meet the necessary standards to support programs and activities that enhance community well-being. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.1.2:	Review and implement the Access, Disability and Inclusion Plan. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.1.3:	Resource and support the Ku-ring-gai Dementia Alliance and assist in the implementation of the Dementia Friendly Community Action Plan. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.1.4:	Strengthen partnerships to support and advocate for vulnerable groups while tailoring services and programs to meet their needs. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Targeted programs • Community engagement and inclusion initiatives, community hall and meeting room bookings.

Outcome 4:

An inclusive, connected and safe community (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **C1:** Work with partners to promote a diverse and inclusive community that cares and provides for all residents.				
Term Achievement **C1.2:** The development of young people is supported by services and programs designed to address their needs and interests. *Lead: Manager Community Development*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C1.2.1:	Develop programs and partnerships that address the evolving needs of young people guided by evidence-based approaches. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.2.2:	Review and implement the Youth Action Plan. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.2.3:	Provide professional advice and administrative support for the Youth Advisory Committee. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.2.4:	Coordinate the St Ives and Gordon Youth Hubs. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Targeted programs				
Term Achievement **C1.3:** Programs that promote gender equality and the prevention of family violence are supported. *Lead: Manager Community Development*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C1.3.1:	Review and implement the Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.3.2:	Provide professional advice and administrative support for the Status of Women's Advisory Committee. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Community engagement and inclusion initiatives				
Term Achievement **C1.4:** Partnerships assist to promote access to services, active lifestyles and programs that support the health and wellbeing of older residents. *Lead: Manager Community Development*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C1.4.1:	Support and resource community organisations, including governance, training and management assistance. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.4.2:	*Develop and implement the Senior Support and Engagement Program in collaboration with key partners.* *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.4.3:	Deliver healthy and active lifestyle programs in collaboration with partner agencies. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C1.4.4:	Develop programs that address the evolving needs of older residents, guided by evidence-based approaches. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Active lifestyle and recreation programs				

Outcome 4:

An inclusive, connected and safe community (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **C2:** Support communities that understand, value and accept each other and embrace our evolving cultural identities.				
Term Achievement **C2.1:** Culturally appropriate services and programs are developed and delivered to meet the needs of diverse communities. *Lead: Manager Community Development*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C2.1.1:	Provide professional advice and administrative support for the Multicultural Advisory Committee. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C2.1.2:	Review and implement a Multicultural Inclusion Plan to foster diversity and community cohesion. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C2.1.3:	Implement a civic engagement program for new residents to increase local government understanding. Responsible: Manager Community Development	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Targeted programs				
Term Achievement **C2.2:** Reconciliation and acknowledgement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage is advanced. *Lead: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C2.2.1:	Develop and implement a Reconciliation Action Plan. *Responsible: Manager Urban and Heritage Planning*	✓	✓	✓
C2.2.2:	Recognise and promote the histories, cultures and ongoing contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
C2.2.3:	Deliver Indigenous programs and events at the Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden and St Ives Showground. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Heritage				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **C3:** Facilitate and deliver community risk and safety programs that enhance neighbourhood connections and community responses to emergency events.				
Term Achievement **C3.1:** Programs are implemented to manage risks and impacts on public safety. *Lead: Manager Regulation and Compliance*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C3.1.1:	Undertake responsibilities for managing regulated premises and maintaining Council's register including stakeholder engagement to update information. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
C3.1.2:	Implement Council's Companion Animals Management Plan 2026-2030. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
C3.1.3:	Ensure all buildings and multi-occupancy residential buildings are compliant with Council's Annual Fire Safety Program, including stakeholder engagement to update information. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
C3.1.4:	Undertake mandatory inspections of swimming pools as prescribed under legislation and stakeholder engagement to ensure information is updated and pool barriers are compliant. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
C3.1.5:	Undertake inspections of all premises used for the preparation of food for sale and report findings to NSW Food Authority. *Responsible: Manager Regulation and Compliance*	✓	✓	✓
C3.1.6:	Develop and commence implementation of a staged installation program for Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at recreational and community facilities. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Public safety, compliance and regulation				

Outcome 4:

An inclusive, connected and safe community (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **C3:** Facilitate and deliver community risk and safety programs that enhance neighbourhood connections and community responses to emergency events.				
Term Achievement **C3.2:** Community safety through crime prevention initiatives, events and partnerships with local law enforcement is enhanced. *Lead: Manager Community Development*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C3.2.1:	Facilitate, resource and promote collaborative approaches to community safety that prevent anti-social behaviour and support local crime prevention initiatives. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C3.2.2:	Attend police and community safety meetings, implement facility and public space security improvements, coordinate stakeholder meetings, and maintain regular police engagement to enhance safety and prevent anti-social behaviour. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Community safety and local crime prevention				
Term Achievement **C3.3:** Emergency Management Plans are developed and implemented in partnership with emergency service agencies and key stakeholders. *Lead: Manager Infrastructure Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C3.3.1:	Communicate emergency management plans to residents and the community to improve their preparedness for emergency events. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
C3.3.2:	Ensure relevant state and federal bushfire plans, maps and other policy initiatives are updated as required and incorporated into Council's systems. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
C3.3.3:	Implement and report on the Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) in consultation with the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Local Emergency Management Committee. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
C3.3.4:	Implement the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bush Fire Risk Management Plan, in consultation with the Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Bush Fire Management Committee. *Responsible: Manager Infrastructure Services*	✓	✓	✓
C3.3.5:	Complete flood risk management studies in consultation with the Flood Risk Management Committee and investigate priority management actions. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Emergency management				

Outcome 4:

An inclusive, connected and safe community (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **C4:** Cultivate lifelong learning, foster local arts and creativity and celebrate our cultural diversity.				
Term Achievement **C4.1:** Enhanced library services act as hub for lifelong learning and social connections. *Lead: Manager Library Services*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C4.1.1:	Develop and curate diverse information collections, including local studies and electronic resources, that reflect cultural diversity and local community pride. *Responsible: Manager Library Services*	✓	✓	✓
C4.1.2:	Deliver accessible and inclusive library services, including information and lending, aligned with social justice principles. *Responsible: Manager Library Services*	✓	✓	✓
C4.1.3:	Provide and promote cultural, creative, literacy and informational programs that encourage lifelong learning and community engagement. *Responsible: Manager Library Services*	✓	✓	✓
C4.1.4:	Implement agreed actions of the libraries service review. *Responsible: Manager Library Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Library services				
Term Achievement **C4.2:** The creative arts sector and local artists are provided opportunities to participate in Council's programs and events that showcase our diverse and talented arts sector. *Lead: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C4.2.1:	Provide professional advice and administrative support for the Arts and Culture Advisory Committee. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
C4.2.2:	Provide opportunities for the local arts and cultural community through the annual Arts and Culture Festival. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
C4.2.3:	Deliver community education programs, cultural festivals and events that celebrate cultural diversity. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
C4.2.4:	Promote opportunities to stage or participate in events through Council's destination events program. *Responsible: Manager Visitor Experience and Events*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing services/sub – services Arts and culture support • Ku-ring-gai Art Centre • Visitor experience and events				

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan **C5**: Foster a volunteer community that contributes to shared goals, builds strong social networks and empowers individuals.				
Term Achievement **C5.1**: Increase participation in volunteering and recognition of volunteers. *Lead: Manager Community Development*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
C5.1.1:	Coordinate and strengthen the Volunteer Coordination Service and Hub to provide resources, information, training and participation opportunities for volunteers. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C5.1.2:	Establish formal and informal mechanisms to recognise and celebrate the contributions of volunteers, including those in sporting organisations, natural environment initiatives and volunteer emergency agencies. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C5.1.3:	Resource and support local volunteer organisations and initiatives through the Community Grants Program. *Responsible: Manager Community Development*	✓	✓	✓
C5.1.4:	Deliver environmental volunteering programs. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Volunteer support and coordination				

Outcome 4:

An inclusive, connected and safe community (continued)

How we will measure our performance

In addition to reporting progress on the delivery of Operational Plan actions, the following performance indicators will be used to assess Council's progress toward achieving **Outcome 4**.

Performance indicators	
Implement at least **5 accessibility and inclusion initiatives each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Community Development **Source:** Council records (Access, Disability and Inclusion Plan and other strategic plans).
Increase the number of **participants in Council's youth service programs above 6,500 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Community Development **Source:** Council records
Implement at least **5 strategies for the prevention of violence against women.**	**Responsible:** Manager Community Development **Source:** Council records (Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women)
Increase the number of **participants in Council's programs for older residents above 2,800 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Community Development **Source:** Council records
Implement at least **5 diversity and inclusion initiatives each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Community Development **Source:** Council records (Multicultural Inclusion Plan and other strategic plans)
Maintain and update **100% of public registers for swimming pool barriers, cooling towers and fuel vapour collection each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Regulation and Compliance **Source:** Council records
Implement at least **4 collaborative community safety initiatives in partnership with key stakeholders including NSW Police each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Community Development **Source:** Council records
Complete **100% of the fire trail maintenance program each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Infrastructure Services **Source:** Council records (Bush Fire Risk Management Plan)
Increase visitation to **Council's libraries above 450,000 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Library Services **Source:** Council records
Increase the number of **local artists and members of the creative arts sector participating in Council's programs and events.**	**Responsible:** Manager Visitor Experience and Events **Source:** Council records
Increase the number of **volunteers in Council's environmental programs above 800.**	**Responsible:** Manager Environment and Sustainability **Source:** Council records (includes Bushcare, Streetcare, Parkcare, Trailcare, Treecare, Native Bee Program, Propagating Shed, Streamwatch, EPP monitoring)
Increase the number of **participants in Council's events and programs above 60,000 each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Visitor Experience and Events **Source:** Council records (excludes St Ives Showground vehicle counts and Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden trail walkers)

Outcome 5:
Leadership and service excellence

Council provides the following key services under this outcome. These services and their sub-services contribute to the delivery of actions, projects and programs in Council's 2026-2027 Operational Plan and Term Achievements in Council's four-year Delivery Program.

Governance and corporate strategy – Integrated Planning and Reporting, including the Community Strategic Plan and associated plans, performance reporting, service improvement reviews, council meeting support, councillor support and development, policy and procedures review, records management, archival services and information access.

Financial management and procurement – Financial planning, budgeting, reporting and compliance, financial advice and support, and procurement.

Property management – Strategic property management, property acquisition and divestment, statutory land management, leasing and licensing of public assets including commercial, retail, childcare, community, sporting and residential property.

People and culture – Workforce management including strategic workforce planning, strategies, policies and compliance, staff recruitment and selection, employee relations, learning and development, payroll management, enterprise risk management, work, health and safety, insurance portfolio management, advisory and support services.

Information management – ICT infrastructure management, software and systems support, cybersecurity, data management, help desk and technical support, spatial mapping services, IT strategy and planning.

Communications and engagement – Internal and external communications, media liaison, website and intranet, social media and e-news, graphic design, digital communications, printing, marketing and promotions, community consultation and engagement coordination.

Customer service – Direct assistance to customers via customer service desk and phone service, management of complaints and service requests and customer feedback.

Outcome 5:

Leadership and service excellence (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
L1: Provide strong and ethical civic leadership to ensure good governance and build and maintain trust and confidence within the community.

Term Achievement
L1.1: The Community Strategic Plan drives delivery of community priorities through effective strategic planning, prioritisation, advocacy, partnerships and reporting to the community on performance.
Lead: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L1.1.1:	Strengthen the integrated planning and reporting framework to better support strategic prioritisation into annual budgeting and planning. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓
L1.1.2:	Strengthen reporting and support systems to deliver clear and comprehensive reporting to councillors and the community on performance and service delivery. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓
L1.1.3:	Proactively influence and respond to Commonwealth and NSW policy development and reforms affecting Ku-ring-gai. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Integrated planning and reporting

Term Achievement
L1.2: Council's governance framework supports probity, transparency, compliance with legislative requirements and a culture of ethical conduct and informed decision-making.
Lead: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L1.2.1:	Review and adopt Council's revised Procurement Policy, procedures and supporting documents to reflect best-practice procurement, sustainability initiatives and alignment with the Contract Management Framework. *Responsible: Manager Procurement and Contracts*	✓	✓	
L1.2.2:	Address potential Modern Slavery risk in Council's supply chain in line with Modern Slavery Act (2018) requirements. *Responsible: Manager Procurement and Contracts*	✓	✓	✓
L1.2.3:	Improve opportunities for local businesses to work with Council through education and review of procurement information on Council's website. *Responsible: Manager Procurement and Contracts*	✓	✓	✓
L1.2.4:	Strengthen the role of the procurement function to provide central leadership and support for significant procurements, including coordinating and overseeing probity, supporting effective contract management, and ensuring consistent governance, risk management and compliance. *Responsible: Manager Procurement and Contracts*	✓	✓	
L1.2.5:	Continue to support the effective conduct of Council meetings, public forums and committees in line with Office of Local Government requirements. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓
L1.2.6:	Continue to deliver a professional development program for Councillors to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities and have the skills necessary to perform their roles. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓
L1.2.7:	Provide legal advice and services that support decision-making, promotion of the public interest and minimisation of Council's legal risks and liabilities. *Responsible: Corporate Lawyer*	✓	✓	✓

Outcome 5:

Leadership and service excellence (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued)
L1: Provide strong and ethical civic leadership to ensure good governance and build and maintain trust and confidence within the community.

Term Achievement (continued)
L1.2: Council's governance framework supports probity, transparency, compliance with legislative requirements and a culture of ethical conduct and informed decision-making.
Lead: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L1.2.8:	Improve staff awareness and compliance with information access and privacy legislation, policy and practices. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓
L1.2.9:	Develop a legislative compliance program to ensure clear staff responsibilities and improved monitoring of regulatory changes. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	
L1.2.10:	Continue to implement recommendations from the Records Management Strategy to ensure compliance with recordkeeping requirements and support more efficient business operations. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	

Contributing service/sub – service
Governance

Term Achievement
L1.3: Council's risk management, compliance, and internal control systems foster a culture of safety and accountability while ensuring adherence to legislative requirements and alignment with industry best practices.
Lead: Manager People and Culture

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L1.3.1:	Manage and coordinate a compliant and effective Enterprise Risk Management system. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L1.3.2:	Act as a central point of contact to the Internal Audit Shared Service (hosted by NSROC) to support and facilitate Council's internal audit function. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L1.3.3:	Coordinate, support and facilitate the effective management of Council's Insurance portfolio. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L1.3.4:	Manage and coordinate a compliant and effective Workplace, Health and Safety Management System. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Risk management and compliance

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
L2: Support the long-term financial sustainability of Council through sound financial and asset management.

Term Achievement
L2.1: Council takes action towards financial sustainability.
Lead: Manager Finance

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L2.1.1:	Ensure financial performance aligns with strategic plans by managing income and expenditure in line with adopted budget. *Responsible: Manager Finance*	✓	✓	✓
L2.1.2:	Review the Long Term Financial Plan and identify funding options to maintain long term financial sustainability. *Responsible: Manager Finance*	✓	✓	✓
L2.1.3:	Ensure compliance with statutory financial reporting requirements, align with external audit requirements and strive for continuous improvements. *Responsible: Manager Finance*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Financial management

Outcome 5:

Leadership and service excellence (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan (continued) **L2:** Support the long-term financial sustainability of Council through sound financial and asset management.				
Term Achievement **L2.2:** Council's property assets are managed to achieve Ku-ring-gai's strategies and priority projects contained within the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program. *Lead: Manager Property*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
L2.2.1:	Progress Council approved property acquisitions and divestments. *Responsible: Manager Property*	✓	✓	✓
L2.2.2:	Optimise financial returns from Council's existing property portfolio, given the prevailing market conditions. *Responsible: Manager Property*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Property management				
Term Achievement **L2.3:** Council maintains its commitment to infrastructure asset management priorities. *Lead: Manager Finance*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
L2.3.1:	Identify available funding sources in the Long Term Financial Plan for infrastructure renewal and maintenance. *Responsible: Manager Finance*	✓	✓	✓
L2.3.2:	Review the Asset Management Strategy, policy and plans and align with Council's Resourcing Strategy and Community Strategic Plan. *Responsible: Manager Assets and Technical Services*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Financial management				
Term Achievement **L2.4:** Council services are progressively reviewed to determine agreed service levels and improvements to service efficiency and sustainability within available resources. *Lead: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*				
Operational Plan Actions		**26/27**	**27/28**	**28/29**
L2.4.1:	Prepare a framework (policy and supporting procedures) for service improvement reviews and develop measures and key performance indicators to track and report on service performance and organisation efficiency. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓
L2.4.2:	Conduct four service reviews per year in line with the targeted service review program, with actions tracked and monitored. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓		
L2.4.3:	Continue to integrate sustainability practices into Council's business framework and service delivery through the Sustainability@work program. *Responsible: Manager Environment and Sustainability*	✓	✓	✓
Contributing service/sub – service Service improvement reviews				

Outcome 5:

Leadership and service excellence (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
L3: Deliver services effectively and efficiently on the basis of equity, community priorities and best value within available resources.

Term Achievement
L3.1: Workforce capacity is strengthened through skill development, continuous learning, and the attraction and retention of talented, engaged employees.
Lead: Manager People and Culture

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L3.1.1:	Effectively deliver learning and development strategies and programs in line with identified priorities and the objectives of Council's adopted Workforce Management Strategy. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L3.1.2:	Deliver an effective and efficient payroll service. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L3.1.3:	Effectively deliver services across all workforce management areas including recruitment, employee relations and industrial relations. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L3.1.4:	Continuously improve People & Culture services, business processes and systems. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L3.1.5:	Design and deliver workforce policies and strategies to support the organisation's culture in line with the objectives of Council's adopted Workforce Management Strategy. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓
L3.1.6	Review the Workforce Management Strategy as part of Council's adopted Resourcing Strategy. *Responsible: Manager People and Culture*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Workforce management

Term Achievement
L3.2: Technology enhances service delivery and improves operational efficiency and effectiveness while ensuring the security of data.
Lead: Manager Information Management

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L3.2.1:	Develop and implement a Council-wide AI strategy and governance framework. *Responsible: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy*	✓	✓	✓
L3.2.2:	Maintain, update and support Council's core business systems, coordinate reviews and facilitate enhancements to address identified requirements. *Responsible: Manager Information Management*	✓	✓	✓
L3.2.3:	Develop, maintain and deliver quality property and geographic information services including advice and training. *Responsible: Manager Information Management*	✓	✓	✓
L3.2.4:	Maintain, update and support Council's Information Technology infrastructure and systems. *Responsible: Manager Information Management*	✓	✓	✓
L3.2.5:	Coordinate and facilitate the implementation of the ICT and Digital Strategy action plan and initiatives and ensure appropriate funding is identified. *Responsible: Manager Information Management*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Information management

Outcome 5:

Leadership and service excellence (continued)

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
L4: Provide a high-quality customer experience that meets expectations.

Term Achievement
L4.1: Best practice customer service is provided to the community through benchmarking, community feedback and complaints management.
Lead: Manager Corporate Communications

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L4.1.1:	Improve the delivery of customer service across the organisation through regular training, benchmarking and feedback *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L4.1.2:	Report annually to the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) on complaints as defined by Council's adopted Complaints Policy. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Customer service

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan
L5: Provide high quality community engagement and communications to enhance collaboration, participation and decision-making.

Term Achievement
L5.1: Innovative and effective community engagement increases opportunities for participation by all members of the community.
Lead: Manager Corporate Communications

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L5.1.1:	Liaise with staff to ensure the Community Engagement Policy and Community Engagement Strategy is understood and provide support as needed. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L5.1.2:	Convene regular meetings of the community engagement champions to report, plan and improve community engagement delivery. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L5.1.3:	Continue to enhance engagement with people with disabilities, culturally and linguistically diverse groups, LGBTQI+ and young people. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L5.1.4:	Monitor and report on the outcomes of community engagement and consultation. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Community engagement and consultation

Term Achievement
L5.2: Council's website and other communication channels provide a reputable source of information on policies, projects and programs.
Lead: Manager Corporate Communications

Operational Plan Actions		26/27	27/28	28/29
L5.2.1:	A wide range of communication channels are used to promote Council services to agreed corporate standards. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L5.2.2:	Council services, programs, policies and achievements are promoted across all media and outcomes are monitored. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L5.2.3:	Monitor Council's website and report on usage. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L5.2.4:	Proactively manage Council's reputation through the media and other channels. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓
L5.2.5:	Promote Council festivals and events using Council communication channels. *Responsible: Manager Corporate Communications*	✓	✓	✓

Contributing service/sub – service
Corporate communications

Outcome 5:

Leadership and service excellence (continued)

How we will measure our performance

In addition to reporting progress on the delivery of Operational Plan actions, the following performance indicators will be used to assess Council's progress toward achieving **Outcome 5.**

Performance indicators	
Maintain the **percentage of planned actions completed or on track in the Operational Plan above 90%.**	**Responsible**: Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy **Source:** Council records
Maintain the **percentage of policies reviewed by their due date at or above 70%.**	**Responsible:** Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy **Source:** Council records
Maintain the **Lost Time Injury Frequency Rate (LTIFR) below the national industry average of 13.2.**	**Responsible:** Manager People and Culture **Source:** Council payroll data and Safe Work Australia
Maintain **leasing of Council's commercial property portfolio at or above 90%.**	**Responsible:** Manager Property **Source:** Council records (includes properties in a lettable condition only)
Complete or significantly **progress 100% of Council's annual service review program each year.**	**Responsible:** Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy **Source:** Council records
Maintain the **turnover rate for permanent employees below the NSW Local Government industry average of 18%.**	**Responsible:** Manager People and Culture **Source:** Council records, Annual LGNSW HR Metrics Survey
Maintain customer service **enquiries responded to within 48 hours at or above 85%.**	**Responsible:** Manager Corporate Communications **Source:** Council records
Monitor the **number of participants in community engagement programs.**	**Responsible**: Manager Corporate Communications **Source:** Council records
Increase the number of people **subscribed to Council newsletters to at least 75,000.**	**Responsible:** Manager Corporate Communications **Source:** Council records

Finance



This section contains Council's financial management framework, budget, Statement of Revenue Policy and Capital Works Program. Council's Fees and Charges 2026-2027 are detailed in a separate document.

All Integrated Planning and Reporting plans are available on Council's website, the four Council libraries and the Customer Service Centre in Gordon.

This section includes the following components: **Page**

Financial summary 60
Domestic Waste Management 64
Statement of revenue policy 66
Pricing – goods and services 71
Budget statements 72
Summary of Capital Works Program and Operational Projects 2026/2027 74
Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2026/2027 75
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Special Rate Variation for Road Infrastructure Summary 2026/2027 84
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Financial summary

Ku-ring-gai Council's financial position is currently satisfactory. The 2026/27 budget projects an operating surplus of $40.8 million, which includes capital grants, contributions and additional rates. Excluding capital grants and contributions, the operating result is a surplus of $21 million (see diagram 4).

The operational budget for Council's services is $177 million, while the capital works budget is $76 million. See diagram 5.

The primary focus of the budget in addition to funding core services, is to continue to fund asset maintenance, depreciation, renewal and upgrades to Council's infrastructure assets, valued at $1.8 billion. Out of the $76 million capital budget, 49% is allocated to renewing existing assets, and 51% is directed toward upgrading or constructing new assets. In addition, $19.5 million is allocated to asset maintenance.

Despite these funding allocations, infrastructure asset indicators still fail to meet long-term benchmarks. The key challenge for Council is achieving financial sustainability through funding the ongoing maintenance and renewal of its large portfolio of infrastructure assets.

Key infrastructure assets, such as buildings, footpaths and drains were built decades ago and have not been adequately upgraded. As a result, there is now a greater focus on improving these assets and constructing new facilities to meet the needs of a growing population, especially in response to recent government housing reforms. Managing these assets is a financial challenge for both current and future generations, as they have been insufficiently funded over their lifecycle.

To successfully deliver key projects and increase funding to renew ageing infrastructure like buildings, recreational facilities, footpaths, and drains, additional rates revenue will be necessary. This requirement is modelled in the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), which includes a scenario with a special rate variation commencing 2026/27. As stated above, the budget for the years 2026/27 to 2028/29 presented in this document, reflects a special rate variation in the Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario (29% overall rate increase) in the draft LTFP.

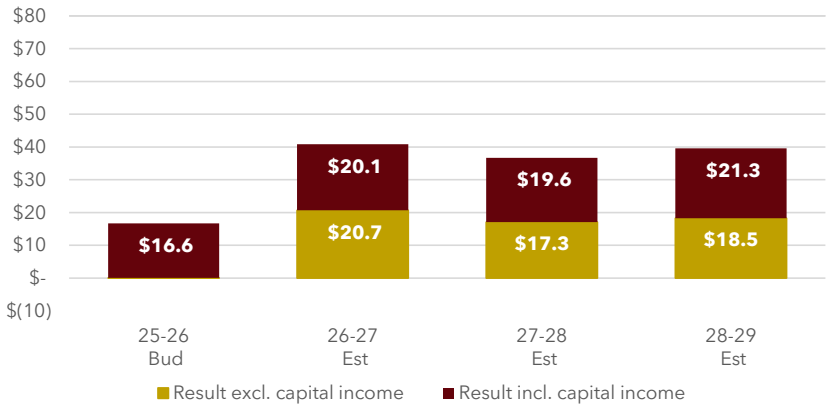


Diagram 4: Operating result including capital grants and contributions ($million)

Capital Budget: In 2026/27 the allocated budget for the capital works program is $76 million (refer to diagram 5). Of the $76 million capital budget, 49% is allocated to renewing existing assets, and 51% to upgrading or constructing new assets. A further $6.1 million is estimated for operational projects and is included in the operational budget.

The capital works program focuses on improving community facilities and infrastructure assets.

- $30.4 million (40%) is allocated to roads rehabilitation, footpaths renewal and traffic facilities.
- $16.6 million (22%) is allocated to parks, playgrounds, sports courts, sports fields and open space assets.
- $12.0 million (16%) is set aside for upgrading town centre streetscapes and the public domain.
- $11.0 million (14%) is allocated to improvements to Council buildings and amenities.
- $2.7 million (4%) is allocated to stormwater assets.
- $3.7 million (5%) will support natural environment, planning and community programs. In addition, $3.5 million is allocated to environmental initiatives and programs as part of the operational projects budget.

The capital works program is mainly funded from general rates, including special rates, (66%), development contributions (27%) and grants income (7%).

Details of the capital works program for 2026/27 to 2028/29 can be found in the Capital Works Program and Operational Projects 2026/27 to 2028/29 section of this document.

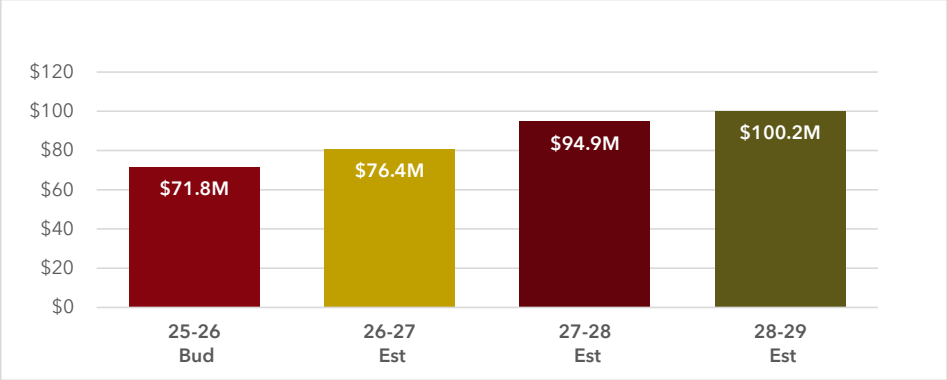


Diagram 5: Capital works ($million)

Liquidity position: Council's Long Term Financial Plan and budget ensures that Council maintains sufficient liquidity and has the ability to meet short term obligations for the unrestricted activities of Council. This is demonstrated by the 'unrestricted current ratio' (UCR). The UCR is specific to local government and measures the difference between Council's unrestricted short term assets and short term debts. The industry benchmark of greater than 1.5:1 is considered to be 'satisfactory' and greater than 2:1 to be 'good'.

Council's budget maintains a 'good' unrestricted current ratio of 2.2:1 on average which is favourable compared to the benchmark of 2:1. This is an indication that Council will be able to maintain adequate cash levels to meet current liabilities (see diagram 6).



Diagram 6: Unrestricted current ratio

Debt management: Council's budget provides for loan capital repayments (interest and principal) of $4.2 million in 2026/27 and $4.1 million in 2028/29 reducing the outstanding debt to $10.6 million by the end of 2028/29. This will include the remaining loans of $5.7 million for the acquisition of Council's investment property at 828 Pacific Highway, Gordon and $4.7 million to fund a component of the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre.

Council has sufficient cash to discharge loan repayments as they fall due and is actively monitoring its debt portfolio. Debt management is discussed in more detail in Council's Long Term Financial Plan. Diagram 7 shows outstanding loan balances from 2025/26 – 2028/29.

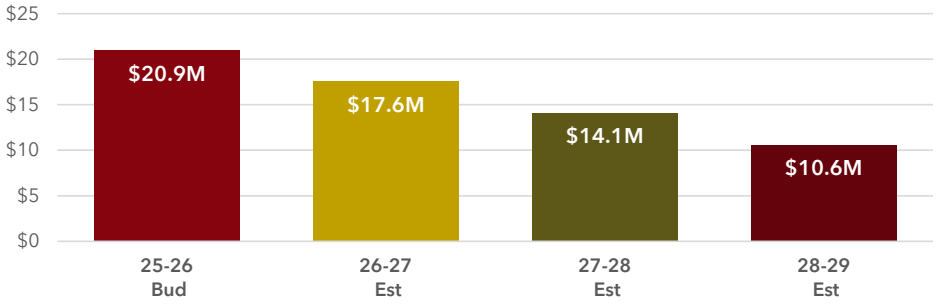


Diagram 7: Loan balance ($million)

Development Contributions (s7.11): Council collects s7.11 contributions from developers to help pay for new infrastructure and facilities for the growing population of the area. Some of the works to be undertaken in the Development Contributions Plan cater for the existing population and these works require a co-contribution from Council's general funds. A total of $18 million projects funded from s7.11 and grants and contributions will be delivered in 2026/27. Funding by specific project is detailed in the capital works program later in this plan.

The funding allocated to works programmed to be undertaken over the next four years are shown in Diagram 8.

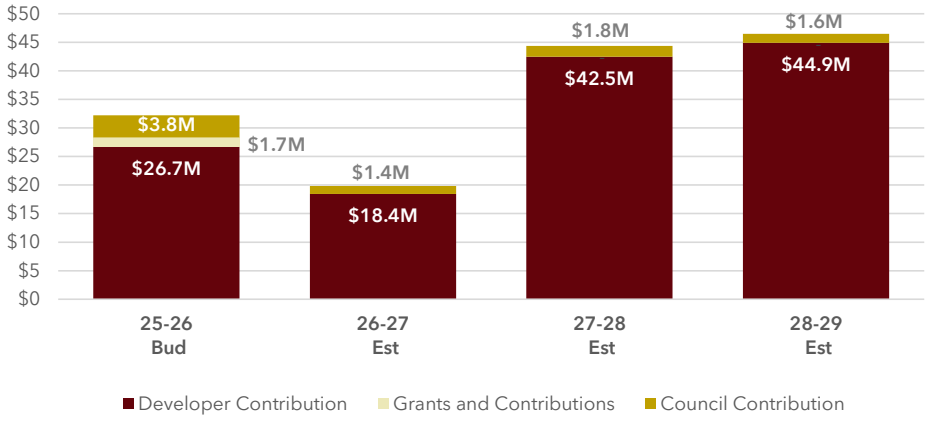


Diagram 8: s7.11 works program ($million)

Rates and Rates Structure: Council's total rates income is 'pegged' by the State Government and approval must be obtained for increases above this amount (known as Special Rates Variations). The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) announced the 2026/27 rate peg as 4.4%. The peg is insufficient to cover increased operational and labour costs in the current environment of high inflation and rising costs. Council has successfully applied for a Special Rates Variation for a total rate increase of 29% to meet community needs and infrastructure renewal to take effect for the rating year 2026/27.

In the 2026/27 budget the projected rates income is $108.1 million with the permanent SRV. This amount includes the permanent existing Special Rate Variations for Infrastructure $4.7 million and the Environmental Levies $4.9 million respectively.

The rates restructure for 2026/27 is outlined further in this document.

Funding Statement: A summary of Council's Funding Statement for the next years is provided below. Following IPART's approval, a special rate variation (SRV) will begin in 2026/27 and has been included in the projected operating income from that year onward. The SRV funds will be allocated specifically to infrastructure assets.

The funding statement outlines the capital movements, the funding of the capital works program, and a stable forecast for working capital changes.

Funding Statement with SRV ($000's)	2025/2026	2026/2027	2027/2028	2028/2029
Operating Revenue	181,900	217,683	224,412	233,757
Operating Expense	165,192	176,854	187,450	193,982
Net Operating Result for the Year (after Capital Grants & Contributions)	**16,708**	**40,829**	**36,962**	**39,775**
Net Operating Result for the Year (before Capital Grants & Contributions)	114	20,706	17,313	18,464
Operating Surplus (after Capital Grants & Contributions)	16,708	40,829	36,962	39,775
Plus: Depreciation & Amortisation	29,525	30,426	32,124	33,487
Plus: Book Value of Assets Sold & Other Non-cash Items	-	-	133	72
Plus/Less Net Loan Borrowing	-3,338	-3,397	-3,460	-3,525
Plus/Less Net Transfers from Reserves	29,023	8,690	29,233	30,497
Capital Works	-71,818	-76,448	-94,892	-100,206
Net Change in Working Capital	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**

Domestic waste management

Sections 496 and 504 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended), require councils to make and levy an annual charge for the provision of a domestic waste management (DWM) service for each parcel of rateable land for which the service is available, to ensure that the cost of providing the service is met by the charge and that the charge is reasonable for the services provided.

DWM fees are proposed to increase by 3.8% for 2026/27 to reflect rising service delivery and contractor costs while balancing affordability for residents. Further fee adjustments will be required in future to achieve full cost recovery and maintain current service levels. A council cannot use income from its ordinary rate towards the cost of providing DWM services.

Ku-ring-gai Council's Domestic Waste Management service is provided on the following basis:

A. Single residential dwellings/base service

- A weekly general waste collection service from a container provided by Council.
- A weekly green waste collection service from a container provided by Council.
- A fortnightly recycling collection service for paper products from a container provided by Council.
- A fortnightly recycling collection service for food and beverage containers from a container provided by Council.
- By appointment and subject to availability, a maximum of four kerb-side clean-ups per year each having a maximum of three cubic metres per service. Clean-ups nominated as having metals, e-waste and/or mattresses will now have these materials collected separately for recycling.
- By appointment and subject to availability, four bulky green waste collections for tree pruning each having a maximum of three cubic metres per service.

B. Flats and home units

- A weekly general waste collection service per unit occupancy of 120 litres per week from a container provided by Council.
- A weekly recycling collection service for paper products and food and beverage containers from a container provided by Council.
- By appointment and subject to availability, a maximum of four kerb-side clean-ups per year each having a maximum of three cubic metres per service. Clean-ups nominated as having metals, e-waste and/or mattresses will now have these materials collected separately for recycling.
- By appointment and subject to availability, four bulky green waste collections for tree pruning each having a maximum of three cubic metres per service.

C. Medium density residential/base service

- A weekly general waste collection service per occupancy using 120 litre bins.
- A fortnightly recycling collection per occupancy using 120 litre containers for paper/cardboard products.
- A fortnightly recycling collection per occupancy using 120 litre containers for food and beverage containers.
- By appointment and subject to availability, a maximum of four kerb-side clean-ups per year each having a maximum of three cubic metres per service. Clean-ups nominated as having metals, e-waste and/or mattresses will now have these materials collected separately for recycling.
- By appointment and subject to availability, four bulky green waste collections for tree pruning each having a maximum of three cubic metres per service.

D. General

- Rehabilitation and maintenance of former domestic waste landfill sites to meet environmental guidelines and statutory responsibilities.
- Single residential domestic waste service upgrades to 240 litre waste bins or additional green waste bins are provided for a minimum period of 12 months from date of purchase.

Charges for 2026/27 are shown below

Category	Charge per Occupancy	Service/ Properties	Estimated Yield
Base service with green waste	$550.00	23,658	$13,011,900
Base service without green waste	$368.00	364	$133,952
Flat, home unit 120L	$477.00	14,558	$6,944,166
Flat, home unit 240L	$717.00	13	$9,321
Additional green waste bin	$205.00	4,429	$907,945
Aged care	$368.00	691	$254,288
Hostel	$93	103	$9,579.00
240L bin with green waste	$788.00	7,496	$5,906,848
Additional 120L waste bin	$240.00	207	$49,680
Additional 240L recycle bin	$92.00	200	$18,400
Availability/vacant land	$217.00	253	$54,901
240L waste bin without green waste	$609.00	57	$34,713
Additional 240L waste bin, flat, home unit	$510.00	79	$40,290
			$27,375,983

Note: For aged care/retirement villages rated or exempt, charge is applied per service as follows:

- Base service without green waste plus 25% and 50% respectively for each room or apartment.
- Boarding house/single room serviced apartment - Base service without green waste plus 25% for each additional room or apartment – service level is 30 litres waste and 60 litres recycling per week per apartment.

Note: New services for flat, home unit additional bin weekly collections subject to Body Corporate approval are as follows:

- Additional 660L waste bin per bin per year $1,363.50
- Additional 660L recycle bin per bin per year $239.00

Statement of revenue policy

Rates Statement

Ordinary rate

The land within the Ku-ring-gai local government area is divided into two categories: residential and business. Council has two ordinary rates being a general residential rate and a general business rate. Business and residential categories can be defined as follows:

- **Residential Rate** - each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for residential accommodation (other than as a hotel, motel, guesthouse, boarding house, nursing home or any other form of residential accommodation whose dominant use is for business or profit).
- **Business Rate** - each parcel of land valued as one assessment whose dominant use is for business, commerce or associated with business for profit; whether profitable or not. In accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993*, land is to be categorised as 'business' if it cannot be categorised as farmland, residential or mining.

Those properties that are subject to a Mixed Development Apportionment Factor (MDAF) as supplied by the Valuer General are rated as part Residential and part Business on the basis that MDAF are not categorised according to dominant use.

Special rates

Council has the following current special rates:

- **Infrastructure – Primary Rate and Special Rate Variation:** used to maintain, renew and upgrade Council's infrastructure. The Infrastructure Rate will be levied on all rateable land within the Ku-ring-gai local government area.
- **Environmental - Special Rate Variation:** used to implement and continue a range of environmental programs. The Environmental Levy will be levied on all rateable land within the Ku-ring-gai local government area.
- **Permanent Special Rate Variation (SRV) for infrastructure renewal and enhancement:** to fund improved infrastructure outcomes. Council will be able to deliver additional recreational facility works and funding for new footpaths and other infrastructure upgrades. The permanent SRV for infrastructure renewal will be levied on all rateable land within the Ku-ring-gai local government area.

Refer to the Appendices for Ku-ring-gai Council's ordinary and special rates map for 2026-2027.

Rates Structure

Each year the NSW State Government approves a maximum percentage increase in the total income a council can receive from rates, known as the 'rate peg'. In 2026/27 the rate peg has been determined by IPART based on a population growth factor for each council in NSW and Ku-ring-gai Council was 4.4%. The rate structure includes the rate peg and special rate variation approved by IPART June 2026, totalling 29%.

The details of rates levied will be as follows:

Rates structure including rate pegging and special rate variation increase of 29%

Type	Category	Rate in $	Min/base amount ($)	% of revenue from base for each rate	Yield $
Ordinary	Residential	0.00056195	698		50,625,980
Ordinary	Business	0.00408210	698		7,479,034
Special	Infrastructure - Primary Rate	0.0002855			20,205,494
Special	Infrastructure - Primary Rate		434	49.96%	20,172,754
Special	Infrastructure - Special Rate Variation	0.00003532			2,871,162
Special	Infrastructure - Special Rate Variation		40	39.30%	1,859,240
Special	Environmental - Special Rate Variation	0.00006069			4,933,645
Total					**$108,147,309**

The Ordinary General Residential and Business Rates, plus the special 'Infrastructure – Primary Rate' together represent the total notional rates income of Council excluding the rates received from the two special rate variations. The above rates structure divides this amount into the Ordinary Rates (59%) and 'Infrastructure – Primary Rate' (41%).

Under this rates structure, Council will grant a voluntary pensioner rebate (in addition to the Statutory Rebate) of 8.5% of the total Council rates and charges. This voluntary rebate will apply to pensioners who are eligible for the Statutory Rebate.

Payment of Rates

Ratepayers may pay their rates in four instalments being:

31 August, 30 November, 28 February and 31 May each year. Council is required to forward notices one month in advance. Council's payment options include:

- A telephone payment service
- Payble – payments using online platform named Payble
- Direct debit
- Payments at Australia Post
- Credit card, debit card, cheque, money order or cash payments at Council Chambers
- BPay
- Internet payments by credit card via Council's website.

Interest is charged on each instalment not paid by the due date.

The applicable interest rate is set each year by the Minister for Local Government. Council will adopt the maximum rate applicable as set by the Minister. The rate for 2026/27 is 9.5%.

Statutory Pensioner Rebate

Eligible pensioners receive a statutory reduction of 50% of the combined rates and domestic waste management charge to a maximum of $250. Council receives a subsidy of 55% of the total statutory rebate. To be eligible for a full year rebate, the date on which the person becomes eligible must be on the date rates and charges are levied in any rating year. Pensioners who become eligible after the date on which rates and charges are levied will receive a rebate proportionate to the number of full quarters remaining in the rating year after the day on which the person becomes an eligible pensioner (*Local Government Act 1993* section 575).

Those pensioners who are uncertain of their status should contact Council for assistance and advice. The granting of the Statutory Pensioner Rebate to eligible pensioners is limited to the current year and previous year only.

Voluntary Pensioner Rebate

In addition to the Statutory Pensioner Rebate, Council will grant a voluntary pensioner rebate in accordance with the adopted rates structure discussed in section 'Rates Structure' on page 67.

This voluntary rebate will apply to pensioners who are eligible for the Statutory Rebate. It will be granted to all eligible pensioners on the same basis as the Statutory Pensioner Rebate for 2026/27. The granting of Council's Voluntary Pensioner Rebate to eligible pensioners is limited to the current year and previous year only.

Other Rating Issues

Aggregation of rates in accordance with section 548A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended) will apply in the following situations:

- For all lots categorised as Residential or Business for rating purposes, one separately titled car-space and one separately titled utility lot that are in the same ownership as the residential or business lot and are within the same building or Strata Plan. All aggregations will only apply from the commencement of the quarter following the lodgement of the application with Council.
- Upon registration of a plan of subdivision or consolidation with the Registrar General, Council will re-rate the property(s) from the commencement of the following quarter of the rating year.
- Councils obtain new land values from the NSW Valuer General at least every three years. For the 2026/27 rating year, the base date for Land Values is 1/7/2025.
- Council's current policy 'Rates, Charges and Sundry Debts – Assistance, Concessions and Recovery Policy' documents provisions for assistance in paying rates, charges and sundry debts, entitlement to pensioner concessions and requirements for debt recovery.

The policy is available at www.krg.nsw.gov.au

Other Charges

Fees & Charges

Council's Fees & Charges for 2026/27 have been reviewed to ensure closer alignment with increases in costs. This resulted in an increase of 3.9% for a variety of non-statutory fees as reflected in the Fees & Charges schedule.

Sportsgrounds, tennis courts, halls and meeting rooms

In March 2026, Council resolved to include the proposed installation of publicly accessible Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) at sports fields (up to 60) and community buildings (up to 10) in the draft 2026/27 Delivery Program and Operational Plan for public exhibition. Council also resolved to include increases to relevant fees in the draft 2026/27 Fees and Charges, to help fund the installation, ongoing maintenance, and monitoring of the AEDs. These fee increases will be phased in over two financial years commencing in 2026/27.

In response to community submissions during the exhibition period the proposed number of AEDs has decreased to 41 units at sporting facilities and 20 units at community buildings.

The implementation of this stage will result in the following fee increases, in addition to the standard CPI based increase*, for the first two years:

- Sports fields including tennis courts and pickle ball hire fees: an increase of 4.6% per year
- Community halls and meeting rooms hire fees: an increase of 0.7% per year
- Golf courses – new: an increase of 0.3%
- Passive recreation – new: an increase of 0.6%

*The standard CPI based increase for 2026/27 is 3.9%

The estimated capital cost to deliver these AEDs is $353,900 and ongoing operational costs are $80,995 per year. Over the 10-year asset life, the combined annualised cost of both capital and operational cost is estimated at $114,140. This includes $68,445 pa for sports fields and $7,020 pa for community buildings.

Additional income from the revised fees will be applied in Years 1(2026/27) and 2 (2027/28) to offset the initial capital investment and ongoing operational costs in future years. Funds will be initially borrowed from internal reserves in Year 1 to cover upfront costs of installation and returned to the reserve as fee income is received each year.

**Note that content, costings and associated fee structures outlined in this section are subject to final determination and adoption by Council at the June 2026 meeting. This will be updated to reflect Council's resolution regarding the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) rollout and changes to the 2026/27 Fees and Charges schedule.*

Stormwater management charge

The stormwater management service charge for 2026/27 is levied under Section 496A of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended).

The charges have been set in accordance with the Local Government Amendment (Stormwater) Bill 2005 and for 2026/27 are as follows:

- Strata/Company titled residential home units: $12.50 per Unit
- Other residential property: $25.00 per rateable property
- Business rateable property: $25.00 per 350 square metres of land area (a maximum charge of $1,500.00 applies to land area greater than 21,000 square metres)

- Strata/Company titled business units: a minimum of $5.00 or the relevant proportion of the maximum annual charge that would apply to the land subject to the strata scheme if it were a parcel of land subject to the Business rateable property charge.

Waste management charge

The waste management charge for 2026/27 is levied under Section 501 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended).

Section 611 charge - Gas Mains

Under Section 611 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (as amended) a council may make an annual 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.

For the purpose of gas supplies, a charge is equal to 0.75% of average sales for five years plus a main apportionment calculated according to the percentage of mains within Ku-ring-gai. This is assessed in accordance with the judgement by Justice Pike (AGL v. Glebe Municipal Council) and the charge to be calculated using the independent audited figures prepared for the Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and the apportionment determined by the LGNSW.

Pricing – goods and services

Council's pricing methodology is detailed below. The Schedule of Fees and Charges (see separate document) also detail the principles employed by Council in determining each fee and charge.

Pricing Principles

Code	Pricing basis	Pricing principle includes
F	**Full Cost Recovery** Council recovers all direct and indirect cost of the service, including depreciation of assets.	The service benefits particular users, making a contribution to their individual income, welfare or profits or a private benefit being provided without any broader benefits to the community. Council has a monopoly over the provision of the service and there are no community service or equity obligations. *Example of Full Cost Recovery - application for drainage easement and abandoned vehicle, removal and storage. Standard fee to be paid prior to release of the vehicle.*
P	**Partial Cost Recovery** Council recovers less than full costs, reasons may include community obligation or legislative limits on charging.	The benefits from provision of the service accrue to the community as whole as well as individual users. Charging prices to recover full cost may result in widespread evasion. The service promotes or encourages local economic activity. *Example of Partial Cost Recovery - tree preservation orders, youth program fees and freedom of information.*
L	**Statutory** Price of the service is determined by Legislation. Price may or may not recover full cost.	The service is a regulatory or statutory service and where the fee is determined by Council in accordance with a pricing principle prescribed in regulations (e.g. a maximum price). The amount of the fee is prescribed in regulations or determined by the Director General of the Office of Local Government or another authorised authority. Council has no discretion to determine the amount of the fee for a service when the amount is fixed by regulation or by another authority. *Example of Statutory - Certificates for classification of Council land.*
M	**Market Pricing** Price of the service is determined by examining alternative prices of surrounding service providers. Price may or may not recover full cost.	The service provided is in competition with that provided by another Council or agency (private or public) and there is pressure to set a price which will attract adequate usage of the service. *Example of Market Pricing - copying of documents.*
R	**Rate of Return** This would include full cost pricing in addition to a profit margin to factor in a return to Council.	The service is a profit making activity and the price paid by users should recover greater than the full cost of providing the service; (a) fees charged are greater than the full cost of the service to act as a disincentive; (b) fees charged for possession, occupation or enjoyment of Council land and air space by Gas, Electricity, Water and Telecommunications. *Example of Rate of Return – road restorations.*
Z	**No Charge** Some services may be provided free of charge and the whole cost determined as a community obligation or may be classed as a public good.	Service provides a broad community benefit. Impractical to charge for service on a user basis. Service is a minor part of the overall operation of Council. The potential for revenue collection is minor and is outweighed by the cost of collection. *Example of No Charge – Public access internet provision.*

Budget statements

The following budget statements present Council's preferred scenario with a special rate variation. However, for the scenario without a special rate variation (base case scenario) readers can refer to the proposed Long Term Financial Plan. The final budget will be presented in a report to Council in June 2026.

4 Year Financial Plan (including a special rate variation) for the years ending 30 June 2029 Income Statement

$'000	Budget 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29
Income from Continuing Operations				
Rates & Annual Charges	110,063	135,930	143,240	151,040
User Charges & Fees	23,956	27,254	29,351	30,358
Interest & Investment Revenue	8,204	9,289	6,259	4,834
Other Revenues	13,895	14,872	15,357	15,807
Grants & Contributions for Operating Purposes	9,188	10,215	10,226	10,407
Grants & Contributions for Capital Purposes	16,594	20,123	19,649	21,124
Other Income:				
Net gains from the disposal of assets	-	-	330	187
Total Income from Continuing Operations	**181,900**	**217,683**	**224,412**	**233,757**
Expenses from Continuing Operations				
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	54,159	58,556	61,356	63,986
Borrowing Costs	1,139	915	776	627
Materials & Contracts	68,500	75,348	80,631	82,515
Depreciation & Amortisation	29,525	30,426	32,124	33,487
Other Expenses	5,130	5,487	5,623	5,758
Other Operational Projects Expenses	6,739	6,122	6,940	7,609
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	**165,192**	**176,854**	**187,450**	**193,982**
Net Operating Result for the Year	**16,708**	**40,829**	**36,962**	**39,775**
Net Operating Result for the year before Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	**114**	**20,706**	**17,313**	**18,251**

4 Year Financial Plan (including a special rate variation) for the years ending 30 June 2029
Funding Statement

Projected Funding $'000	Budget 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29
Net Operating Result for the Year	16,708	40,829	36,962	39,775
Add: (Non-Cash) - Depreciation	29,525	30,426	32,124	33,487
Add: Book Value of Asset Disposals	-	-	133	72
Cash Available to Fund Projects	**46,233**	**71,255**	**69,219**	**73,334**
Capital Works Project Expenditure				
Planning, Community & Other	- 2,666	- 3,223	- 2,880	- 3,811
Roads & Transport	- 15,109	- 30,423	- 24,138	- 21,427
Streetscape & Public Domain	- 11,903	- 12,049	- 36,179	- 40,957
Parks & Recreation	- 30,878	- 16,570	- 17,711	- 15,807
Stormwater Drainage	- 2,600	- 2,705	- 2,919	- 2,609
Council Buildings	- 6,636	- 10,969	- 10,175	- 10,210
Trees & Natural Environment	- 2,026	- 509	- 890	- 5,385
Total Capital Projects	**- 71,818**	**- 76,448**	**- 94,892**	**- 100,206**
Cash Flow Surplus/(to Fund)	**- 25,585**	**- 5,193**	**- 25,673**	**- 26,872**
FINANCED BY:				
New Borrowings	-	-	-	-
Less: Loan Repayments	3,338	3,397	3,460	3,525
Net Loan Funds (Paid/Received)	**- 3,338**	**- 3,397**	**- 3,460**	**- 3,525**
Funds To Restricted Assets	45,067	72,578	70,920	74,166
Funds From Restricted Assets				
Internal Reserves	26,158	43,719	42,643	43,900
Section 7.11 Plans	36,126	22,497	45,836	52,246
Infrastructure Levy	3,650	3,811	3,964	4,103
Environmental Levy	4,084	3,217	3,337	3,560
DWM & Grants Reserves (Net)	4,072	8,024	4,588	379
Net Funding from Reserves	**29,023**	**8,690**	**29,233**	**30,497**
Net Working Capital Change	**100**	**100**	**100**	**100**
Opening Working Capital	7,808	7,908	8,008	8,108
Closing Working Capital	**7,908**	**8,008**	**8,108**	**8,208**

Summary of Capital Works Program and Operational Projects 2026/2027

(in 2026/2027 prices – $000's)

Project Group	Project Sub Group/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	Suburb	Capital Works	Operating Projects	Total Cost	General Funds	Development Contributions	Grants	Infrastructure Levy	Environmental Levy	Infrastructure & Facilities Reserve	Asset Sales Reserve	SRV
Council Buildings	Building Works & Maintenance	Various	1,413	0	**1,413**	0	0	0	0	0	1,413	0	0
	Capital Building Works	Various	7,493	0	**7,493**	398	0	0	0	0	388	0	6,707
	Community Centres & Halls	Various	71	163	**234**	163	0	0	0	0	71	0	0
	Public Toilets	Various	1,992	0	**1,992**	0	0	76	0	0	1,916	0	0
Parks & Recreation	Fencing & Parking Areas	Various	238	0	**238**	0	0	0	0	0	238	0	0
	Open Space/Recreational Assets	Various	5,142	0	**5,142**	0	2,712	0	0	0	529	0	1,902
	Parks Development	Wahroonga	5,506	0	**5,506**	103	5,014	50	0	0	340	0	0
	Playgrounds	West Pymble	4,217	0	**4,217**	30	3,418	0	0	0	769	0	0
	Sports Courts	Various	565	0	**565**	0	0	0	0	0	565	0	0
	Sports fields*	Various	290	66	**356**	0	0	0	0	0	356	0	0
	Tree Planting	Various	0	82	**82**	73	0	0	0	9	0	0	0
	Open Space Acquisition	Various	2,515	0	**2,515**	0	2,515	0	0	0	0	0	0
Planning, Community & Other	Community Development	Various	0	60	**60**	0	0	60	0	0	0	0	0
	Community Projects	Various	429	53	**482**	174	0	0	0	0	308	0	0
	Contributions Program Administration	Various	57	177	**234**	0	234	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Heritage Planning	Various	0	60	**60**	60	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Human Resources	Various	0	76	**76**	0	0	76	0	0	0	0	0
	Information Technology	Various	226	519	**745**	745	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Library Resources	Various	808	0	**808**	808	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other Operating Projects	Various	0	17	**17**	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Planning Projects	St Ives	311	0	**311**	0	304	0	0	0	6	0	0
	Plant & Vehicles	Various	1,392	0	**1,392**	1,392	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Roads & Transport	Bridges and Other Road Assets	Various	1,941	0	**1,941**	0	0	0	0	0	1,940	0	0
	Footpaths	Various	5,313	0	**5,313**	0	0	0	0	0	2,270	0	3,043
	Roads New & Upgrade	Various	3,853	441	**4,294**	0	3,853	441	0	0	0	0	0
	Roads Renewal Program	Various	11,772	385	**12,157**	0	0	1,585	3,811	0	6,761	0	0
	Street Furniture	Various	120	0	**120**	0	0	0	0	0	120	0	0
	Traffic Facilities	Wahroonga	7,425	0	**7,425**	0	165	4,078	0	0	1,319	161	1,702
Stormwater Drainage	Drainage Structures	Various	8,611	0	**8,611**	0	0	0	0	0	2,705	0	5,906
Streetscape & Public Domain	Town Centre & Urban Design	Various	0	386	**386**	386	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Town Centre Streetscape	Various	2,368	175	**2,543**	175	2,368	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Town Centres	Turramurra	1,873	0	**1,873**	0	1,873	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trees & Natural Environment	Biodiversity	Turramurra	0	576	**576**	0	0	124	0	452	0	0	0
	Catchment Management & Analysis	Various	0	627	**627**	250	0	0	0	377	0	0	0
	Community Partnerships	Various	51	982	**1,034**	125	40	0	0	868	0	0	0
	Environmental Levy projects		0	960	**960**	0	0	0	0	960	0	0	0
	Sustainable Energy	Various	355	287	**642**	293	0	0	0	349	0	0	0
	Transport	Various	103	100	**203**	0	0	0	0	203	0	0	0
	Total at 2026/2027 Prices		**76,449**	**6,191**	**82,640**	**5,193**	**22,495**	**6,490**	**3,811**	**3,217**	**22,014**	**161**	**19,259**

*Brought forward $4.5m (indexed) for Norman Griffith Oval Upgrade to 2025/2026 as per OMC190526 GB.13

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2026/2027

(in 2026/2027 prices - $000's)

Year: 2027

				82,640,800	34,234,000	22,496,500	6,490,000	161,300	19,259,000
Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	**Suburb**	**Location**	**Description of Work**	**Estimated Total Costs**	**General Funds**	**Development Contributions**	**Grants**	**CP2010 Asset Sale**	**SRV**
Council Buildings									
Building Works & Maintenance	Gordon	818 Pacific Highway	Council Administration Building Improvements	1,413,400	1,413,400	0	0	0	0
Capital Building Works	Gordon	Pacific Highway	828 Pacific Highway - leasing CAPEX	398,500	398,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Building services capital program in accordance with prioritisation matrix	223,900	223,900	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program - capital building works - specific projects to be defined	6,706,600	0	0	0	0	6,706,600
Community Centres & Halls	Gordon	Pacific Highway	Tulkiyan Building – operational contributions	163,100	163,100	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Low-cost improvement upgrades to select facilities to increase utilisation	164,300	164,300	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Public Toilets Refurbishment based on priority list	70,500	70,500	0	0	0	0
Public Toilets	Pymble	Bannockburn Oval	Bannockburn Oval Amenities Upgrade	1,025,000	948,800	0	76,200	0	0
	Various	LGA	Public Toilets Refurbishment based on priority list	967,100	967,100	0	0	0	0
Parks & Recreation									
Fencing & Parking Areas	Various	LGA	Fencing and carpark upgrades at parks and sportsgrounds in accordance with prioritisation matrix	238,000	238,000	0	0	0	0
Open Space Acquisition	Pymble	Pymble Local Centre	Preparation of concept design for new park - for Council endorsement. Note - timing of project is subject to completion of land acquisition	416,200	0	416,200	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Land acquisition and embellishment of new parks	976,500	0	976,500	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Open space planning and acquisition of land for new parks	1,122,500	0	1,122,500	0	0	0
Open Space/Recreational Assets	Lindfield	Ibbitson Park, cnr Worsley Road	Upgrade centre park to urban park standard inclusive of new playground, new fixtures and associated landscaping works	657,600	0	657,600	0	0	0
	Various		Open Space/Recreational Assets	2,054,000	0	2,054,000	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Installation of publicly accessible AEDs – Stage 1 - Lachie's Heartstart Project	528,800	528,800	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program - open space/recreational assets	1,901,900	0	0	0	0	1,901,900
Parks Development	Pymble	Robert Pymble Park, cnr Park Crescent and Alma Street	Robert Pymble Park Upgrade	1,573,400	0	1,573,400	0	0	0
	Roseville	Roseville Memorial Park - cnr Pacific Highway and McLaurin Parade	Roseville Memorial Urban Park Upgrade	51,400	0	51,400	0	0	0
	Roseville Chase		Former Roseville Bowling Club Landscape Masterplan	102,700	102,700	0	0	0	0
	St Ives	Bedes Forest Reserve cnr Stanley Street and Yarrabung Road	Bedes Forrest Reserve Upgrade	3,081,000	0	3,081,000	0	0	0
	St Ives	St Ives Village Green	St Ives Village Green Masterplan Implementation Works	205,400	0	205,400	0	0	0
	St Ives		Acron Oval Landscape Masterplan	75,700	25,700	0	50,000	0	0
	Various	LGA	Parks Development Program - Minor Projects	314,000	314,000	0	0	0	0
	Wahroonga	The Glade	Construction of Stage 1 works in accordance with adopted landscape master plan	102,700	0	102,700	0	0	0
Playgrounds	East Lindfield	Carlyle Road	Carlyle Road Reserve – addition of nature play elements	56,900	56,900	0	0	0	0
	East Lindfield	Pleasant Avenue	Pleasant Avenue Reserve - addition of nature play elements	58,200	58,200	0	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Primula Oval (Princes Park)	Playground upgrade	226,400	27,200	199,200	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Bradfield Road	Queen Elizabeth Reserve playground upgrade	1,010,500	119,200	891,300	0	0	0
	Roseville	Roseville Park	Roseville Park playspace upgrade	758,100	0	758,100	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Local Play Space renewals as per Playground Strategy priority matrix	94,400	94,400	0	0	0	0
	South Turramurra	Mimosa Reserve/ Rofe Park, Mimosa Road	Playspace upgrade	132,400	24,300	108,100	0	0	0
	St Ives	420 Mona Vale Road	Ku-ring-gai Wildflower Garden - district playspace upgrade	1,350,500	128,900	1,221,600	0	0	0
	Wahroonga	Curtin Avenue	McMahon Park - addition of nature play elements	58,200	58,200	0	0	0	0
	Wahroonga	The Glade, Koora Avenue	Playspace upgrade	55,400	55,400	0	0	0	0
	West Pymble	Next to 11 Henry Street	Applegum Way playground – removal/conversion to nature play in line with Playspace Strategy 2020	56,900	56,900	0	0	0	0
	West Pymble	Sequoia Close	Playground upgrade	299,900	60,000	239,900	0	0	
	West Pymble	Camira Street	Claire Taylor Park - addition of nature play elements	58,700	58,700	0	0	0	0
Sports Courts	Various	LGA	Sports Courts Development Program as per prioritisation matrix	565,000	565,000	0	0	0	0
Sports fields*	Roseville	Charles Bean Oval	Charles Bean Oval Synthetic Sportsfield Renewal	205,600	205,600	0	0	0	0
	Turramurra		Canoon Road Netball amenities upgrade.	25,700	25,700	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Matching funding opportunities and design and project management	58,500	58,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA Wide	Sportsfield Optimisation Trial	65,500	65,500	0	0	0	0
Tree Planting	Various	LGA	Tree planting throughout the Local Government Area	82,200	82,200	0	0	0	0

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2026/2027
(in 2026/2027 prices - $000's)

Year: 2027 (continued)

Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	Suburb	Location	Description of Work	Estimated Total Costs	General Funds	Development Contributions	Grants	CP2010 Asset Sale	SRV
Planning, Community & Other									
Community Development	Various	LGA	Local Priority Grant (State Govt funding)	59,600	0	0	59,600	0	0
Community Projects	Various	LGA	Ku-ring-gai Council Access and Disability Inclusion Plan actions	33,700	33,700	0	0	0	0
	Gordon	707 Pacific Highway	Tulkiyan Building - change of use access improvements	308,100	308,100	0	0	0	0
	St Ives	St Ives Showground	Multicultural Festival	52,800	52,800	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Improvements to facilities	87,200	87,200	0	0	0	0
Contributions Program Administration	Various	LGA	Contributions management, data and supporting studies	177,000	0	177,000	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	S7.12 (S94A) Plan projects	56,900	0	56,900	0	0	0
Heritage Planning	Various	LGA	Ku-ring-gai Heritage Fund	59,800	59,800	0	0	0	0
Human Resources	Various	LGA	Project budget allocation will be required to support the delivery of the Risk Management System and Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System projects, which are currently progressing through a formal tender process.	76,500	0	0	76,500	0	0
Information Technology	Various	LGA	IT equipment replacement	226,100	226,100	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	IT digital transformation	519,300	519,300	0	0	0	0
Library Resources	Various	LGA	Library resources	808,400	808,400	0	0	0	0
Other Operating Projects	Various	LGA	Governance and delegations management system	16,800	16,800	0	0	0	0
Planning Projects	St Ives	St Ives Showground	St Ives Showground Master Plan	310,700	6,200	304,500	0	0	0
Plant & Vehicles	Various	LGA	Operational and passenger fleet	1,391,500	1,391,500	0	0	0	0
Roads & Transport									
Bridges and Other Road Assets	Various	LGA	Bridge - Renewal Program - Bicentennial Park and Lynbarra Avenue	1,940,700	1,940,700	0	0	0	0
Footpaths	Various	LGA	Footpaths – Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program (Footpaths Asset Management Plan)	235,800	235,800	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - Renewal Program	941,000	0	0	0	0	941,000
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - New Footpath Program	2,102,000	0	0	0	0	2,102,000
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - New Footpath Program (Footpaths Asset Management Plan)	1,523,200	1,523,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - Renewal Program (Footpath Asset Management Plan)	511,100	511,100	0	0	0	0
Roads New & Upgrade	Gordon	Between Moree Street and St Johns Avenue, Gordon 70m	New 15m wide street, two-way traffic, with on street parking	47,100	0	47,100	0	0	0
	Pymble	Grandview Lane	Extension of existing lane - land acquisition component only of new road	3,806,000	0	3,806,000	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Traffic facilities maintenance	440,700	0	0	440,700	0	0
Roads Renewal Program	Gordon	Road resurfacing - St Johns Avenue, Gordon (Pacific Hwy to Vale Street)	Road Rehabilitation Program - Road to Recovery Grant (Road and Transport Asset Management Plan)	1,200,000	0	0	1,200,000	0	0
	Various	LGA	Roads - Rehabilitation Program (Road and Transport Asset Management Plan)	6,793,300	6,793,300	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Roads maintenance (block grant)	385,000	0	0	385,000	0	0
	Various	Various	Road Rehabilitation Program - Infrastructure Levy (Road and Transport Asset Management Plan)	3,778,700	3,778,700	0	0	0	0
Street Furniture	Various	LGA	Pedestrian Crossing Lighting Standardisation across the LGA	119,500	119,500	0	0	0	0
Traffic Facilities	Gordon	Robert Street	Construct new pedestrian crossing - Robert Street at Werona Avenue	498,800	0	0	498,800	0	0
	Killara	Werona Avenue	Upgrade existing signalised intersection with pedestrian phase and crossing facilities	1,034,700	0	0	1,034,700	0	0
	LGA - North	All	Speed cushion installations around the LGA	59,600	59,600	0	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Pacific Highway	Lindfield Local Centre. New traffic infrastructure - design and construction of following: 1. Intersection Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue - new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities. 2. Intersection Lindfield Avenue and Tryon Road - removal of existing mid-block pedestrian activated signals on Lindfield Avenue and installation of new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities at intersection of Tryon Road and Lindfield Avenue. 3. Intersection Pacific Highway and Balfour Street/Havilah Road - localised widening of Pacific Highway to accommodate extension of existing right turn bay on the Pacific Highway for vehicles turning into Balfour Street. 4. Grosvenor Road at intersection with Pacific Highway - localised road widening to accommodate an additional approach lane on Grosvenor Road.	1,585,200	1,259,100	164,800	0	161,300	0
	Lindfield	Lindfield CBD	High Pedestrian Activity Areas (HPAA) design only	240,000	0	0	240,000	0	0
	North Turramurra	Bobbin Head Road	Construct new wombat crossing - Bobbin Head Road (Ku-ring-gai High School)	451,100	0	0	451,100	0	0
	Roseville	Margaret Street	Construct new wombat crossing - Margaret Street at Archbold Road	462,700	0	0	462,700	0	0
	Roseville	Clanville Road	Design and construct new roundabout at Clanville Road and Trafalgar Avenue intersection	82,300	0	0	82,300	0	0
	Turramurra	Nambucca Street	Construct new pedestrian refuge island - Nambucca Street at The Chase Road	259,900	0	0	259,900	0	0
	Turramurra	Eastern Road	Construct new wombat crossing - Eastern Road (Karuah Oval)	508,800	0	0	508,800	0	0
	Various	LGA	Traffic & Transport Infrastructure Upgrade - enhanced program	1,701,700	0	0	0	0	1,701,700
	Wahroonga	Cleveland Street	Construct new wombat crossing - Cleveland Street at Water Street	270,000	0	0	270,000	0	0

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2026/2027
(in 2026/2027 prices - $000's)

Year: 2027 (continued)

Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	Suburb	Location	Description of Work	Estimated Total Costs	General Funds	Development Contributions	Grants	CP2010 Asset Sale	SRV
	Wahroonga	Water Street	Construct new wombat crossing - Water Street at Cleveland Street	270,000	0	0	270,000	0	0
Stormwater Drainage									
Drainage Structures	Pymble	Wellesley Road	Drainage - Wellesley Road - open channel restoration	1,545,400	1,545,400	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program	5,905,800	0	0	0	0	5,905,800
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - Impact mitigation works across the LGA	154,100	154,100	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - renewal and relining (Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan)	924,300	924,300	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - reactive minor works across the LGA	81,600	81,600	0	0	0	0
Streetscape & Public Domain									
Town Centre & Urban Design	Various	LGA	Planning study updates in response to implementing North District Plan	386,400	386,400	0	0	0	0
Town Centre Streetscape	Gordon	Fitzsimons Lane	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Gordon Public Domain Plan)	616,200	0	616,200	0	0	0
	Gordon	Heritage Park and Werona Avenue	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Gordon Public Domain Plan)	800,300	0	800,300	0	0	0
	Pymble	Pymble Local Centre -East side	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Pymble Public Domain Plan)	205,400	0	205,400	0	0	0
	Roseville	Roseville Local Centre	Preparation of detail design and construction documents for streetscape improvement works in accordance with Public Domain Plan	80,100	0	80,100	0	0	0
	St Ives	St Ives Local Centre	Detail design for streetscape improvement works in accordance with Public Domain Plan	105,400	0	105,400	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Eastern Road	East Turramurra Neighbourhood Centre Upgrade	560,300	0	560,300	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Renewing streetscape garden beds	175,100	175,100	0	0	0	0
Town Centres	Lindfield	Woodford Lane Carpark, 2-12 Bent Street and Drovers Way	Lindfield Village Hub - project management	546,300	0	546,300	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Lindfield Avenue	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Lindfield Public Domain Plan)	1,027,000	0	1,027,000	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Turramurra Local Centre - precinct T1 & T2	Turramurra Community Hub - project management	300,000	0	300,000	0	0	0
Trees & Natural Environment									
Biodiversity	Various	LGA	Biodiversity & Bushfire Management (EL)	452,000	452,000	0	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Rofe Park, Sheldon Forest and Comenarra Creek Reserve	Linking landscapes/biobanking - works	123,700	0	0	123,700	0	0
Catchment Management & Analysis	Various	LGA	Water & Catchment Management (EL)	376,800	376,800	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Catchment management - operational and maintenance	250,100	250,100	0	0	0	0
Community Partnerships	St Ives	St Ives Showground, 450 Mona Vale Road	St Ives Cultural and Environmental Education Centre - design and construction	51,400	11,100	40,300	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Community Engagement & Environmental Education (EL)	820,400	820,400	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Better Business Partnership Program	161,800	161,800	0	0	0	0
Environmental Levy Projects	Various	LGA	Environmental Levy	959,500	959,500	0	0	0	0
Sustainable Energy	Various	LGA	Energy efficient lighting and initiatives	62,000	62,000	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Energy Management (EL)	287,000	287,000	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Reinvestment of savings from energy projects	293,200	293,200	0	0	0	0
Transport	Various	LGA	Sustainable Transport & Recreation in Natural Areas (EL)	100,000	100,000	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Management of recreation in natural areas	102,700	102,700	0	0	0	0

*Brought forward $4.5m (indexed) for Norman Griffith Oval Upgrade to 2025/2026 as per OMC190526 GB.13

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2027/2028

(in 2027/2028 prices - $000's)

Year: 2028

				101,903,300	32,766,900	45,835,700	2,996,800	563,600	19,740,300
Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	**Suburb**	**Location**	**Description of Work**	**Estimated Total Costs**	**General Funds**	**Development Contributions**	**Grants**	**CP2010 Asset Sales**	**SRV**
Council Buildings									
Building Works & Maintenance	Gordon	818 Pacific Highway	Council Administration Building Improvements	421,100	421,100	0	0	0	0
Capital Building Works	Gordon	Pacific Highway	828 Pacific Highway - leasing CAPEX	408,500	408,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Building services capital program in accordance with prioritisation matrix	436,700	436,700	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program - capital building works - specific projects to be defined	6,874,200	0	0	0	0	6,874,200
Community Centres & Halls	Gordon	Pacific Highway	Tullian Building - operational contributions	167,200	167,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Minor upgrades and replacements for community facilities (halls and meeting rooms)	72,300	72,300	0	0	0	0
Public Toilets	Pymble	Bannockburn Oval	Bannockburn Oval Amenities Upgrade	1,407,900	1,305,600	0	102,300	0	0
	Various	LGA	Public Toilets Refurbishment based on priority list	554,600	554,600	0	0	0	0
Parks & Recreation									
Fencing & Parking Areas	St Ives	St Ives Showground - Mona Vale Road	St Ives Showground Carpark Upgrade	921,800	0	921,800	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Fencing and carpark upgrades at parks and sportsgrounds in accordance with prioritisation matrix	243,900	243,900	0	0	0	0
Open Space Acquisition	Various	LGA	Land acquisition and embellishment of new parks	2,481,100	0	2,481,100	0	0	0
Open Space/Recreational Assets	Various		Open Space/Recreational Assets	2,105,400	0	2,105,400	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program - open space/recreational assets	1,949,400	0	0	0	0	1,949,400
Parks Development	Killara	Killara Park	Accessible toilet facilities - upgrade	325,600	0	325,600	0	0	0
	Pymble	Robert Pymble Park, cnr Park Crescent and Alma Street	Robert Pymble Park Upgrade	4,718,400	0	4,718,400	0	0	0
	Roseville	Roseville Memorial Park - cnr Pacific Highway and McLaurin Parade	Roseville Memorial Urban Park Upgrade	626,100	0	626,100	0	0	0
	St Ives	Bedes Forest Reserve cnr Stanley Street and Yarrabung Road	Beds Forrest Reserve Upgrade	702,500	0	702,500	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Parks Development Program - Minor Projects	321,800	321,800	0	0	0	0
	Warrawee		Halfpenny Park Upgrade	324,400	0	324,400	0	0	0
Playgrounds	Lindfield	Primula Oval (Princes Park)	Playground upgrade	232,100	27,900	204,200	0	0	0
	St Ives	59B Yarrabung Road	Carrajung Reserve playground upgrade	232,100	27,900	204,200	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Local Play Space renewals as per Playground Strategy priority matrix	157,700	157,700	0	0	0	0
	Wahroonga	The Glade, Koora Avenue	Play space upgrade	933,600	0	933,600	0	0	0
	West Pymble	37 Kiparra Street	Peewee Park playground upgrade	232,100	27,900	204,200	0	0	0
Sports Courts	Various	LGA	Sports Courts Development Program as per prioritisation matrix	579,100	579,100	0	0	0	0
Sports fields	East Lindfield	Lindfield Soldiers Memorial Oval No.1, Tryon Road	Upgrade of playing surface and installing turf wicket, drainage and automated irrigation. Stormwater - planning, investigation and design	792,900	0	394,600	0	398,300	0
	Roseville	Charles Bean Oval	Charles Bean Oval Synthetic Sportsfield Renewal	713,700	713,700	0	0	0	0
	Turramurra	North Turramurra Recreational Area	NTRA Synthetic Sportsfield Renewal	980,200	980,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Matching funding opportunities and design and project management	86,200	86,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA Wide	Sportsfield Optimisation Trial	67,200	67,200	0	0	0	0
Tree Planting	Various	LGA	Tree planting throughout the Local Government Area	84,200	84,200	0	0	0	0
Planning, Community & Other									
Community Development	Various	LGA	Local Priority Grant (State govt funding)	68,600	0	0	68,600	0	0
Community Projects	Gordon	707 Pacific Highway	Tulkiyan Building - change of use access improvements	210,500	210,500	0	0	0	0
	St Ives	St Ives Showground	Multicultural Festival	54,200	54,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Ku-ring-gai Council Access and Disability Inclusion Plan actions	34,500	34,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Improvements to facilities	89,400	89,400	0	0	0	0
Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	**Suburb**	**Location**	**Description of Work**	**Estimated Total Costs**	**General Funds**	**Development Contributions**	**Grants**	**CP2010**	**SRV**

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2027/2028
(in 2027/2028 prices - $000's)

Year: 2028 (continued)

								Asset Sales	
Contributions Program Administration	Various	LGA	Contributions management, data and supporting studies	336,800	0	336,800	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	S7.12 (S94A) Plan projects	58,300	0	58,300	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	S7.12 (S94A) Contribution Plan management	116,400	0	116,400	0	0	0
Heritage Planning	Various	LGA	Ku-ring-gai Heritage Fund	61,300	61,300	0	0	0	0
Human Resources	Various	LGA	Project budget allocation will be required to support the delivery of the Risk Management System and Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System projects, which are currently progressing through a formal tender process.	78,400	0	0	78,400	0	0
Information Technology	Various	LGA	IT equipment replacement	231,800	231,800	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	IT digital transformation	816,500	816,500	0	0	0	0
Library Resources	Various	LGA	Library resources	828,600	828,600	0	0	0	0
Other Operating Projects	Various	LGA	Governance and delegations management system	17,300	17,300	0	0	0	0
Plant & Vehicles	Various	LGA	Operational and passenger fleet	1,426,300	1,426,300	0	0	0	0
Roads & Transport									
Footpaths	Various	LGA	Footpaths – Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program (Footpaths Asset Management Plan)	241,700	241,700	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - Renewal Program	964,500	0	0	0	0	964,500
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - New Footpath Program	2,154,600	0	0	0	0	2,154,600
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - New Footpath Program (Footpaths Asset Management Plan)	1,561,200	1,561,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - Renewal Program (Footpath Asset Management Plan)	523,900	523,900	0	0	0	0
Roads New & Upgrade	Gordon	Between Moree Street and St Johns Avenue, Gordon 70m	New 15m wide street, two-way traffic, with on street parking	868,000	0	868,000	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Between Gilroy Road and Turramurra Avenue	Land acquisition for new street (15m wide road reserve, two-way traffic)	1,551,900	0	1,551,900	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Traffic facilities maintenance	451,700	0	0	451,700	0	0
Roads Renewal Program	Various	LGA	Roads - Rehabilitation Program (Road and Transport Asset Management Plan)	10,836,800	10,836,800	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Roads maintenance (block grant)	394,600	0	0	394,600	0	0
Street Furniture	Various	LGA	Pedestrian Crossing Lighting Standardisation across the LGA	122,500	122,500	0	0	0	0
Traffic Facilities	LGA - North	All	Speed cushion installations around the LGA	62,100	62,100	0	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Pacific Highway	Lindfield Local Centre. New traffic infrastructure - design and construction of following: 1. Intersection Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue - new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities. 2. Intersection Lindfield Avenue and Tryon Road - removal of existing mid-block pedestrian activated signals on Lindfield Avenue and installation of new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities at intersection of Tryon Road and Lindfield Avenue. 3. Intersection Pacific Highway and Balfour Street/Havilah Road - localised widening of Pacific Highway to accommodate extension of existing right turn bay on the Pacific Highway for vehicles turning into Balfour Street. 4. Grosvenor Road at intersection with Pacific Highway - localised road widening to accommodate an additional approach lane on Grosvenor Road.	1,624,800	1,290,600	168,900	0	165,300	0
	Roseville	Clanville Road	Design and construct new roundabout at Clanville Road & Trafalgar Avenue intersection	378,900	0	0	378,900	0	0
	Turramurra	Eastern Road	Eastern Road, Turramurra HPAA	1,392,700	0	0	1,392,700	0	0
	Various	LGA	Traffic & Transport Infrastructure Upgrade - enhanced program	1,744,200	0	0	0	0	1,744,200
	Wahroonga	Burns Road	Design and construct new roundabout at Burns Road and Grosvenor Street & Cleveland Street	110,100	110,100	0	0	0	0
Stormwater Drainage									
Drainage Structures	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program	6,053,400	0	0	0	0	6,053,400
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - Impact mitigation works across the LGA	1,888,300	1,888,300	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - renewal and relining (Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan)	947,400	947,400	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - reactive minor works across the LGA	83,600	83,600	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - reactive and proactive CCTV inspections across the LGA	55,700	55,700	0	0	0	0
Streetscape & Public Domain									
Town Centre & Urban Design	Various	LGA	Planning study updates in response to implementing North District Plan	396,100	396,100	0	0	0	0
Town Centre Streetscape	Gordon	Pacific Highway	Streetscape improvement - detail design, tender and project management	44,100	0	44,100	0	0	0
	Gordon	Fitzsimons Lane	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Gordon Public Domain Plan)	4,631,100	0	4,631,100	0	0	0
	Killara	Marian Street	Killara Village - Neighbourhood Centre upgrade	1,204,600	0	1,204,600	0	0	0
	Pymble	Pymble Local Centre - East side	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Pymble Public Domain Plan)	927,400	0	927,400	0	0	0
	Pymble	Pymble Local Centre	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Pymble Public Domain Plan)	5,634,300	0	5,634,300	0	0	0
	Roseville	Roseville Local Centre	Preparation of detail design and construction documents for streetscape improvement works in accordance with Public Domain Plan	739,300	0	739,300	0	0	0
	St Ives	St Ives Local Centre	Detail design for streetscape improvement works in accordance with Public Domain Plan	971,900	0	971,900	0	0	0
Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	Suburb	Location	Description of Work	Estimated Total Costs	General Funds	Development Contributions	Grants	CP2010	SRV

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2027/2028
(in 2027/2028 prices - $000's)

Year: 2028 (continued)

								Asset Sales	
Town Centre Streetscape (continued)	St Ives	St Ives Local Centre	Construction of streetscape works in accordance with Public Domain Plan	5,234,000	0	5,234,000	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Rohini Street Via New Street to Turramurra Avenue and Pacific Highway	Works related to new bus route	67,400	0	67,400	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Turramurra Local Centre	Preparation of construction documents and tender for streetscape improvement works in accordance with Public Domain Plan	436,600	0	436,600	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Pacific Highway	Locations - Gilroy Lane, Gilroy Road, Kissing Point Road, Pacific Highway and Turramurra Avenue.	135,100	0	135,100	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Renewing streetscape garden beds	179,500	179,500	0	0	0	0
Town Centres	Lindfield	Woodford Lane Carpark, 2-12 Bent Street and Drovers Way	Lindfield Village Hub - project management	631,600	0	631,600	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Lindfield Avenue	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Lindfield Public Domain Plan)	6,977,600	0	6,977,600	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Turramurra Local Centre - precinct T1 & T2	Turramurra Community Hub - project management	541,600	0	541,600	0	0	0
Trees & Natural Environment									
Biodiversity	Various	LGA	Biodiversity & Bushfire Management (EL)	466,800	466,800	0	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Rofe Park, Sheldon Forest and Comenarra Creek Reserve	Linking landscapes/biobanking - works	129,600	0	0	129,600	0	0
Catchment Management & Analysis	Various	LGA	Water & Catchment Management (EL)	390,300	390,300	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Catchment management - operational and maintenance	256,400	256,400	0	0	0	0
Community Partnerships	St Ives	St Ives Showground, 450 Mona Vale Road	St Ives Cultural and Environmental Education Centre - design and construction	526,300	113,600	412,700	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Community Engagement & Environmental Education (EL)	852,900	852,900	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Better Business Partnership Program	165,800	165,800	0	0	0	0
Environmental Levy Projects	Various	LGA	Environmental Levy	1,002,800	1,002,800	0	0	0	0
Sustainable Energy	Various	LGA	Energy efficient lighting and initiatives	63,500	63,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Energy Management (EL)	298,200	298,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Reinvestment of savings from energy projects	300,500	300,500	0	0	0	0
Transport	Various	LGA	Sustainable Transport & Recreation in Natural Areas (EL)	102,500	102,500	0	0	0	0

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2028/2029

(in 2028/2029 prices - $000's)

Year: 2029

				106,811,600	32,372,100	52,245,900	1,468,800	510,600	20,214,200
Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	**Suburb**	**Location**	**Description of Work**	**Estimated Total Costs**	**General Funds**	**Development Contributions**	**Grants**	**CP2010 Asset Sales**	**SRV**
Council Buildings									
Building Works & Maintenance	Gordon	818 Pacific Highway	Council Administration Building Improvements	1,663,800	1,663,800	0	0	0	0
Capital Building Works	Gordon	Pacific Highway	828 Pacific Highway - leasing CAPEX	418,300	418,300	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Building services capital program in accordance with prioritisation matrix	447,200	447,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program - capital building works - specific projects to be defined	7,039,200	0	0	0	0	7,039,200
Community Centres & Halls	Gordon	Pacific Highway	Tulkiyan Building – operational contributions	171,200	171,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Minor upgrades and replacements for community facilities (halls and meeting rooms)	74,000	74,000	0	0	0	0
Public Toilets	Various	LGA	Public Toilets Refurbishment based on priority list	567,900	567,900	0	0	0	0
Parks & Recreation									
Fencing & Parking Areas	Various	LGA	Fencing and carpark upgrades at parks and sportsgrounds in accordance with prioritisation matrix	249,800	249,800	0	0	0	0
Open Space Acquisition	Pymble	LGA	Construction of new park corner Livingstone Avenue and Everton Parade	1,965,600	0	1,965,600	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Land acquisition and embellishment of new parks	2,622,600	0	2,622,600	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Open space planning and acquisition of land for new parks	2,204,100	0	2,204,100	0	0	0
Open Space/Recreational Assets	Various		Open space/Recreational Assets	2,155,900	0	2,155,900	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program - open space/recreational assets	1,996,200	0	0	0	0	1,996,200
Parks Development	Killara	Selkirk Park	Outdoor amphitheatre in park for performances next to Marian Street Theatre	107,700	0	28,800	0	78,900	0
	Lindfield	Queen Elizabeth Reserve - Bradfield Road	Planning and design for delivery of park upgrade including playground accessible toilet, heritage interpretive signage, community picnic facilities, cycleway upgrade and landscaping	752,700	491,600	0	0	261,100	0
	St Ives	St Ives Village Green	St Ives Village Green Masterplan Implementation Works	751,900	0	751,900	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Parks Development Program - Minor Projects	329,600	329,600	0	0	0	0
	Wahroonga	The Glade	Construction of Stage 1 works in accordance with adopted landscape master plan	2,812,800	0	2,812,800	0	0	0
Playgrounds	East Killara	Saiala Road	Allan Small Park playground upgrade	237,700	0	237,700	0	0	0
	Killara	Marian Street	Selkirk Park playground upgrade	298,800	0	298,800	0	0	0
	St Ives	59B Yarrabung Road	Yarrabung Reserve playground upgrade	237,700	28,600	209,100	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Local Play Space renewals as per Playground Strategy priority matrix	161,500	161,500	0	0	0	0
	West Pymble	37 Kiparra Street	Peewee Park playground upgrade	237,700	28,600	209,100	0	0	0
Sports Courts	Various	LGA	Sports Courts Development Program as per prioritisation matrix	593,000	593,000	0	0	0	0
Sports fields	Various	LGA	Matching funding opportunities and design and project management	88,300	88,300	0	0	0	0
Tree Planting	Various	LGA	Tree planting throughout the Local Government Area	86,200	86,200	0	0	0	0
Planning, Community & Other									
Community Development	Various	LGA	Local Priority Grant (State Govt funding)	70,300	0	0	70,300	0	0
Community Projects	St Ives	St Ives Showground	Multicultural Festival	55,500	55,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Ku-ring-gai Council Access and Disability Inclusion Plan actions	35,400	35,400	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Improvements to facilities	91,600	91,600	0	0	0	0
Contributions Program Administration	Various	LGA	Contributions management, data and supporting studies	410,200	0	410,200	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	S7.12 (S94A) Plan projects	59,800	0	59,800	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	S7.12 (S94A) Contribution Plan management	119,200	0	119,200	0	0	0
Human Resources	Various	LGA	Project budget allocation will be required to support the delivery of the Risk Management System and Work Health and Safety (WHS) Management System projects, which are currently progressing through a formal tender process.	80,300	0	0	80,300	0	0
Information Technology	Various	LGA	IT equipment replacement	237,300	237,300	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	IT digital transformation	512,800	512,800	0	0	0	0
Library Resources	Various	LGA	Library resources	848,500	848,500	0	0	0	0
Other Operating Projects	Various	LGA	Engagement of the NSW Electoral Commission to conduct the 2029 Ku-ring-gai Local Government election	1,028,500	1,028,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Governance and delegations management system	17,700	17,700	0	0	0	0
Plant & Vehicles	Various	LGA	Operational and passenger fleet	1,460,600	1,460,600	0	0	0	0
Roads & Transport									
Footpaths	Various	LGA	Footpaths - Rehabilitation and Maintenance Program (Footpaths Asset Management Plan)	247,500	247,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - Renewal Program	987,700	0	0	0	0	987,700
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - New Footpath Program	2,206,300	0	0	0	0	2,206,300
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - New Footpath Program (Footpaths Asset Management Plan)	1,598,700	1,598,700	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Footpaths - Renewal Program (Footpath Asset Management Plan)	536,400	536,400	0	0	0	0
Roads New & Upgrade	Gordon	Between Moree Street and St Johns Avenue, Gordon 70m	New 15m wide street, two-way traffic, with on street parking	446,500	0	446,500	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Traffic facilities maintenance	462,500	0	0	462,500	0	0

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2028/2029
(in 2028/2029 prices - $000's)

Year: 2029 (continued)

Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	Suburb	Location	Description of Work	Estimated Total Costs	General Funds	Development Contributions	Grants	CP2010 Asset Sales	SRV
Roads Renewal Program	Various	LGA	Roads - Rehabilitation Program (Road and Transport Asset Management Plan)	11,764,300	11,455,600	0	308,700	0	0
	Various	LGA	Roads maintenance (block grant)	404,000	0	0	404,000	0	0
Street Furniture	Various	LGA	Pedestrian Crossing Lighting Standardisation across the LGA	125,400	125,400	0	0	0	0
Traffic Facilities	LGA - North	All	Speed cushion installations around the LGA	64,700	64,700	0	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Pacific Highway	Lindfield Local Centre. New traffic infrastructure - design and construction of following: 1. Intersection Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue - new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities. 2. Intersection Lindfield Avenue and Tryon Road - removal of existing mid-block pedestrian activated signals on Lindfield Avenue and installation of new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities at intersection of Tryon Road and Lindfield Avenue. 3. Intersection Pacific Highway and Balfour Street/Havilah Road - localised widening of Pacific Highway to accommodate extension of existing right turn bay on the Pacific Highway for vehicles turning into Balfour Street. 4. Grosvenor Road at intersection with Pacific Highway - localised road widening to accommodate an additional approach lane on Grosvenor Road.	1,663,800	1,331,900	161,300	0	170,600	0
	Various	LGA	Traffic & Transport Infrastructure Upgrade - enhanced program	1,786,100	0	0	0	0	1,786,100
Stormwater Drainage									
Drainage Structures	Various	LGA	Infrastructure renewal - enhanced program	6,198,700	0	0	0	0	6,198,700
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - impact mitigation works across the LGA	1,553,500	1,553,500	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - renewal and relining (Stormwater Drainage Asset Management Plan)	970,200	970,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - reactive minor works across the LGA	85,600	85,600	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Stormwater drainage - reactive and proactive CCTV inspections across the LGA	57,100	57,100	0	0	0	0
Streetscape & Public Domain									
Town Centre & Urban Design	Various	LGA	Planning study updates in response to implementing North District Plan	405,600	405,600	0	0	0	0
Town Centre Streetscape	Gordon	Pacific Highway	Streetscape improvement - detail design, tender and project management	514,500	0	514,500	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Moore Avenue	West Lindfield - Neighbourhood Centre upgrade	1,418,500	0	1,418,500	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Balfour Street, Pacific Highway, Tryon Lane	Design and construction of streetscape works in accordance with Lindfield Public Domain Plan.	55,100	0	55,100	0	0	0
	Pymble	Pymble Local Centre	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Pymble Public Domain Plan)	5,769,500	0	5,769,500	0	0	0
	Roseville	Hill Street and Pacific Highway	Upgrade existing and new bus stops	287,200	0	287,200	0	0	0
	Roseville	Roseville Local Centre	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Roseville Public Domain Plan)	1,652,800	0	1,652,800	0	0	0
	St Ives	St Ives Local Centre	Construction of streetscape works in accordance with Public Domain Plan	5,359,600	0	5,359,600	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Turramurra Local Centre	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Turramurra Public Domain Plan)	1,288,600	0	1,288,600	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Pacific Highway	Locations - Gilroy Lane, Gilroy Road, Kissing Point Road, Pacific Highway and Turramurra Avenue	1,106,900	0	1,106,900	0	0	0
Town Centres	Lindfield	Woodford Lane Carpark, 2-12 Bent Street and Drovers Way	Lindfield Village Hub - project management	571,200	0	571,200	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Lindfield Precinct L2, L3, L5 and L6	Lindfield Village Hub - construction	12,815,700	0	12,815,700	0	0	0
	Lindfield	Lindfield Avenue	Design and construct streetscape upgrades (Lindfield Public Domain Plan)	1,244,200	0	1,244,200	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Turramurra Local Centre - precinct T1 & T2	Turramurra Community Hub - project management	678,000	0	678,000	0	0	0
Trees & Natural Environment									
Biodiversity	Various	LGA	Biodiversity & Bushfire Management (EL)	481,000	481,000	0	0	0	0
	Turramurra	Rofe Park, Sheldon Forest and Comenarra Creek Reserve	Linking landscapes/biobanking - works	143,000	0	0	143,000	0	0
Catchment Management & Analysis	Various	LGA	Water & Catchment Management (EL)	403,200	403,200	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Catchment management - operational and maintenance	262,500	262,500	0	0	0	0
Community Partnerships	St Ives	St Ives Showground, 450 Mona Vale Road	St Ives Cultural and Environmental Education Centre - design and construction	4,790,700	0	4,790,700	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Community Engagement & Environmental Education (EL)	883,700	883,700	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Better Business Partnership Program	169,800	169,800	0	0	0	0
Environmental levy projects	Various	LGA	Environmental Levy	1,043,600	1,043,600	0	0	0	0
Sustainable Energy	Various	LGA	Energy efficient lighting and initiatives	65,100	65,100	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Energy Management (EL)	308,900	308,900	0	0	0	0
	Various	LGA	Reinvestment of savings from energy projects	307,700	307,700	0	0	0	0
Transport	Various	LGA	Management of recreation in natural areas	107,800	107,800	0	0	0	0

Capital Works Program & Operational Projects 2028/2029
(in 2028/2029 prices - $000's)

Year: 2029 (continued)

Project SubGroup/Asset Sub Category (Programs)	Suburb	Location	Description of Work	Estimated Total Costs	General Funds	Development Contributions	Grants	CP2010 Asset Sales	SRV
Transport (continued)	Various	LGA	Sustainable Transport & Recreation in Natural Areas (EL)	105,000	105,000	0	0	0	0
	Various	All	Sustainable transport initiatives projects	114,100	114,100	0	0	0	0

Special Rate Variation for Road Infrastructure Summary 2026/2027

Capital Projects funded from Special Rate Variation 2026/2027

Suburb	Location	Project Description	Special Rate Variation ($)
Lindfield	Edenborough Road	Bent Street to Dead End	**180,000**
Lindfield	Lightcliff Avenue	Tryon Road to end at House Number 18	**219,000**
Roseville	Roseville Avenue	Gerald Avenue to Archbold Road	**360,000**
South Turramurra	Ashburton Avenue	Koombalah Avenue to Cul-De-Sac	**286,000**
Turramurra	Catalpa Crescent	Kissing Point Road to Barellan Avenue	**1,200,000**
Wahroonga	Larbert Avenue	Halcyon Avenue to Cul-De-Sac	**609,400**
Wahroonga	Beltana Place	Wongalee Avenue to End	**191,000**
Wahroonga	Wongalee Avenue	Talgai Avenue Street to Beltana Place	**338,000**
Wahroonga	Moona Parade	The Broadway to Kallange Parade	**424,000**
Wahroonga	Tanderra Street	Ada Avenue to Cul-De-Sac	**251,000**
Warrawee	Finlay Road	Pacific Highway to House Number 4	**256,000**
		TOTAL	**4,314,400**

Council's Special Rate Variation for Infrastructure Summary for 2026/2027 is subject to change based on community and organisational priorities.

Road Rehabilitation Program 2026/2027

Suburb	Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost ($)
East Killara	Monash Avenue	Springdale Road to Cul-De-Sac	**1,000,000**
Gordon	St Johns Avenue	Vale Street to Pacific Highway - Stage 2	**589,800**
Lindfield	Westbourne Road	Pacific Highway to Ortona Road	**424,000**
Lindfield	Edenborough Road	Bent Street to Dead End	**180,000**
Lindfield	Lightcliff Avenue	Tryon Road to end at House Number 18	**219,000**
North Turramurra	Murrua Road	Bobbin Road to St Columbans Green	**593,000**
Roseville	Roseville Avenue	Gerald Avenue to Archbold Road	**360,000**
South Turramurra	Vernon Street	Chisholm Street to Cul-De-Sac	**1,000,000**
South Turramurra	Ashburton Avenue	Koombalah Avenue to Cul-De-Sac	**286,000**
Turramurra	Catalpa Crescent	Kissing Point Road to Barellan Avenue	**1,200,000**

Suburb	Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost ($)
Turramurra	Rothwell Road	Kissing point Road to Cul-De-Sac	**243,000**
Wahroonga	Chilton Parade	Davidson Avenue to Young Street	**950,000**
Wahroonga	Halcyon Avenue	Chilton Parade to Billyard Avenue	**1,240,000**
Wahroonga	Larbert Avenue	Halcyon Avenue to Cul-De-Sac	**609,200**
Wahroonga	Braeside Street	Westbrook Avenue to Eastern Road	**1,200,000**
Wahroonga	Beltana Place	Wongalee Avenue to End	**191,000**
Wahroonga	Wongalee Avenue	Talgai Avenue Street to Beltana Place	**338,000**
Wahroonga	Moona Parade	The Broadway to Kallange Parade	**424,000**
Wahroonga	Seymour Close	Fox Valley Road to Cul-De-Sac	**218,000**
Wahroonga	Tanderra Street	Ada Avenue to Cul-De-Sac	**251,000**
Warrawee	Finlay Road	Pacific Highway to House Number 4	**256,000**
		TOTAL	**11,772,000**

Council's Road Rehabilitation Program for 2026/2027 is subject to change based on community and organisational priorities.

New Footpath Program 2026/2027

Suburb	Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost ($)
East Killara	Barrie Street	Redfield Road to End of Barrie Street	**144,600**
Gordon	Mt William Street	Pearson Avenue to Minns Road	**90,300**
Killara	Stanhope Road	67 Stanhope Road to End of Stanhope Road	**182,300**
Killara	Frederick Street	Beaumont Road to Quebec Avenue	**68,800**
Killara	Beaumont Road	Manning Road to Blaxland Road	**93,100**
Lindfield	Bent Street	Edenborough Road to Ivey Street	**86,600**
North Turramurra	Du Faur Street	Bobbin Head Road to End	**142,900**
Roseville	Longford Street	Shirley Road to Abingdon Road	**123,800**
Roseville	Cranbrook Avenue	Clanville Road to 10 Cranbrook Avenue	**81,900**
South Turramurra	Balmaringa Avenue	Auluba Road to Chisholm Street	**126,900**
St Ives Chase	Shelby Road	Warrimoo Avenue to Romney Road	**79,700**
St Ives	Burraneer Avenue	24 Eastern Arterial Road to 83 Burraneer Avenue	**301,300**
St Ives	Torokina Avenue	Yarrabung Road to Gibran Place	**190,000**
St Ives	Oxley Avenue	Hume Avenue to Acron Road	**171,700**
St Ives	Willis Avenue	Hume Avenue to Acron Road	**156,400**
Turramurra	Canberra Avenue	Bannockburn Road to Bobbin Head Road	**51,500**
Pymble	Reservoir Road	Pacific Highway to Selwyn Street	**256,700**
Pymble	Birubi Avenue	Bannockburn Road to Station Street	**95,600**
Pymble	Kendall Street	Ryde Road to Inverallan Avenue	**101,600**
Wahroonga	Junction Lane	123 Junction Lane to Eastern Road	**50,000**
Wahroonga	Campbell Drive	Rainforest Close to Cooper Crescent	**189,200**
Wahroonga	The Glade	Lucinda Avenue to Koora Avenue	**74,300**
Wahroonga	Woonona Avenue	Millewa Avenue to Woniora Avenue	**42,000**
Wahroonga	Woniora Avenue	Woonona Avenue to Conanbarra Road	**29,600**
Warrawee	Chilton Parade	Eastern Road to Warrawee Avenue	**200,100**
West Pymble	Bandalong Avenue	Bolwarra Avenue to Dunoon Avenue	**114,200**
West Pymble	Victoria Avenue	Wallalong Crescent to Patterson Avenue	**87,300**
West Pymble	Yalleroi Avenue	Inverallan Avenue to Grayling Road	**84,300**
West Pymble	Lachlan Avenue	Yarrara Road to Todman Avenue	**84,200**
West Pymble	Bingara Street	Kooloona Crescent (East End) to Kooloona Crescent (West End)	**82,800**

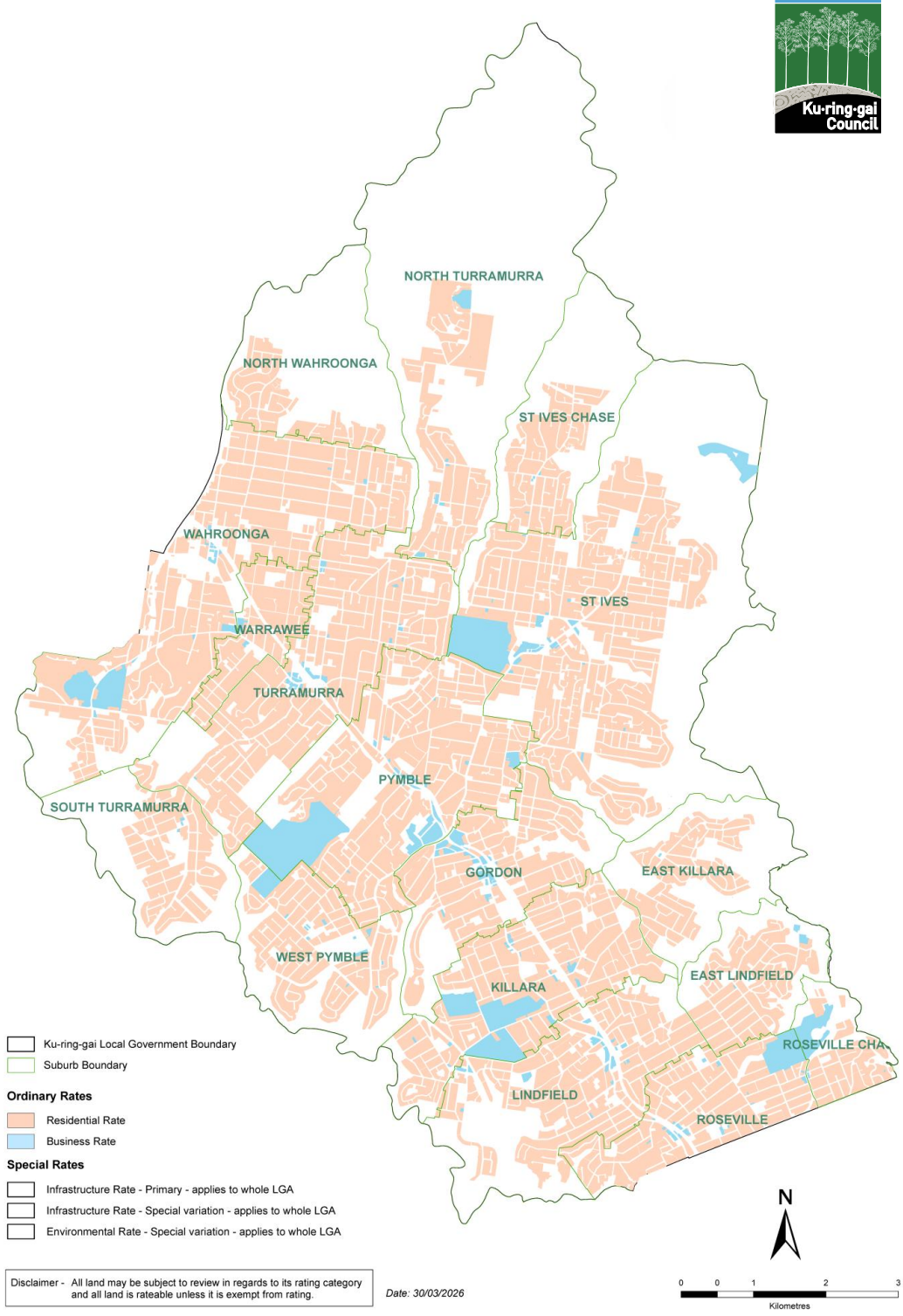
Suburb	Name	Project Description	Estimated Cost ($)
West Pymble	Lovat Street	Yanko Road to Warrabri Place	**41,500**
		TOTAL	**3,625,200**

Council's New Footpath Program for 2026/2027 is subject to change based on community and organisational priorities.

Appendices



Ordinary and Special Rates Map 2026-2027



Contact us

For assistance or information regarding any of Council's services or facilities please contact us. Business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30 am – 5.00 pm.

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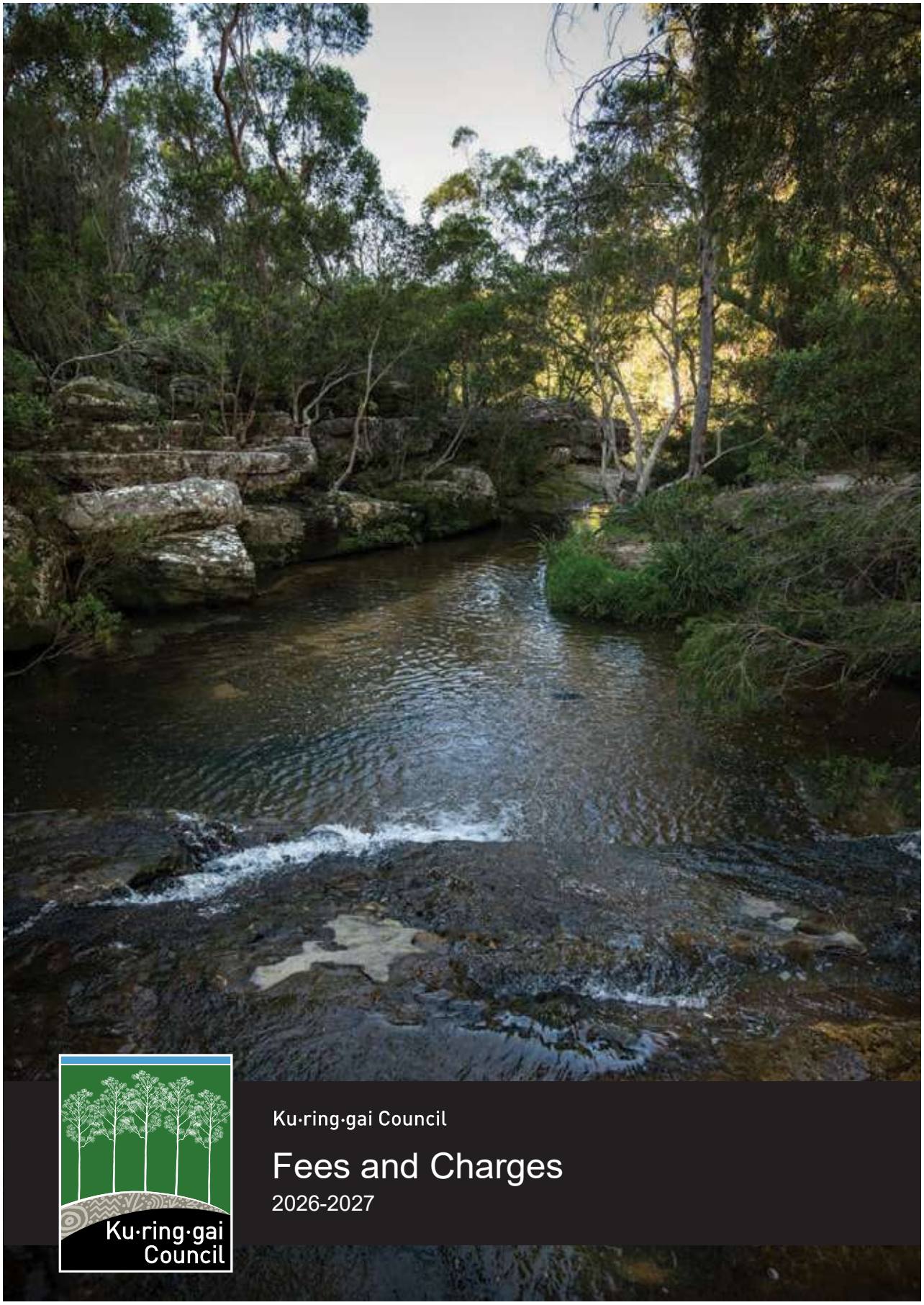
Ku·ring·gai Council



Ku·ring·gai Council

Fees and Charges

2026-2027

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Fees & Charges

Community Customer Service

Banners

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Commercial Casual Hire per day	$65.40	N	P
Commercial – 2 Weeks	$200.75	N	P

Photocopying/Printing

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
A4 black and white photocopies up to 100 pages (per page)	$1.10	N	M
A4 black and white photocopies – Document in excess of 100 pages (per page)	$0.25	N	M
A3 black and white photocopies	$2.40	N	M
A4 colour photocopies	$4.30	N	M
A2, A1, A0, large format – plans as supplied	$19.65	N	M
A3 colour photocopies	$5.25	N	M
Laminating service per metre (external)	$83.45	Y	M
A2 printing of plans, black/white per page	$62.75	N	R
A2 printing of plans, colour per page	$116.45	N	R
A1 printing of plans, black/white, per page	$116.45	N	R
A1 printing of plans, colour, per page	$204.10	N	R
A0 printing of plans, black/white, per page	$166.15	N	R
A0 printing of plans, colour, per page	$359.85	N	R
Additional costs for photocopying documents in excess of 20 pages	$23.55	N	M

Publications for Sale

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Good Design Manual DCP38	$75.95	N	P
Ku-ring-gai Planning Scheme Ordinance	$99.50	N	P
Exempt & Complying DCP46	$62.75	N	P
Water Management DCP47	$64.15	N	P
Dual Occupancy Code	$39.20	N	P
Subdivision Code	$19.65	N	P
SEPP 5 Code	$39.20	N	P
Advertising DCP28	$39.20	N	P
Dev. In Business Zones DCP14	$39.20	N	P
Car Parking Code DCP43	$39.20	N	P
Section 94	$104.75	N	P
Notification DCP56	$39.20	N	P
Access Code DCP31	$39.20	N	P
Medium Density DCP48	$39.20	N	P
Multi Unit Housing DCP55	$64.15	N	P
Child Care Centres DCP57	$39.20	N	P
Regulation of Brothels DCP42	$19.65	N	P
Outdoor Dining Policy	$19.65	N	P
Guidelines for Dev. Heritage	$19.65	N	P

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Publications for Sale [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Temporary Access over Community Land Policy	$45.75	N	P
Ku-ring-gai Town Centre Development Control Plan and Local Environmental Plan on CD	$52.30	N	P

Corporate

Archiving/Scanning Fee

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Residential alterations and additions, ancillary structure, pool, tennis court, garage etc, including signage and advertising structure	$93.95	N	F
New dwelling house	$192.05	N	F
Dual occupancy	$379.55	N	F
Residential flat buildings and seniors living development	$937.80	N	F
Alterations to school, church, nursing home, hospital	$274.35	N	F
Retail/commercial development	$936.55	N	F
Retail/commercial development change of use and internal fit out and minor additions	$93.95	N	F
Subdivision	$274.35	N	F

Cheque Dishonour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration Charge	$30.00	N	R

Electronic copies of specifications and standards for all Council's road, drainage and capital works projects.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Estimated Tender Value up to $500,000	$95.00	N	P
Estimated Tender Value $500,001 – $1,000,000	$196.00	N	P
Estimated Tender Value $1,000,001 – $2,000,000	$381.00	N	P
Estimated Tender Value $2,000,001 – $3,000,000	$536.00	N	P
Estimated Tender Value $3,000,001 – $10,000,000	$890.00	N	P
Estimated Tender Value $10,000,001 plus	$2,108.00	N	P

Government Information (Public Access) Act

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application Fee	$30.00	N	L
Access to records by natural person about their personal affairs – after first 20 hours of work, per hour	$30.00	N	L
All other requests for access to records, per hour of work	$30.00	N	L
Internal Review	$40.00	N	L

Merchant service fee for credit card payments

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Merchant service fee for credit card payments.	Maximum Fee Visa & MasterCard 0.75% American Express 0.75%	N	F
Council's policy is to charge actual cost for merchant service fees that it incurs for payments by credits cards through various payment channels. This cost and the payment channels provided may be varied by Council's agents throughout the year.			

Photocopying/Printing

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Copy of Delivery Program and Operational Plan charged at standard photocopy rates (per page)	As per photocopy charges listed under Community/ Customer Service	N	P
Sale of Tender documents charged at standard photocopy rates (per page)	As per photocopy charges listed under Community/ Customer Service	N	P
Copy of DCP'S/LEP'S (draft or adopted) charged at standard photocopy rates (per page)	As per photocopy charges listed under Community/ Customer Service	N	P

Rates

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Rates Certificate: 603	$105	N	L
The applicable fee is set each year by the Minister for Local Govt. Council will adopt the maximum fee applicable as set by the Minister			
Interest on Overdue Rates charged	9.5%	N	L
The applicable interest rate is set each year by the Minister for Local Govt. Council will adopt the maximum rate applicable as set by the Minister			

Security Deposits

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Security Deposit Administration & Compliance Fee	$60.00 plus 3% of the original bond amount per annum.	N	F
Under Section 97 (5) of the Local Government Act 1993, a security deposit (or part) if repaid to the person who provided it is to be repaid with any interest accrued on the deposit (or part) as a consequence of its investment. Council must cover administration and other costs incurred in the investment of these monies. The interest earned on all deposits is at the on-call rate received by Council. Council will accept a bank guarantee in lieu of a deposit. Interest earned on security deposits will be used to offset the Security Deposit Administration and Compliance fee. Where interest earned on a deposit is not sufficient to meet the fee, it will be accepted in full satisfaction of the fee.		

Subpoenas

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Conduct money	$100.00	N	F
Base fee charged upon receipt of subpoena, includes first hour of processing time			
Processing charge for all subsequent hours, per hour (or part thereof)	$50.00	N	F

10.7 Certificates

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Planning Certificate Section 10.7(2)	$69.00	N	L
Planning Certificate Section 10.7(2) & (5)	$173.00	N	L

Strategy and Environment

Amendment to Local Environmental Plan

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Advertising (to be paid for by the applicant as an additional fee, regardless of the type of the application)	$4,000.00	N	F
Public hearing relating to classification or reclassification of public land through LEP	$20,000.00	N	F
Complex	$80,000.00 Plus advertising costs plus public hearing costs (if required)	N	F
Planning Proposal Application seeking amendment/s to an LEP involving: To change in the land use zone and/or the principal development standards of the LEP, which would result in significant increase in demand for supporting local regional or State infrastructure and would require infrastructure funding To respond to a new policy e.g. local character or new provision not in the standard instrument template That is inconsistent with a District/Regional Plan or council's endorsed LSPS Responding to a change in circumstances, such as the investment in new infrastructure or changing demographic trends That is progressed under the Aboriginal Land SEPP Any other amendment or amendments that are not categorised as a principal LEP, standard or basic planning proposal		

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Amendment to Local Environmental Plan [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Standard Amendment - Major	$65,000.00 plus advertising costs plus public hearing costs (if required)	N	F
Planning Proposal Application seeking amendment/s to an LEP involving sites over 5000sqm in area, or sites with significant planning issues, with any one or more of the following proposed LEP amendment types: • To change the land use zone where the proposal is consistent with the objectives identified in the LEP for that proposed zone That relates to altering the principal development standards of the LEP That relates to the addition of a permissible land use or uses and/or any conditional arrangements under Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the LEP That is consistent with an endorsed District/Regional Strategic Plan and/or LSPS Relating to the classification or reclassification of public land through the LEP			
Standard Amendment - Minor	$35,000.00 plus advertising costs plus public hearing costs (if required)	N	F
Planning Proposal Application seeking amendment/s to an LEP involving sites less than 5000sqm in area, with any one or more of the following proposed LEP amendment types: • To change the land use zone where the proposal is consistent with the objectives identified in the LEP for that proposed zone That relates to altering the principal development standards of the LEP That relates to the addition of a permissible land use or uses and/or any conditional arrangements under Schedule 1 Additional Permitted Uses of the LEP That is consistent with an endorsed District/Regional Strategic Plan and/or LSPS Relating to the classification or reclassification of public land through the LEP			
Basic Amendments	$15,000.00 plus advertising costs	N	F
Planning Proposal Application with any one or more of the following proposed LEP amendment types: To correct an administrative error For a few minor 'housekeeping' amendments To add or remove a local heritage item, that is supported by an office of Environment and Heritage endorsed study To reclassify land where the Governor's approval is not required That is consistent with a Department endorsed/approved local strategy such as a Local Housing Strategy That is consistent with section 3.22 Expedited amendments of environmental planning instruments of the EP&A Act			
Planning Agreements (VPAs) under Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979.	Full costs including Council's legals borne by the proponent	N	F
Amendment of existing Development Control Plan (DCP) or preparation of site specific Development Control Plan (DCP)	Quote prepared as required based on additional hourly fee rate $220 per hour	N	F
Additional Charges	$229.00	N	F
Where an Application results in additional assessment or review of the Planning Proposal at any stage of the process, an hourly rate will be charged for extra work undertaken.			
Complex Amendments – Pre-lodgement Meeting – Mandatory 1st Meeting	$6,099.00	N	F
Pre-lodgement Meeting Application to discuss proposals seeking amendment/s to an LEP involving sites over 5000sqm in area, or sites with complex planning issues.			
Complex Amendments – Pre-lodgement Meeting – 2nd and Subsequent meetings	$2,078.00	N	F
Standard Amendments (Major) – Pre-lodgement Meeting – Mandatory 1st Meeting	$4,675.00	N	F
Pre-lodgement Meeting Application to discuss proposals seeking amendment/s to an LEP involving sites over 5000sqm in area, or sites with complex planning issues.			

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Amendment to Local Environmental Plan [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Standard Amendments (Major) – Pre-lodgement Meeting – 2nd and Subsequent meetings	$2,078.00	N	F
Standard Amendments (Minor) – Pre-lodgement Meeting – Mandatory 1st Meeting	$3,636.00	N	
Standard Amendments (Minor) – Pre-lodgement Meeting – 2nd and Subsequent meetings	$2,078.00	N	F
Basic Amendment – Pre-lodgement Meeting – Mandatory Meeting	$1,829.70	N	F

Environment & Sustainability - Consultancy

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration / attendance – charge per hour	$0 - $242 per person per hour	Y	R
Professional services/attendance/presentation and preparation - charge per hour	$180 - $400 per person per hour	Y	R
Presentations by Council staff – charge per presentation	$0 - $165	Y	P
Proposed fees for review of Environmental Assessments prepared for activities undertaken under Part 5 of the NSW Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979	$220/hr (+GST) (min 7 hrs for a simple assessment and min 21 hrs complex assessment, as determined by the Environment and Sustainability Team) Additional site visits or reviews charged at $220/ hr + GST	Y	R
Potential for reduced rates for not for profit organisations, charities and environmental groups will be considered by the Environment and Sustainability Team			

Property Services

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Property Services General Admin Fee - Non refundable (includes applications for dealing with Council and Council-managed land, excluding telecommunications)	$1,673.00	Y	M
Application Fee (non-refundable) for the creation or withdrawal of a dealing noting Council on title (easement, caveat, covenant etc (excluding legal fees and disbursements)	$2,963.00	N	R
Application fee (non-refundable) – For the grant of a new lease/licence for a telecommunications site	$2,850.00	N	R
Annual Fee/compensation for telecommunications infrastructure on Council managed land/ building. Single user	Independent Valuation	N	
Annual Fee/compensation for co-user of telecommunication infrastructure on Council managed land/building or other telecommunications operators	Independant valuation	N	R
Annual Fee/compensation for use of Council's pole or lighting structure	Independant valuation	N	R
Minimum Annual Fee/compensation per site for low impact Small Cell installation, or by independent valuation.	$1,000.00	N	R
Compensation Fee (non refundable) to extinguish, modify or release a Council easement where Council is the Authority/Owner (excluding application fee, legal fees and disbursements incurred) or by independent valuation (whichever is greater)	$21,944 (excluding application fee, legal fees and disbursements)	N	R
Administration fee for allowing entries onto titles over which Council has a Caveat - minor matter (eg re-financing)	$660.00	N	R

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Property Services [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application/Renewal Fee (non refundable) for road reserve/airspace leases and encroachments. Market rent to be determined by independent valuation	$1,771.00	Y	R
Application Fee (non-refundable) for permanent road closure (not including processing/ assessment fee and other disbursements	$11,240.00	N	R
Application for owner's consent - commercial organisations (Fee is for standard application. Where additional investigation is required, additional fees may apply)	$274.00 for up to 1 hour, then $274.00 per hour thereafter (prorata)	N	R
Application fee for owner's consent for works on Council managed buildings or facilities - community organisations	$109.00	N	R
Standard Public Notification required as part of other applications including, website, letters, signage etc (commercial organisations). Where there is any objection and/or requiring further assessment, further fees may apply	$500.00	N	F
Keys Management - Extra Standard or Master key issue or access pass, loss or non return per type	$30.00	Y	F
Replacement of lock or re-keying due to lost keys not including cost of replacement keys	$600.00	Y	F
External Native title report / assessment (use of external or internal Native title assessor at Council's discretion)	"Cost plus 10%"	Y	F
Internal Native Title report / assessment (use of external or internal Native title assessor at Council's discretion)	$877.75 for first 5 hours, $164.60 per hour thereafter	Y	F
Property Officer Inspection/Assessment Fee – Minimum charge 1 hour	$110.00/hour Property Officer, $165.00/hour Senior Property Officer or Coordinator, $219.00/hour Property Manager or Team Leader	Y	R
Third party consultant engaged by Council to assess an application	Cost plus 10%	Y	M
Wade Lane Carpark - Monthly fee per space payable quarterly in advance (non refundable)	$190.00	Y	R
Car Parking Lindfield Village Green Hourly Rates	0-2 Hours Free, 2-3 Hours $6.00, 3-4 Hours $10.00, 4-5 Hours $25.00, 5+ Hours $45.00	Y	R
Car Share Parking Application fee for new installation bay	$3,000.00	N	
Annual fee per Car Share Bay	$2,000.00	N	P
Car Share Bay Logo/Pavement Marking per Bay	$400.00	N	P
Dedicated car space for authorised fixed-space car share parking (Year 2026/27 only)- Free	No charge for first year	Y	R
Electric Vehicle Charging (Council owned chargers)	$0.00/kWh to $0.99/kWh	Y	M
Application fee for installation of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (charge per site) This fee is applicable to a single application that may be for multiple parking bays and sites	$1,558.00	N	R
Minimum Annual fee per Electric Vehicle Bay* - for AC Charge Points	$467.00	N	P
Minimum Annual fee per Electric Vehicle Bay* - for DC Charge Points. Higher fees may apply to high capacity charge points. *Fee is based on the number of paring spaces converted to EV use. For example, if 5 parking spaces become 4 charging spaces, the Charge Point Operator pays for 5 spaces	$2,078.00	N	P
Electric Vehicle Bay/Logo/Pavement Marking per Bay	At operators cost	N	P
Removal of electric vehicle charger and/or charging bay	At operators cost	N	P
Administration fee (for minor changes to bays - e.g. change of operator)	$780.00	N	P

Lease and Licence Administration

Note: Fees apply in accordance with Council's Policy for the Management of Community & Recreation Land and Facilities

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Annual Lease/Licence Fee - use of Council managed land/road reserve as a site compound or by independent valuation (whichever is greater) fee per sqm pa subject to a minimum fee	$260 - $520/sqm p.a (minimum $5195 p.a)	N	M
Administration Fee for a lease or licence (not-for-profit community organisations)	$686.00	Y	P
Minimum Annual Licence fee over Council managed land/buildings - for non-profit groups (or as per Management of Community & Recreation Facilities Policy, whichever is greater)	$735.00	Y	P
Annual Storage Fee for temporary use of Council managed land/buildings (commercial organisations) fee per sqm pa, subject to minimum fee	$113.00 - $270.00 (Minimum $735/ year)	Y	P
Use of Council facilities for storage purposes only (not-for-profit community organisations) Fee per sqm p.a subject to a minimum fee.	$55.00/sqm for upto 14 sqm, and $27.50/sqm thereafter Minimum $735 p.a	Y	P
Administration Fee for a lease, lease assignment or sublease of Council managed land (commercial organisations)	$1,711.00	Y	
Legal Fees and disbursements for preparation of legal documents	cost plus 10%	Y	P
Bus Shelter Advertising - Temporary arrangement where there is no agreement in place - $ per week for each double sided panel	$269 per week	Y	M

LEP & DCP for Sale

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Ku-ring-gai Local Environment Plan (Local Centres) 2012 (CD version only)	$60.00	N	F
Development Control Plans (CD version only)	$60.00	N	F

Publications for Sale

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Flood Report	$80.00	N	P
Fee for PMF Flood Report in addition to the existing "Flood Report"	$80.00	N	P
Fee for provision of Council Flood Model (TUFLOW) - Subject to quotation	$2,500 - $4,000	N	P

Section 54 Local Govt Act 1993

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Certificate for Classification of Council Land	$150.00	N	L

Walks and Talks Programs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Community environmental walks, talks, workshops and entertainment (per person)	$0 - $100	Y	P

Wildthings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Corporate volunteering - up to 10 people - up to 3 hours	$150.00	Y	P
Corporate volunteering - 11 - 20 people - up to 3 hours	$300.00	Y	P
Corporate volunteering - up to 10 people - 3 - 7 hours	$300.00	Y	P
Corporate volunteering - 11 - 20 people - 3 - 7 hours	$500.00	Y	P
Tetragonula carbonaria (stingless native bee) hive (KOATH box with bees) - following > 3 year fostering period	$390.00	Y	P
Tetragonula carbonaria (stingless native bee) hive (KOATH box with bees) if purchasing 10 or more	$550.00	Y	M
Tetragonula carbonaria (stingless native bee) hive (KOATH box with bees)	$600.00	Y	M
Tetragonula carbonaria (stingless native bee) hive (KOATH box with bees) - for schools	$500.00	Y	P

Operations

Golf Courses

Gordon Golf Course

#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Green Fees - Twilight Rate	$25.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Visitor Thursday Pro Shop Competition Green Fee (inc. prizes)	$45.00	Y	P
#Green Fees School student 10 or 18 holes (primary, high school with student id)	$15.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Golf Lessons – Junior Program	Refer to Active Ku-ring-gai fees	Y	P
Pro Shop – Rentals – GGC Member Cart Hire 18 Hole	$40.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Rentals – Hire MGI Buggy 10 holes	$15.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Rentals – Hire MGI Buggy 18 holes	$20.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Rentals – Hire Pull Buggy	$6.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Rentals – Visitor 10 hole Cart Hire	$38.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Rentals – Visitor 18 hole Cart Hire	$50.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Retail sales – Apparel	Prices as marked	Y	M
Pro Shop – Retail sales – Golf Equipment	Prices as marked	Y	M
Pro Shop – Retail sales – Refreshments	Prices as marked	Y	M
Proshop - Rental GGC Member Cart Hire 9 hole	$24.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 18 holes	$50.50	Y	P
#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 18 holes	$40.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Golf Club Lease Rate	$13.00	Y	P
Non Daylight Savings Twilight rate after 3pm Serves as basis for Gordon Golf Clubs lease rate			
#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only 10 holes (includes pensioners & tertiary students – proof required)	$24.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only 18 holes (includes pensioners & tertiary students – proof required)	$31.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 10 holes	$31.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 10 holes	$35.00	Y	P
#Caddy / spectator / use of facilties for purpose of practice only	$15.10	Y	P
Pro Shop - Hire Clubs 18 Holes including Buggy	$30.00	Y	P
Pro Shop - Hire Clubs 10 Holes including Buggy	$20.00	Y	P

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Gordon Golf Course [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Pro Shop – Golf Lessons – 1 hour individual lesson (nets and putting green only)	$130.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Golf Lessons – 30 minute individual lesson (nets and putting green only)	$80.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Golf Lessons – 40 minute individual lesson (nets and putting green only)	$95.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Golf Lessons – 45 minute on course lesson (1st four holes only)	$115.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Golf Lessons – 90 minute on course lesson (1st seven holes only)	$200.00	Y	P
Pro Shop – Golf Lessons – 120 minute on course lesson (1st ten holes only)	$250.00	Y	P
Corporate Day/Shot Gun start up to 80 Players	$2000.00	Y	P
Corporate Day/Shot Gun start over to 80 Players	$2000.00	Y	P

North Turramurra Golf Course

#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 18 holes	$60.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 18 holes	$45.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Twilight hours	$32.50	Y	P
#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only 10 holes (includes tertiary students, pensioners, specials – proof required)	$25.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Concession – Weekday only – 18 holes (includes tertiary students, pensioners, specials – proof required)	$31.00	Y	P
#Green Fees – Weekday (Monday to Friday) – 10 holes	$35.50	Y	P
#Green Fees – Weekend & Public Holidays – 10 holes	$43.00	Y	P
#Green Fees School student 10 or 18 holes (primary, high school with student id)	$16.00	Y	P
#Caddy /Spectator / use of facilties for purpose of practice only	$15.10	Y	P

Engineering plan and works inspection fees for roadworks or drainage associated with development.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Temporary ground anchors application fee	$2,155.00	N	M
Application for temporary ground anchors made under Council managed land including road reserve.			
Temporary ground anchors permit (per anchor)	$1,188.00	N	M
Anchor Bond	Bond $5,250.00 per anchor $50K minimum bond, disbursements at cost, permanent anchors to support Councils road if required by Council	N	P
Engineering plan assessment and works inspection – submission of engineering plans per A1 plan in PDF format per page	$384.00	N	F
Engineering plan assessment and works inspection – submission of engineering plans per A3 plan in PDF format per page	$577.00	N	F
Engineering plan assessment and works inspection – driveways for medium density, mixed use and commercial developments	$501.00	N	F
Engineering Consultation per hour	$240.00	N	F

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Engineering plan and works inspection fees for roadworks or drainage associated with development. [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Re-assessment of any engineering plan assessments, additional works inspections	up to 40% of original fee	N	F
Inspections eg general site inspection, works incomplete or unsatisfactory etc	$316.00	N	F

Infrastructure

Alignment Level

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Re-consideration fee per property	$266.00	Y	F
Additional fee for survey works per property - Fee for provision of additional survey works to enable vehicular crossing design	$648.00	N	F
Applicant provided vehicular crossing design per property - Fee where the applicant provides design complying with required documents for review & approval by Council	$266.00	N	F
Council provided vehicular design per property - Fee where the applicant requests design undertaken by council or where applicant design is not compliant with required standards	$547.00	N	F
Re-application for expired permits	$249.00	N	F
Additional inspection	$249.00	N	F
Re-issuing of current approved levels	$48.00	N	F

Driveway / Footway / General

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Construct asphalt surface between road pavement and layback or pipe crossing (per square metre)	$337.00	Y	R
Construct 100mm thick fine crushed rock pavement across footway (per square metre)	$1,172.00	Y	R
Construct 130mm thick plain concrete driveway (per square metre)	$375.00	Y	R
Construct 100mm thick fine crushed rock and 30mm thick asphalt driveway (per square metre)	$412.00	Y	R
Construct 100mm thick concrete footpath (per square metre)	$319.00	Y	R
Excavation in rock (per cubic metre)	$1,377.00	Y	R
Excavation in other than rock (per cubic metre)	$543.00	Y	R
Asphalt footpath 30mm (per square metre)	$284.00	Y	R
Saw cutting up to 100mm depth (per metre)	$83.00	Y	R
Town Centre Paving (per square metre)	$1,390.00 to $1,873.00	Y	R

Gutter Bridge

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Remove existing gutter bridge crossing	$383.00	Y	R

Gutter Crossing Construction

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Dish crossings constructed in conjunction with kerb and gutter works where no approved constructed crossing previously existed – per metre	$453.00	Y	R

Kerb & Gutter

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Kerb and/or gutter (per metre) (regional road)	$525.00	Y	R
Hole in kerb (per opening)	$196.00	Y	R
Kerb and/or gutter (per metre) (local and collector roads)	$464.00	Y	R
150mm handformed AC kerb (similar profile to SA) per metre	$90.00	Y	R

Layback

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Reinstate existing layback with kerb up to 3.7 metres	$1,565.00	Y	R
Additional layback gutter crossing (per additional metre) in new gutter crossing	$607.00	Y	R
Extension of existing layback crossing (per metre)	$957.00	Y	R
Standard 3.7 metre wide concrete layback gutter crossing no existing kerb and gutter	$2,764.00	Y	R
Standard 3.7 metre wide concrete layback gutter crossing in existing kerb & gutter	$2,232.00	Y	R

Pipe Crossing

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Remove existing piped crossing	$436.00	Y	R
1.2m extension of existing piped crossing	$3,538.00	Y	R
2.4 metre extension of existing piped crossing	$5,368.00	Y	R
Construction of 4.8 metre wide x 300mm diameter pipe crossing	$7,968.00	Y	R
Construct Headwall & Capstone on existing pipe crossing	$2,423.00	Y	R
Reset or place new capstone (pair) on existing pipe crossing	$827.00	Y	R

Drainage

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Reconstruct Pit Lintel 1.8m	$3,239.00	Y	R
Additional Pit lintel (per additional metre)	$500.00	Y	R
Drainage pit repair or reconstruction	Actual Cost	Y	F
Drainage pit construction	Actual Cost	Y	F
CCTV Investigation of Council drainage for development or private works per hour	Actual Cost	Y	F
Investigation/Locating of Council drainage for development or private works per hour	$240.00	Y	R

Streetlighting Residuals

Part of the approval process for the changes to the streetlights includes Ausgrid issuing a Form F02 which shows the residuals and requires approval by Council. Council pay the ongoing cost of the replacement and new lights and recovers the residual on a light replaced early.

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Streetlighting Residuals [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Streetlighting Residuals Processing of Residual Charges from Ausgrid	$79.00	Y	F
Processing of Residual Charges from Ausgrid for removed lights as shown on F01A. (Note this is in addition to amount shown on F01A and GST for amount on F01A)			
Streetlighting Residuals Reprocessing of Residual Charges from Ausgrid	$157.00	Y	F
Reprocessing of Residual Charges from Ausgrid for removed lights as shown on F01A for same project. (Note this is in addition to amount shown on F01A and GST for amount on F01A)			
Investigation and processing street light shading requests (in addition to Ausgrid fees)	$360.00	N	F

Works Assessment

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Minor Works Assessment	$421.00	Y	F
Fee for assessing applications for minor works under the Roads Act			

Ku-ring-gai Fitness & Aquatic Centre

Casual Swim Entry

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Adults	$10.00	Y	P
Children/Seniors/Pensioners	$7.50	Y	P
Spectators	$4.00	Y	P
Family (2 Adults and 2 Children)	$30.00	Y	P
Additional Family Member	$4.00	Y	P

Piping Requests & Approval for Drainage Easements

Note: Please refer to Council's riparian policy and drainage easement policy for piping and drainage easement request applications.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application requiring determination by Council – fee for processing report	Refer to charges under Property Section	N	P
Hydraulic, hydrologic calculations and reports, per hour	$281.00	N	P

Publications for Sale

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works charged. Electronic format only.	$345.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Cover and Indexes	$0.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – General Requirements and Quality	$77.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Landscape	$32.00	N	P

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Publications for Sale [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Concrete	$92.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Traffic Control	$32.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Formation Preparation	$77.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Kerb and Gutter	$41.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Pavements Rigid	$60.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Pavements Flexible	$60.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Surfacing Spray Seal	$47.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Surfacing Asphaltic Concrete	$47.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Stormwater Drainage	$32.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Sub-Surface Drainage	$92.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Standard Drawings	$111.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Drawings Driveway Profiles only	$32.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works in electronic format – Drawings Bus Stops only	$18.00	N	P
Separate specifications extracted from complete set of specifications and standards for all Council's road and drainage works charged at standard photocopy rates (per page)	As per photocopy charges listed under Community/ Customer Service	N	P
General Conditions for Engagement of Consultant charged at standard photocopy rates (per page)	As per photocopy charges listed under Community/ Customer Service	N	P
Copies or extracts from specifications – A4 paper (per page)	$0.80	N	P
Copies or extracts from specifications – A3 paper (per page)	$1.00	N	P
Electronic copies of General Specification for the Construction of Road Works and Drainage Works in Ku-ring-gai Council, Construction under Roads Act Consent	$196.00	N	P

Records Searching

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application for street name change and processing (Subject to Council accepting name change)	$1,606.00	N	P
Application for new street name and processing	$894.00	N	P
Conduct a search of records and extract information (per half hour)	$182.00	N	P

Restorations

Notes
(R1) - Schedule of charges for restoration of main, secondary and other roads, footpaths, kerbs and gutters maintained by Ku-ring-gai.
(R2) - Minimum charge – one square metre or one linear metre.
(R3) - For minor local roads, the cost of traffic control is covered in the rates. However, additional costs will be incurred for High Volume Local Roads, State & Regional Roads. Refer to "Traffic Management of Restorations" fees.
(R4) - If nightworks are required, a 25% surcharge will be incurred.
(R5) - Additional Administrative charge incurred for matters involving extra site inspections and meetings, unreported damages requiring inspections for reinstatement.
(R6) - Sawcutting included where required

Footpath Restoration

Notes R1 - R6 applicable

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Asphalt Footpath per sqm	$318.00	N	R
Concrete footpath 100mm thick per sqm	$459.00	N	R
Concrete 130mm thick footpath and vehicular crossings per sqm	$583.00	N	R
Concrete 200mm thick footpath and vehicular crossings per sqm	$789.00	N	R
Grass verges per sqm	$179.00	N	R
Flagging – sandstone per sqm	$573.00	N	R
Brick or concrete pavers per sqm	$477.00	N	R
Gravel footpaths per sqm	$244.00	N	R
Town Centre Paving (per square metre)	$1,300.00 to $1,750.00	N	R

Kerb & Gutter Restoration

Notes R1 - R6 applicable

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Kerb and/or gutter restoration (per metre) (excludes regional road)	$496.00	N	R
Hole in kerb (per opening)	$315.00	N	R
Saw cutting up to 100mm depth (per metre)	$88.00	N	R
Saw cutting up to 150mm depth (per metre)	$98.00	N	R

Roads Restoration

Notes R1 - R6 inclusive applicable - Restoration Orders Notes R1 - R6

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Additional administrative charge to apply to restoration orders with inadequate or incorrect information	$283.00	N	P
Road Opening Application	$240.00	N	R
Road/footpath Barriers delivery fee (per board and 2 legs)	$117.00	N	R
Road/footpath barriers per day hire (per board and 2 legs)	$25.00	N	R
Gravel and all other classes of unsealed pavement or shoulder per sqm	$412.00	N	R
Natural earth per sqm	$208.00	N	R
Asphaltic concrete and all other bitumen surfaces per sqm	$498.00	N	R
Cement Concrete per sqm	$987.00	N	R

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Roads Restoration [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Asphaltic concrete with cement concrete base per sqm	$987.00	N	R

Sportsgrounds

Classified on the basis of general sports field condition, the standard and amount of facilities provided on each site setup for winter sport(s) competition(s) i.e. Rugby Union, Rugby League, Football and AFL.
All hire shall comply with Sports Facilities Plan of Management and fees apply in accordance with Council's Policy for the Management of Community & Recreation Land and Facilities.
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Natural Area Activities - Mountain Bike Facilities & Orienteering\Rogaining

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Booking Fee	$12.00	Y	
Mountain bike/BMX facility booking (0-15 people) per hour - 2 hour minimum - Charge per hour - Commercial non-exclusive use	$16.00	Y	
Orienteering/Rogaining booking (0-100 people) per hour - No charge for not-for-profit group use	$0.00	Y	
Orienteering/Rogaining booking (0-100 people) per hour - 2 hour minimum Commercial use	$50.00	Y	
Orienteering/Rogaining booking (101-200 people) per hour - 2 hour minimum Commercial & not-for-profit	$56.00	Y	
Orienteering/Rogaining booking (200+ people) per hour - 2 hour minimum Commercial & not-for-profit	$68.00	Y	

Annual Hirers

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Annual hirer (per hour rate) e.g. Dog Club, Aero & Archery	$7.00	Y	P

Athletics

#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Athletics venue per hour – Seasonal Rate – Bannockburn Oval and Turramurra Oval	$18.60	Y	P

Baseball/Softball

Sports Fields - Class 1

Large Ovals for mainly for senior or specialised competition(s), complete range of amenities including change rooms, toilets and storage. Ancillary facilities vary including parking, floodlighting, playground and picnic facilities.
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."
William Cowan Oval, Golden Jubilee #1

Pre Season Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$43.00	Y	P
#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$43.10	Y	P

Seasonal Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$33.60	Y	P
#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$42.95	Y	P

Casual Sports Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$67.97	Y	P
#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$53.05	Y	P

Sports Fields - Class 2

Sportfields of varying size suitable for junior and/or senior training and competition, medium range of amenities including toilets, change rooms and storage. Ancillary facilities vary including parking, floodlighting, playground and picnic facilities.
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."
Golden Jubilee #2, Cliff Oval #1 and Auluba #3

Pre Season

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$25.30	Y	P
Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$25.30	Y	P

Seasonal Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$19.70	Y	P
Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$25.30	Y	P

Casual Sports Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$40.00	Y	P
Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$31.20	Y	P

Sports Fields - Class 3

Sportsfields of varying size mainly for junior training and competition with basic amenities (may include toilets, change rooms and/or canteen).
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."
St Ives Village Green, Bryce Oval

Pre-Season Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$17.20	Y	P
#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$17.20	Y	P

Seasonal Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$13.45	Y	P
#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$17.20	Y	P

Casual Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$27.35	Y	P
#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$21.85	Y	P

Cricket

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual – Cricket turf wicket full day only (no preparation or old wickets)	$559.00	Y	P
#Casual and Seasonal – Cricket Artificial practice nets (per wicket strip per hour)	$10.95	Y	P
#Seasonal – Cricket Turf Practice nets (per wicket strip per hour) (Lindfield nets)	$34.55	Y	P
#Seasonal – Cricket Artificial Wicket per hour	$10.80	Y	P
#Seasonal – Cricket Turf wicket per wicket prepared (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$465.00	Y	P
#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Saturday 4 hours	$280.00	Y	P
#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Saturday 2 hours	$122.05	Y	P
#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Sunday 4 hours	$315.35	Y	P
#Weekend turf wicket maintenance – Sunday 2 hours	$159.30	Y	P

Facilities

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Club House hire – Community per hour.	$33.00	Y	P
#Casual Club House hire – Commercial per hour.	$39.25	Y	P

Floodlighting

Note: Fees are per hour/per location. New locations charged on level of lighting.

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Floodlighting [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Auluba No. 1 & No. 2 (100 lux)	$38.00	Y	P
North Turramurra Recreation Area (50 + Lux)	$27.50	Y	P
North Turramurra Recreation Area (Netball Courts)	$27.50	Y	P
North Turramurra Recreation Area (Practise areas)	$24.50	Y	P
Acron (100 lux)	$38.00	Y	P
Acron (200 Lux)	$62.00	Y	P
Allan Small (100 lux)	$38.00	Y	P
Bannockburn (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Barra Brui (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Charles Bean (50+ Lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Charles Bean (100 lux)	$38.00	Y	P
Charles Bean (200 lux)	$62.00	Y	P
Cliff No. 1, Cliff No 2 – per oval (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Cliff No. 2 oval (50 lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Comenarra (50 lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Canoon Road (Netball Courts)	$24.50	Y	P
Golden Jubilee – Back Oval (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Golden Jubilee – Front Oval (100 Lux)	$36.00	Y	P
Golden Jubilee – Front Oval (200 Lux)	$62.00	Y	P
Hassell Park (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Howson (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Koola Park (50 Lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Koola Park (100 lux)	$37.00	Y	P
Koola Park (200 lux)	$62.00	Y	P
Lindfield (No 1) (100 lux)	$38.00	Y	P
Lindfield (No.2) (50+lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Lofberg (Oval) (100 lux)	$37.00	Y	P
Lofberg (Netball Courts)	$24.50	Y	P
Lindfield Park (Netball Courts)	$24.50	Y	P
Mimosa (100 lux)	$37.00	Y	P
Norman Griffith (100 lux)	$37.00	Y	P
North Turramurra Recreation Area (100 lux)	$37.00	Y	P
North Turramurra Recreation Area (200 lux)	$62.00	Y	P
Primula (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Primula (100+ lux)	$38.00	Y	
Queen Elizabeth (100 lux)	$37.00	Y	P
Roseville Chase (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Samuel King (North Turramurra) (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
St Ives Village Green (50 lux)	$27.50	Y	P
St Ives Village Green (Netball Courts)	$24.50	Y	P
Turramurra Oval (50 lux)	$27.50	Y	P
The Glade (Netball Courts)	$24.50	Y	P
Warrimoo (50 lux)	$27.50	Y	P
Wellington (50+ lux)	$27.50	Y	P
William Cowan (100 lux)	$37.00	Y	P

Futsal/Touch/Oztag (summer)

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Sportsfields – Summer futsal, touch football, oztag	$30.00	Y	P

Netball or Basketball (Outdoor)

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual – Netball or Basketball Courts per court/per hour	$18.50	Y	P
#School – Netball or Basketball per court/per hour	$8.95	Y	P
#Seasonal – Netball or Basketball Courts training per court/per hour	$10.70	Y	P
#Seasonal – Netball or Basketball Courts Competition per court/per hour	$7.28	Y	P

Personal training

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 15 hours per week).	$58.00	Y	P
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 8 hours per week).	$37.50	Y	P

School Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Cross Country Athletics Event (0-200 people) includes marshalling area, permit for PA and Cross Country Track Includes waste service & toilet cleaning	$389.00	Y	P
#Cross Country Athletics Event (+200 people) includes marshalling area, permit for PA and Cross Country Track	$719.00	Y	P
#Athletics Carnival/Gala Day (per day) . Includes additional waste service & toilet cleaning fee	$227.00	Y	P

Sports Field Hire

Sports Fields - Class 1

Fields of a standard suitable for competitive sport at the highest level played in an area; with change rooms; may have other facilities such as a canteen.
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."
Acron Oval, Auluba Oval #1, Cliff Oval #1, Golden Jubilee Field #1, Hassell Park #1, Lindfield Oval #1, Lofberg Oval, Norman Griffiths, North Turramurra Recreation Area

Pre-Season Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$42.95	Y	P
#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$42.95	Y	P

Seasonal Hire

Note: Only available to the clubs, schools and associations who hire fields on a seaonal basis.

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Seasonal Hire *[continued]*

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Winter Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$33.60	Y	P
#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$42.95	Y	P

Casual Sports Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$67.95	Y	P
#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$53.05	Y	P

Sports Field - Class 2

Fields of a standard suitable for community use and for junior sport with change rooms such as a canteen; may have other facilities such as a canteen; no turf wicket provided
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."
Allan Small Sportsfield, Auluba Oval #2, Auluba Oval #3, Bannockburn Oval, Barra Brui Sportsground, Cliff Oval #2, Comenarra Oval, George Christie Oval, Golden Jubilee Field #2, Hassell Park #2, Howson Oval, Kent Road Oval, Killara Park, Koola Park (rugby/soccer), Lindfield Oval #2, Mimosa Oval, Primula Oval, Queen Elizabeth Reserve, Roseville Chase Oval, Roseville Park, Samuel King Sportsground, St Ives Showground (main arena), The Glade Oval, Turramurra Oval, Warrimoo Oval, Wellington Oval

Pre-Season Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$25.85	Y	P
#Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$25.85	Y	P

Seasonal Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Winter Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$20.15	Y	P
#Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$25.85	Y	P

Casual Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$40.95	Y	P
#Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$31.90	Y	P

Sports Fields - Class 3

Fields suitable for community use and for junior sport, without other facilities
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."
Browns Field, Bryce Field, Darnley Oval, Edenborough Oval, Fiddens Wharf, Friars Field, Karuah Sportsground, Loyal Henry Sportsground, Carrington Oval, Regimental Field(s), St Ives Village Green, Toolang Oval, Westbrook Oval

Pre-Season Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Pre-season weekend bookings (Maximum of 4 days or part there of per day per field) can be booked by seasonal hirers subject to availability and field condition (per field per hour)	$16.85	Y	P
Out of Season Training (per field per hour)	$16.85	Y	P

Seasonal Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Winter Sports Seasonal Competitions per hour (Saturday Season & max 15 Sundays)	$13.10	Y	P
Sportsfields – Seasonal club training and school use- per field per hour	$16.85	Y	P

Casual Sports Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Casual Sport – training rate (per hour per field)	$26.75	Y	P
Casual Sport – competition rate (per hour per field)	$21.35	Y	P

Synthetic Fields

Charles Bean Oval, North Turramurra Recreation Area
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual - NTRA Training Area 1 & 2	$25.10	Y	P
#Seasonal - NTRA Training Area 1 & 2	$21.25	Y	P
#Casual Synthetic Field	$97.50	Y	P
#Seasonal Weekday Training per hour	$61.60	Y	P
#Seasonal Weekend Competition per hour	$61.60	Y	P
#School bookings (School Hours only) per hour	$35.05	Y	P
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 15 hours per week).	$64.75	Y	P
#Personal training non-exclusive use – Low intensity, per week (maximum 8 hours per week).	$47.75	Y	P

St Ives Indoor Sport Centre

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Full Court Hire per hour	$104 - $161	Y	M
Half Court Hire per hour	$60.30 - $96.60	Y	M
Pickeball/Badminton Court Hire per hour	$32.20 - $50.00	Y	M
Programming and Visit Passes	$5.00 - $300.00	Y	M
Equipment Hire	$5.00 - $31.20	Y	M
Miscellaneous Bond	$350.00 - $2,080.00	N	M
Cleaning Fee	At cost	Y	M
Multi-Purpose Room - Community per hour	$50.00	Y	M
Multi-Purpose Room - High School per day during school hours	$135.00	Y	M

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St Ives Indoor Sport Centre [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Multi-Purpose Room - Commercial/not for profit per hour	$70.00	Y	M

Traffic

Application for private use of Road Reserve

Section 139 - Roads Act 1993

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application fee	$120.00	N	F
Assessment and consent fee for permanent and temporary structures	$300.00	N	F
Assessment and consent fee for hard landscaping works	$225.00	N	F

Lines at Driveways

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Provision of perpendicular pavement lines at driveways	$460.00	N	P

No Parking Signs at Driveways - Requests from Residents

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application fee – including reporting to Ku-ring-gai Traffic Committee	$640.00	N	P
Provision of Two No Parking signs, if approved (installed or altered)	$890.00	N	P

Parking Restriction Signs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application fee – processing, including reporting to Ku-ring-gai Traffic Committee	$1,285.00	N	P
Provision of signs, if approved (per sign/stem installed or altered)	$440.00	N	P

Road Occupancy

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Occupy roadway during work for crane or other vehicle (per vehicle per day or part – subject to approved TMP/TCP)	$290 per day or $1,040 per week	N	P

Senior Driver Workshops

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Subsidised fee for attending full day senior driver workshops	$10.00	Y	P

Special Events

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application fee – processing Traffic Management Plan and report to Ku-ring-gai Traffic Committee – for non profit groups	$650.00	N	P
Application fee – processing Traffic Management Plan and report to Ku-ring-gai Traffic Committee – for commercial applicants	$1,285.00	N	P
Advertising (at cost +10%) – minimum	$1,030.00	N	P

Traffic Control

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application fee for appraisal or re-appraisal of Traffic Control Plan for activity on public roads.	$370.00	N	P
Standard application requires more than 2 working days notice.			
Fee for Route Assessment as the Road Manager for road access consent via National Heavy Vehicle Regulator	$130.00	N	P
Application fee for appraisal of Road access consent request directly to Council	$350.00	N	P
Application fee for Urgent (less than 48 hours) appraisal of Road access consent request directly to Council	$520.00	N	P

Traffic Management of Restorations

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Prepare & Submit a Traffic Control Plan with a Road Occupancy Licence (ROL)	$750.00	N	
Dedicated Traffic Control Crew (2 Person Crew) per hour	$228.00	N	
Additional Traffic Controller per hour	$100.00	N	
Concrete Plant Opening Fee (for night works)	$2,439.75	N	

Works Zones

Fees include application fee for 18 metre (min) Work Zone, where required by DA condition for development.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Work Zone for 12 month period	$25,159.00	N	R
Work Zone (additional length), per metre per annum	$1,410.00	N	R
Work Zone for up to 10 weeks	$4,410.00	N	R
Fee only applies after first 12 month period and payment of appropriate fee.			
Work Zone (additional length), per metre per 10 weeks	$260.00	N	R
Only applies after first 12 month period and payment of appropriate fee.			

Tree Management

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Basic Application Fee under the Tree Preservation Order (includes one tree)	$88.00	N	P
Assessment Fee for each and every tree in excess of one	$13.00	N	P
Tree Pruning	$44.00	N	P
Applications by pensioners – general (card must be produced)	$42.00	N	P
Applications by pensioners – tree pruning (card must be produced)	$20.00	N	P

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Tree Management [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Applications by pensioners – review of application (card must be produced)	$42.00	N	P
Tree protection bond	$500.00 - $50,000.00	N	P

Waste

Commercial Waste Management Charges

The following Commercial Waste Collection fees include:
1. Provision of container and repairs.
2. Disposal costs.
3. Waste collection at nominated fee schedule.
4. Recycling collection at nominated fee schedule.

Note: Service Fees associated with commercial waste management services may be subjected to quotation in a commercially competitive environment and the nominated fees for services below may vary according to the request service level of the customer, type of waste, disposal costs, specific collection site, customer or waste requirements requested by the Director Operations.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
1100 litre waste Standard	$72.00	N	R
1100 litre waste Heavy	$83.70	N	R
1100 litre Paper	$31.00	N	R
1100 litre Mixed	$36.50	N	R
120 Waste weekly	$15.50	N	R
120 Paper weekly	$10.00	N	R
120 Mixed Recycling weekly	$12.00	N	R
240 litre Standard per bin per week	$22.00	N	R
240 litre Heavy per bin per week	$31.50	N	R
240 litre Paper Recycling per bin per week	$12.00	N	R
240 litre Mix Recycling	$13.00	N	R
360 litre waste Standard	$32.00	N	R
360 litre waste Heavy	$42.50	N	R
360 litre Paper	$14.00	N	R
360 litre Mixed Recycling	$16.00	N	R
660 litre Standard Waste per bin	$44.00	N	R
660 litre Heavy Waste per bin	$56.00	N	R
660 litre Paper Recycling per bin per week	$19.50	N	R
660 litre Mix Containers Recycling per bin per week	$24.50	N	R
Additional Units Service 240 Litre	$6.00 Per Bin	N	R
Additional Units Service 660 Litre	$15.50 Per Bin	N	R
Additional Bulky Waste Clean-up	$105.00	N	R
Additional E/Waste/Mattress/Metals collection	$23.00	N	R
Loose cardboard per cubic metre per week	$17.00	N	R
360 litre green waste Weekly per bin, per year	$208.00	N	R
Dumped waste other than booked cleanup	$983.00	N	R
Additional Trade Service – Admin Fee	$20.00	N	R
Admin Fee Suspend Service	$76.00	N	P

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Commercial Waste Management Charges [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Trade Bin Removal – Unpaid account	$35.00	N	R
On Call Recycling Schools Only – per bin	Unit $ Rate	N	R
Street sweeping for events or emergency response per hr minimum 2 hrs	$305.00	Y	R
Footpath cleaning for events or emergency response per hr minimum 2 hrs	$280.00	Y	R
Community Events	Subject to quotation	Y	R
Public Litter Bins Additional Waste Collection – per bin, per collection	$14.00	N	R
Community Based Organisation Additional Waste Collection - per bin, per collection	$6.00	N	R

Domestic Waste Management Charges

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Domestic Waste Management Charges, annual	Refer to Delivery Program 2025 - 2029 & Operational Plan 2026 - 2027 for Fees	N	R
Return waste collection for late presentation	$32.00	N	R
Additional Units Domestic 240 litre Standard Waste Weekly per bin per year	$506.50	N	R
Additional Units Domestic 240 litre Recycling Waste Weekly per bin per year	$91.50	N	R
Additional Units Domestic 660 litre Standard Waste Weekly per bin per year	$1,363.50	N	R
Additional Units Domestic 660 litre Recycling Waste Weekly per bin per year	$239.00	N	R

Other Waste Charges

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Waste education workshops and entertainment (per person)	$0.00 to $50.00	Y	P

Community

Art Centre

Term Programs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Children's Term Classes	$250.00 - $360.00	Y	R
Fees based on costs and materials			
Teenage Term Classes	$250.00 - $360.00	Y	R
Fees based on costs and materials			
School Holiday Art Classes	$50.00 - $290.00	Y	R
Fees based on costs and materials			
Weekend Artists Workshops		Y	R
Fees based on costs and materials (per day)			
One off workshops and classes (2-8hours)	$60.00 - $300.00 per day	Y	R

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Term Programs [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
January Summer School	$100.00 - $700.00 per day	Y	R
Fees based on costs and materials (per day)			
Adult Term Classes	$285.00 - $485.00	Y	R
Fees based on costs and materials			
Pensioner Term Classes	$285.00 - $350.00	Y	R
Creative Writing Classes – Adult		Y	R
Creative Writing Classes – Children		Y	R
Music Classes – Adult		Y	R
Fee based on duration of class			
Music Classes – Children and Teenage		Y	R
Fee based on duration of class			
Late Enrolment Fee (after 3 weeks)	$33.00	Y	R
Pottery Kiln Firing Charges – per firing	$150.00 - $400.00	Y	R
Ceramics Materials	$25.00 - $120.00	Y	R
Art Centre Covid-19 Programs	$20.00 - $400.00	Y	
Corporate Creativity Day for groups of up to 12	$5000.00 - $6000.00	Y	R
Corporate Creativity Half Day for groups of up to 12 (up to 3 hours)	$2500.00 - $3000.00	Y	R
Day Long Programmed Arts Experiences & Events	$100.00 - $400.00 per participant	Y	R
Day Long Programmed Arts Experience & Events (Children and Teens)	$50.00 - $400.00 per participant	Y	R
Half Day Programmed Arts Experience & Events (up to 3 hours)	$50.00 - $200.00 per participant	Y	R
Half Day Programmed Arts Experience & Events (up to 3 hours) Children	$25.00 - $200.00 per participant	Y	R

Exhibition Space

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Art Centre & Community Services Facilities – Gallery hire – 1 Artist (per week)	$275.00	Y	R
Art Centre & Community Services Facilities – Gallery hire – 2 Artists (per week)	$343.00	Y	R
Art Centre & Community Services Facilities – Gallery hire – 3 Artists (per week)	$378.00	Y	R
Art Centre & Community Services Facilities – Gallery hire – 4 Artists (per week)	$404.70	Y	R
Art Centre & Community Services Facilities – Gallery hire – 5 or more Artists, Larger groups pay institutional rate (per week)	$475.00	Y	R
Art Centre merchandise	$40.00 - $200.00	Y	M
Art equipment and materials	$25.00 - $400.00	Y	M
Hire of Art Centre staff to hang/assist hang of exhibition	$50.00 per hour	Y	
Artwork Display Plinths	$250.00 per week for up to 25 plinths	Y	

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Exhibition Space [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Refundable Hire Deposit for Plinths	$150.00 Deposit is refunded only when all plinths are returned in original condition	N	R

Studio Hire

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Studio Hire	$280.00	Y	R
Daily Hire - Maximum 8 hours			
Studio Hire	$38.00	Y	R
Hourly Hire - Sunday to Saturday			

Childcare

Thomas Carlyle Children's Centre

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration fee for parents, per enrolment. (One off fee, once child guaranteed a place, for Council staff to advise details of childcare)	$100.00	N	P
Waiting list fee, per application each child	$40.00	N	P
Long Day Care fee (per day) each child	$130.00 - $224.00	N	P
Parents arriving to collect their child/children after 6.00pm will be charged a late fee of $30.00 per 10 minute block.			

Occasional Care

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Occasional Care (per hour) Minimum 4 hours charge	$50.00	N	P

Family Day Care

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration fee for parents per enrolment. (One off fee, once child guaranteed a place, for Council staff to advise details of childcare)	$105.00	N	P
Administration Fee for new educators per registrations	$0.00 - $280.00	N	P
Family Day Care Parent/Educator Levy (per parent/Educator). The fee is a contribution made by parents/Educator towards the operation of the FDC Scheme.	$10.00 - $125.00	N	P

Vacation Care

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
School Holiday Centre Fees	$60.00 - $155.00	N	P
Parents arriving to collect their child/children after 6.00pm will be charged a late fee of $30.00 per 10 minute block.			
School Holiday Centre – additional excursion costs depending on venue	$10.00 - $218.00	N	P

Council Managed Events

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Commercial Stall- small stall 2.4mx2.4m	$80 - $400	Y	P
Commercial Stall – large stall 3mx3m	$110 - $600	Y	P
Commercial Stall – oversize or non standard stall	$150.00 - $1,100	Y	P
Community Stall 2.4mx2.4m	$125.00	Y	P
Private Food Business – Space Only	$150.00 - $1,100	Y	P
Entry Fee – Council run event	$5.00 - $200.00	Y	F

Consultancy

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Business Engagement Event Attendance Fee (per person)	$20.00	Y	M
Consultancy fee/research (per hour)	$220.00 - $520.00	Y	R

Filming in Ku-ring-gai

Application Fees

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application processing and permit - Ultra Low and Low Impact - non-refundable	$135.00	N	R
Application processing and permit - Medium and High Impact - non-refundable	$208.00	N	R
Urgent assessment - within 3 business days of activity - non-refundable	$104.00	N	R
Filming on private property & Council required to approve parking plans and/or unit base	$156.00	N	R
Ultra Low Impact Filming	$0.00	N	R
Low Impact Filming	$150.00	N	R
Medium Impact Filming	$312.00	N	R
High Impact Filming	$500.00	N	R

Assessment of Traffic Management Plan

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Low impact	$189.00	N	R
Medium impact	$444.00	N	R
High impact	$660.00	N	R
Filming Application - Parking in Council Carparks for 10+ vehicles per vehicle daily charge	$30.00	N	M
Filming on private property (special parking - Trucks or Vans on public roads etc per day)	$170.00	N	M

Park/Open Space Booking

General Charges for Open Space, Parks & Sportsfields

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Commercial Photography (streets, open space and parks)	$189.00	N	F
Booking fee	$11.00	Y	P
Administration fee changes or updates bookings	$11.00	Y	P
Key deposit	Bond Amount	N	P

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General Charges for Open Space, Parks & Sportsfields [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Additional grass cutting – at cost of additional service	"At Cost"	Y	P
Litter fee (per day)	"At Cost"	Y	P
Toilet cleaning fee (per day)	"At Cost"	Y	P
Electricity supply, full day, per power point	$87.00	Y	P
Electricity supply, half day, per power point	$51.00	Y	P
New Memorial Seat Including Plaque, Concrete Slab & Labour Cost	$4,879.00	Y	F
Memorial Seat Refurbishment Including Plaque & Labour Cost	$2,439.50	Y	F
Memorial Seat Plaque Only including Plaque & Labour Cost	$1,000.00	Y	F

Park/Open Space Functions

Excluding Sportsgrounds/Showgrounds

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Park Booking (0- 25 people) per hour – 2 hour period minimum (excludes sportsgrounds). Charge per hour	$48.00	Y	P
Commercial rate (per day) – Market Stalls for use of a sportsfield only – 25+ stalls	$846.00	Y	P
Park Booking (26-50 people) 2 hour period minimum (excludes sportsgrounds). Charge per hour	$54.00	Y	P
Park Booking (51-100 people) per 2 hour period minimum (excludes sportsgrounds). Charge per hour	$81.00	Y	P
Park Booking (101 + people) 2 hour period minimum (excludes sportsgrounds). Charge per hour	$106.00	Y	P

Entertainment and Temporary Structures

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Entertainment – 1 item (jumping castle, pony rides, petting zoo, music, amplifiers, generators, food machines, band, etc.)	$75.00	Y	P
Entertainment multiple items	$220.00	Y	P
Temporary structure – small per day or part thereof	$68.00	Y	P
Temporary structure, marquee small – (up to 5m x 5m) per day or part thereof	$126.00	Y	P
Temporary structure, marquee large – (over 5m x 5m) – per day or part thereof	$390.00	Y	P

Minor Events

Up to 500 people (Parks & Sportsfields)

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Non-profit events 2 hour period minimum, includes event area, temporary structure fee & onsite power	Charge per hour $117.00	Y	P
Commercial events 2 hour period minimum, includes event area, temporary structure fee & onsite power	Charge per hour $156.00	Y	P

Major Events

Note: Major Event pricing is subject to an assessment of the required staffing, equipment, potential for damage, traffic management and areas required.

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Major Events [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Non-profit per day – includes events area, all carparking area(s), temporary structure(s), power (excludes any licence hire areas) (per day) includes setup and pack away date	$2,392.00	Y	P
Commerical per day – includes events area, all carparking area(s), temporary structure(s), power (excludes any licence hire areas) (per day) includes setup and pack away date	$5,123.00	Y	P
Damage / Security bond for major events hire (open space, events, etc.)	$0.00 - $10,000.00	N	P
Community rate (per day) – Fun Run/Fundraiser for special use of a sportsfield only	$689.00	Y	P
Commercial rate (per day) – Fun Run/Fundraiser for special use of a sportsfield only	$959.00	Y	P
Commercial rate (per day) – Market Stalls for use of a sportsfield only – 0-20 stalls	$350.00	Y	P
Commercial rate (per day) – Market Stalls for use of a sportsfield only – 21-25 stalls	$620.00	Y	P

Halls and Meeting Rooms

#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

General Charges – Fixed Costs

Halls and Meeting Rooms

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration fee – per change or update per booking	$11.00	Y	P
Stage Lighting Town Hall (per booking, per day)	$271.00	Y	P
Security bond	$350.00 - $2,000.00	N	P
Clean and Close hall (per service)	$360.00	Y	P
Key replacement fee	$50.00	Y	

Halls - Large- Ku-ring-gai Town Hall, St Ives Community Centre & Blair Wark VC Community Hall

Community Hire

Per hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$79.00	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$44.00	Y	P
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) Casual Hire Only	$104.25	Y	P

Commercial Hire

Per Hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$143.90	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$55.00	Y	P
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) Casual Hire Only	$201.00	Y	P

Sale, Exhibition or Conference

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Sale/Exhibition charge per day	$1,163.00	Y	P
Overnight charge	$200.00	Y	P

Halls - Small - West Lindfield Hall, East Lindfield Hall, West Pymble Hall, East Roseville Hall,Lindfield Seniors Centre,Turramurra Seniors Centre

Community Hire

Per hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$74.00	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$43.00	Y	P
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) Casual Hire Only	$99.00	Y	P

Commercial Hire

Per hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$96.00	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$49.00	Y	P
#Peak Hire (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays from 6 pm) casual Hire Only	$129.50	Y	P

Sale, Exhibition or Conference

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Sale/Exhibition charge per day	$881.00	Y	P
Overnight charge	$200.00	Y	P

Large Meeting Rooms - Gordon Meeting Rooms and Roseville Park Pavilion

Community Hire

Per hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$47.00	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$32.35	Y	P

Commercial Hire

Per hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$64.60	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$43.00	Y	P

Small Meeting Rooms - St Ives Meeting Room & Town Hall Meeting Room,Swain Gardens Room, Ku-ring-gai Community Groups Meeting Room and Lindfield Resource Centre

Community Hire

Per Hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$39.00	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$28.00	Y	P

Commercial Hire

Per Hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Casual Hire	$58.00	Y	P
#Permanent Hire	$37.50	Y	P

Meeting Rooms & Seniors Centres (concessional)

Rates for existing or approved new groups only
Per hour

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Permanent Hire	$17.00	Y	P

Library

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Replacement ILL Strap	$5.50	N	P
RFID tag – damaged/replacement	$2.20	N	F
Library booking fee – per booking for studyrooms	$5.00 for up to 2 hours (maximum booking per day)	Y	P
Library book bags & other promotional items	$2.00 - $50.00	Y	P
Digital images from the Local History Collection - private use	$15.00	Y	R
Digital images from the Local History Collection - commercial use	$35.00	Y	R
Damaged/lost/not returned items - Full purchase of item as paid by Council		N	F
Replacement borrower cards – lost cards	$2.00	N	R
Request for item not in Library's collection (inter-library loan)	$7.50	Y	P
Inter-Library Loan (ILL) request sourced from a NSW public library. Any request sourced from other institutions will incur any additional fees set by the lending library.			
Research Fee – Detailed private research enquiries i.e. non-commercial and personal research (per hour, first hour free)	$30.00	N	R
Research Fee – Detailed commercial research enquiries (i.e. requests from heritage consultants, real estate agents, other businesses (per hour, first hour free)	$150.00	N	R

Programs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Library programs and activities	Up to $50.00	Y	P
Community Events and Functions – fee dependent on venue and type of activity	$5.00 - $229.00	Y	P
Seniors Programs – fee dependent on venue and type of activity	$5.00 - $208.00	Y	P
Seniors in Action Program day excursions – fee dependent on venue	$10.00 - $260.00	Y	P
Seniors in Action Program overnight excursions- fee dependent on venue (per person)	$260.00 - $727.00	Y	P
Youth Services Programs – fee dependent on venue and type of activity	$5.00 - $197.00	Y	P
Youth Services Special Events and Excursions	$110.00 - $519.00	Y	P
Childrens Services Programs – fee dependent on venue and type of activity	$5.00 - $187.00	Y	P
School excursions to Council per person	$5.00	Y	F

Recreation Programs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Active Ku-ring-gai Programs	$40.00 - $270.00	Y	P

Photocopying/Printing

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
A4 black & white per page (self service)	$0.20	Y	M
A3 black & white per page (self service)	$0.40	Y	M
A4 colour per page (self service)	$1.00	Y	M
A3 colour per page (self service)	$2.00	Y	M
Articles obtained from another library (per article) up to 25 pages + $4.90 for every additional 25 pages or part thereof + photocopying charges as per schedule (if required)	$21.10	Y	M

Special Events on Designated Walking Tracks and Service Trails

Commercial Activities

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Gate Key bond (only in conjunction with authorised booking)	$380.00	N	P

Supervision Fee

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
If and as specified by authorising officer – Standard Hours per hour, weekday	$122.00	Y	P
If and as specified by authorising officer – After Hours per hour, weekday	$122.00	Y	P
If and as specified by authorising officer – Weekends & Public Holidays	$191.00	Y	P

St Ives Showground

Western Arena

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Western Arena casual hire per hour	$50.00	Y	P
Western Arena Event hire per hour	$165.00	Y	P

General Charges - Fixed Costs no discounts available

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Key Replacement Fee	$50.00	Y	F
Booking Fee Non Refundable	$15.00	Y	P
Administration fee – per change or update per booking	$15.00	Y	P
Security Bond for Pavilion and Building Hire	$400.00	N	P
Pavilion Close and Clean	"At Cost"	Y	F
Charged at cost			
Non - event day vendor	$100 - $250 per day	Y	P
Pavilion Overnight Hire (Charged 50% of hourly hire rate)	$129.00	Y	P
Additional Staffing (per day)	"At Cost"	Y	F
Key Replacement Fee	$50.00	N	P
Additional Grass Cutting	"At Cost"	Y	P
Additional Waste Management	"At Cost"	Y	P
Additional Cleaning	"At Cost"	Y	P
Electricity supply, full day, per power point	$30.00 - $150.00	Y	P
Powerpoints refer to the outside electricity boxes at the Showground which can include 3 phase powerpoints			
Electricity supply, half day, per power point	$15.00 - $75.00	Y	P

Showground Picnic Areas

All Showground Picnic Areas

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Showground Picnic Area, No Shelter (per hour, min 2hrs weekdays and 3hrs weekends)	$37.00	Y	P
Showground Picnic Area, Small Shelter (per hour, min 2hrs weekdays and 3hrs weekends)	$42.00	Y	P
Showground Picnic Area, Large Shelter (min 2hrs weekdays & 3hrs weekends)	$50.00	Y	
Third party amusement or entertainment device(eg-jumping castle, petting zoo, food provider	$90.00	Y	P

Light Impact Activities - walking/running, etc

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Booking (0- 25 people) per hour – 2 hour period minimum – Charge per hour	$19.00	Y	P
Booking (26-50 people) 2 hour period minimum – Charge per hour	$28.50	Y	P
Booking (51-100 people) per 2 hour period minimum – Charge per hour	$60.00	Y	P
Booking 100+ per 2 hour period minimum – Charge per hour	$75.00	Y	P

Major Events

Note: Major Event pricing is subject to an assessment of special events application.

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Major Events [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Commercial Filming	Location Fee (per day) $250.00 - $5000.00	N	
Major Showground Event (per event day - includes Main Arena or Events Area, power and carparking area)	$3,600.00 - $10,000.00	Y	P
Major Showground Event (per event day - includes Main Arena and Events Area, power and carparking area)	$3,600.00 - $20,000.00	Y	P
Major Showground Event (per event day - includes all spaces, power and carparking areas)	$3,600.00 - $30,000.00	Y	P
Damage as a result of Major Event	"At Cost"	N	P
Event Bond	$500 - $40,000	N	
$500 - $15,000			

Events Area

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Events Area per hour (Partial Use)	$126.50	Y	P
Events Area per hour, 100 to 250 people (minimum 3 hrs)	$165.00	Y	P
Events Area per hour, 251 to 850 people (minimum 3 hrs)	$215.00	Y	P
Events Area per hour, 850 + people (minimum 3 hrs)	$270.00	Y	P

School Cross Country

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Cross Country Athletics Event (Regional) includes marshalling area, permit for PA and cross country track	$1,070.00	Y	P
Cross Country Athletics Event (School) includes marshalling area, permit for PA and cross country track	$713.00	Y	P

Camping - only in conjunction with approved Precinct events

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Tent site – maximum 4 people – no power (per day)	$35.00	Y	F
Tent site – maximum 4 people – with power (per day)	$46.00	Y	F

Jim Watson Main Arena

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Seasonal Training (per hour per field)	$25.30	Y	P
Sports Field Configuration			
Winter Seasonal Hire – weekends (per field per hour)	$19.70	Y	P
Sports Field Configuration			
Summer Futsal, Touch Football, Oztag (whole arena, per hour)	$70.00	Y	P
Sports Field Configuration			
Casual Booking (per hour, whole arena)	$114.00	Y	P
Floodlights (per hour)	$52.00	Y	P
Jim Watson Main Arena & Control Tower (per day) Community	$815.00	Y	P

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Jim Watson Main Arena [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Jim Watson Main Arena & Control Tower (per day) Commercial	$1,222.00	Y	P

Princess Anne Arena & Equestrian Events

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Casual Community – The Princess Anne Equestrian Area (per day)	$638.00	Y	P
Commercial Casual - The Princess Anne Equestrian Area (per day)	$1,316.67	Y	P
Large Equestrian Events (by agreement) includes hire of Jim Watson Main Arena, including horse and tie stalls, and Control Tower (per day).	$848.00	Y	P
Warm up Dressage / Ashen Ring (per hour)	$40.00	Y	P

Dog Rings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Large Dog Ring, Community (per hour)	$16.50	Y	P
Small Dog Ring, Community (per hour)	$10.50	Y	P
Small Dog Ring, Commercial, 5 or less dogs (per hour)	$15.50	Y	P
Dog Ring floodlights per hour	$12.90	Y	P
Large Dog Ring Commercial (per hour)	$37.00	Y	P
Large Dog Ring Event (per hour)	$91.50	Y	P
Small Dog Ring Commercial 6-12 dogs (per hour)	$23.00	Y	P
Small Dog Ring Commercial over 13 dogs (per hour)	$34.00	Y	P
Small Dog Ring 6 to 12 dogs (per hour)	$56.90	Y	P

Dog Huts

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Dog Hut B – Storage of Equipment fee per week (BY agreement only)	$33.00	Y	P
Dog Hut B Commercial – Fee per hour Minimum 2 hours	$31.00	Y	P
Dog Hut B Community – Fee per hour Minimum 2 hours	$14.25	Y	P

Craft Pavilion

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Community (per hour) – Minimum 3hrs	$23.00	Y	P
Commercial (per hour) – Minimum 3hrs	$35.00	Y	P

Jim Powell Pavilion

Weekday Bookings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Jim Powell Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community Groups / Individuals)	$36.00	Y	M
Jim Powell Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Commercial)	$55.00	Y	M

Weekend and Public Holidays

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Jim Powell Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community Groups / Individuals)	$55.00	Y	M
Jim Powell Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Commercial)	$68.00	Y	M
Jim Powell Pavilion (After 11pm) per hour	$81.00	Y	M

Louise Lennon Pavilion

Weekday Bookings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Louise Lennon Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community – Individuals)	$37.00	Y	P
Louise Lennon Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Commercial)	$74.00	Y	P
Exhibition / Sale Rate (per day)	$625.00	Y	M

Weekend and Public Holidays

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Louise Lennon Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community Groups – Individuals)	$53.00	Y	M
Louise Lennon Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Commercial)	$107.00	Y	M
Louise Lennon Pavilion (After 11pm) per hour	$81.00	Y	F
Exhibition / Sale Rate (per day)	$625.00	Y	M

Douglas Pickering Pavilion

Weekday Bookings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Douglas Pickering Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community Groups – Individual)	$49.00	Y	M
Douglas Pickering Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Commercial)	$97.00	Y	M
Exhibition / Sale Rate (per day)	$720.00	Y	P
Storage of Equipment per week (By arrangement only)	$10 - $40 per week	Y	

Weekend and Public Holidays

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Douglas Pickering Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community Groups-Individuals)	$65.00	Y	M
Douglas Pickering Pavilion Fee per hour – Minimum 3hrs (Casual Commercial)	$130.00	Y	M
Douglas Pickering Pavilion (After 11pm) per hour	$94.00	Y	M
Exhibition / Sale Rate (per day)	$725.00	Y	P

Arena Pavillion

Weekday Bookings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Arena Pavillion Fee per hour - Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community Groups - Individuals)	$30.55	Y	
Arena Pavillion Fee per hour - Minimum 3hrs (Casual Commercial)	$60.00	Y	
Exhibition / Sale Rate (per day)	$500.00	Y	

Weekend and Public Holidays

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Arena Pavillion Fee per hour - Minimum 3hrs (Casual Community Groups - Individuals)	$40.00	Y	
Arena Pavillion Fee per hour - Minimum 3 hours (Casual Commercial)	$80.00	Y	
Arena Pavillion (After 11pm) per hour	$60.00	Y	
Exhibition/Sale Rate (per day)	$500.00	Y	

Temporary Access to Community Land

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application fee (more than 15 days before works commence)	$150.00	N	P
Application fee (less than 15 days before works commence)	$250.00	N	P
Damage Security Deposit Bond (refundable/payable in advance)	$0.00 - $15,000.00	N	P
Inspection fee for release of Bond	$100.00	N	P
Access over Community Land Daily Charge	$100.00	N	P
Access over Community Land Weekly Charge	$350.00	N	P

Tennis Courts

Note: Fees are in accordance with Tennis Court terms and conditions.
#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Casual booking

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Tennis Court Charges – casual bookings	$23.40	Y	R
#Tennis Court Charges – Professional Coaches – casual	$26.55	Y	R

Permanent booking

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Tennis Court Charges – permanent rate	$16.00	Y	R
#Tennis Court Charges – Professional Coaches – permanent rate (10 weeks or more)	$21.25	Y	R

Floodlit Courts

Hourly rate

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Floodlit Courts [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Floodlight Fee per hour per court (in addition to court hire fees)	$8.30	Y	R

Special Charges

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Penalty Charge – unauthorised use of Council's facilities	$172.00	N	F
Penalty Charge – unauthorised coach's use of Council's facilities	$520.00	N	F
Promotional Come and Try or Social Days organised by Council (per day)	$0.00 - $145.00	Y	R

Pickleball Courts

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - casual	$23.00	Y	R
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - Professional Coaches Casual	$26.00	Y	R
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - permanent	$16.00	Y	R
#Pickleball Court fee per hour - Professional Coaches permanent	$21.00	Y	M
Pickleball Floodlight Fee per hour per court (in addition to court hire fees) [Floodlit Courts]	$8.50	Y	R

Wildflower Garden Facility

Wildflower Garden

General Charges - Fixed Costs no discounts available

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
After Hours Call Out Fee (per hour) Minimum 3 hrs	$170.00	Y	
Non - event day vendor	$100 - $250 per day	Y	
High Risk Security Bond	$400.00	N	P
Booking Fee Non Refundable	$15.00	Y	P
Administration Fee – per change or update per booking	$15.00	Y	P
Clean and close (per service)	"At Cost"	Y	P
"At Cost"			
Additional Staffing (per day)	"At Cost"	Y	F
Overnight Hire (maximum 12 hours) charged at 50% of booking rate per hour	$129.00	Y	M
Additional Waste Management	"At Cost"	Y	F
Additional Cleaning	"At Cost"	Y	F
Facility Support (Per Hour)	$98.00	Y	P

Wildflower Garden Picnic Areas

#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Wildflower Garden Picnic Area, Shelter (per hour, min 2hrs weekdays and 3hrs weekends)	$42.15	Y	P

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Wildflower Garden Picnic Areas [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Wildflower Garden Picnic Area, Lamberts Clearing Shelter and Surrounding Greenspace (per hour, min 2hrs weekdays and 3hrs weekends)	$68.20	Y	P
#Caleys patio per hour (non - exclusive use of garden, no internal access)	$62.00	Y	

Nursery

Sales - Retail

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
140mm pots	Prices as marked	Y	P
Tube Stock	Prices as marked	Y	P
200mm pots	Prices as marked	Y	R
40 litre "Rocket Pot"	Prices as marked	Y	R
300mm pots	Prices as marked	Y	R
Growing aids (fertiliser, potting mix)	Prices as marked	Y	P
Special plant items	Prices as marked	Y	P

Visitors Centre

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Books	Prices as marked	Y	M
Gift Items	Prices as marked	Y	M
Greeting cards	Prices as marked	Y	M
Native Foods	Prices as marked	Y	M
Natural Beauty Products	Prices as marked	Y	M
Refreshments	Prices as marked	Y	M

Caley's Pavilion Function Centre

Booking of Caley's Pavilion includes exclusive use of the kitchen and patio. Additional charges apply for Audio Visual system, cleaning and after hours facilities support. Bookings are minimum of 3 Hours

#"The fee increase reflects CPI and recovery of costs for the installation, maintenance and monitoring of Automated External Defibrillators (AED)s."

Monday to Thursday

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Monday to Thursday (per hour) 8am – 5pm	$120.50	Y	P
#Monday to Thursday (per hour) after 5.00pm	$130.50	Y	P
#Not for Profit, Permanent, Monday to Thursday (per hour) 8am - 10.30pm	$40.15	Y	
#Not for Profit, Casual, Monday to Thursday (per hour) 8am - 5.00pm	$60.20	Y	
#Not for Profit, Casual, Monday to Thursday (per hour) After 5.00pm	$70.25	Y	

Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays (per hour) 8am – 5pm	$145.50	Y	P
#Friday to Sunday and Public Holidays (per hour) after 5.00pm	$175.50	Y	P

Function

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
#Full Day Function (8.30am – 10.30pm)	$1,914.50	Y	P

Visitor Programs

School Holiday Programs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Short Program (Child Participant)	$15.00 - $30.00	Y	P
Short Program (Supervising Adult)	$9.00 - $12.00	Y	P
Full Day Program (per participant)	$70.00 - $150.00	Y	P

Community Education - School Programs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
School Class, Full Day	$510.00	Y	P
School Class, Half Day	$384.00	Y	M

Community Education

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Guided Activity/Workshop (per participant)	$15.00 - $300.00	Y	P
Program – Child participant	$15.00 - $200.00	Y	P
Program – Accompanying Adult participant	$9.00 - $25.00	Y	P

Birthday Parties

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Birthday Parties, Patio Area including Kitchen (per child)	$32.00	Y	M
Birthday Parties, Picnic Areas (per child)	$26.00	Y	M
Birthday Parties, Picnic Areas, Out of Hours (per child)	$32.00	Y	M

Ranger - Special Programs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Mobile Guided Activity, per hour (inside 15km distance)	$250.00	Y	M
Private Guided Group Activity (per hour)	$250.00	Y	M

Development & Regulation

Building Compliance, Environmental Health & Regulation

Building

Endorsement of plans & specifications

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Certification of additional copies of documents – certified copy of documents	$113.00	N	F
Certification of additional copies of plans – per sheet	$55.00	N	F

Boarding House Act

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Boarding houses re – inspection plus $151 per hour after the first hour	$157.00	N	F
Boarding houses intial inspection plus $296 per hour after the first hour	$307.50	N	F

Hoardings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Urgent hoarding application– non refundable (required in less than 48 hours)	$855.00	N	F
Hoarding application– non refundable	$416.00	N	F
Amendment to Permit Fee	$228.00	N	F
Temporary occupation of footpath by overhead protective type C hoarding during building operations, per metre, per week or part thereof Commercial and mixed commercial zones	$31.00 per week in commercial and mixed commercial zones	N	F
Temporary occupation of footpath by overhead protective type B hoarding during building operations, per metre, per week or part thereof Residential and other zones	$28.00 per week for residential and other zones	N	F
Temporary occupation of footpath by fence or type A hoarding during building operations, per metre, per week or part thereof residential and mixed commercial zones	$15.00 per week in commercial and mixed commercial zones	N	F
Class 1 & 10 Buildings, temporary occupation of footpath by fence or type A hoarding during building operations, per metre, per week or part thereof residential and other zones	$7.60 per week for residential and other zones	N	F
Class 2 – 9 Buildings, temporary occupation of footpath by fence or type A hoarding during building operations, per metre, per week or part thereof residential and other zones	$15.00 per week for residential and other zones	N	F

Building Inspections

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Inspection/compliance certificate (critical phase inspections) per inspection	$349.00	Y	F
Swimming Pools	(3 inspections) = $1047.00	Y	
Alterations & Additions	(4 Inspections) = $1396.00	Y	
Alterations & Additions - 4 Inspections			
Re-inspection (per inspection)	$221.00	Y	F

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Building Inspections [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
New Dwelling	(6 Inspections) = $1857.00	Y	
New Dwelling			
Shop/Food Premises/Commercial fit out	(3 Inspections) = $1047.00	Y	
Shop/Food Premises/Commercial fit out			

Certificates - Notices Sec 735A Local Government Act

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Urgency fee for provision of certificate within 48 hours. Only applicable if no inspection required. (per certificate)	$178.00	N	F
Certificate Section 735A Local Government Act, outstanding notice, order, notifications	$203.00	N	F

Private Certifiers (Part 9 EP&A Reg 2021)

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Registration of documents/certificates – submitted by accredited certifier (IPRT) – Note: Fees are charged per document	$45.00	N	L

Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC).

Note 1. The fees listed cover Council being appointed as PC or Replacement PC and include issuing of an Occupation Certificate on completion of the works for single residential development only.
Note 2. Fees do not cover inspections.
Note 3. Multi-unit development and commercial development occupation certification fees will be required to be paid as per Council's schedule of fees.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) – Less than $30,000	$399.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) – $30,001 to $100,000	$564.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) – $100,001 to 500,000	$895.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) – $500,001 to $1,000,000	$1,323.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) – Over $1,000,001	$1,323.00 plus $0.59 per $1,000 or part thereof over $1,000,001.	Y	F

Appointment of Council as Replacement Principal Certifier (PC)

Additional fees for mandatory inspections will apply.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Appointment of Council as a replacement Principal Certifier (PC) – Subsequent Inspections	$354.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) after Private Certifier has issued the CC or CDC – Less than $30,000	$822.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) after a Private Certifier has issued the CC or CDC – $30,001 to $100,000	$1,021.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) after Private Certifier has issued CC or CDC – $100,001 to $500,000	$1,483.00	Y	F

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Appointment of Council as Replacement Principal Certifier (PC) [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifier (PC) after a Private Certifier has issued the CC or CDC. – $500,001 to $1,000,000	$1,814.00	Y	F
Appointment of Council as Principal Certifying Authority (PCA) after a Private Certificer has issued the CC or CDC – Over $1,000,001	$1814.00 plus $0.59 per $1,000 or part thereof over $1,000,001.	Y	F

Pre-Lodgement Assessment Appointment of Council as Replacement Principal Certifier

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Pre-lodgement preliminary assessment & 1 preliminary inspection $0 - $50,000 (Non refundable)	$941.00	Y	M
Pre-lodgement preliminary assessment & 1 preliminary inspection $$50,001 $250,000 (Non refundable)	$1,540.00	Y	M
Pre-lodgement preliminary assessment & 1 preliminary inspection $250,000 & above (Non refundable)	$2,052.00	Y	M

Occupation Certificates

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Single residential development and commercial less than 200 sq metres	$183.00	Y	M
Per occupancy within a residential flat building/town houses/dual occupancy	$183.00	Y	M
Commercial building over 200sq metres	$667.00	Y	M

Building Information Certificate - Division 6.7 E P & A ACT (Cl 289 - EPA Regs 2021) - Additional fees unauthorised works & Local Government Act 1993, Section 608(2)

Initially the applicant is to pay the Building Information Certificate application fee. The additional fee payable is the equivalent of the DA and CC application fees or CDC application fee whichever is applicable subject to the works.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Building Information Certificates where works erected or altered in contravention of the Act without the prior consent via DA/CDC/CC of Council	Officers will advise the applicant of the value of the additional fees payable after the initial assessment	N	F

Building Information Certificate - Division 6.7 E P & A Act (Cl 289 EP&A Reg 2021)

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Class 1 or X building	$597.00	N	F
Certified copy of Building Information Certificate	$16.00	N	F
Other classes -, exceeding 200 square metres but not exceeding 2,000 square metres – plus additional $0.55 cents per square metre for each square metre over 200	$597.00 plus $0.54 cents additional per square metre over 200 square metres	N	F
Additional inspections – per inspection	$352.00	N	F

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Building Information Certificate - Division 6.7 E P & A Act (Cl 289 EP&A Reg 2021) [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
In any case, where the application relates to a part of a building and that part consists of an external wall only or does not otherwise have a floor area	$324.00	N	F
Exceeding 2,000 square metres – plus additional $0.80 cents per square metre over 2,000	$1,330 plus $0.87 cents additional per square metre over 2,000 square metres	N	F

Swimming Pools

Swimming Pools Regulation 2018 - Statutory fees subject to change

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Swimming Pool Inspection fee (initial inspection)	$150.00	Y	L
Swimming Pool inspection fee (re-inspection)	$100.00	Y	L
Application for exemption – Clause 13 – Swimming Pools Regulations 2018	$250.00	N	L
Swimming Pool Exemption – Re-Inspection Fee	$108.00	N	P
Swimming Pool Registration fee	$10.00	Y	L

Construction Certificate - EP & A Act Div 6.3 & Subdivision works certificate Div 6.4

In addition a further 20% fee will be charged when the application involves the assessment of an alternate solution or assessment on bushfire prone land.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Fee based on estimated development cost: Less than $10,000	$564.00	Y	M
Fee based on estimated development cost: From $10,001-$30,000	$924.00	Y	M
Fee based on estimated development cost From $30,001 – $100,000	$1,454.00	Y	M
Fee based on estimated development cost: From $100,001 – $200,000	$2,093.00	Y	M
Fee based on estimated development cost:From $200,001 – $500,000	$2,901.00	Y	M
Fee based on estimated development cost: From $500,001 – $1,000,000	$4,527.00	Y	M
Fee based on estimated development cost: Over $1,000,001	$4527 plus $1.72 per $1,000 or part thereof over $1,000,001	Y	M
Fee for modification	50% of the original CC or SWC fee	Y	M

Complying Development Certificates Div 45 EP & A Act

In addition a further 20% fee will be charged when the application involves the assessment of an alternate solution or assessment on bushfire prone land.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
CDC Notification fee	$265.00	Y	F

CLASS 1 & 10

Includes new dwellings, additions to dwellings and structures ancillary to dwellings

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CLASS 1 & 10 *[continued]*

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Up to $20,000	$1,015.00	Y	P
From $20,001 to $50,000	$1,488.00	Y	P
From $50,001 to $100,000	$1,778.00	Y	P
From $100,001 to $200,000	$2,502.00	Y	P
From $200,001 to $500,000	$3,403.00	Y	P
From $500,001 and over	$3,403.00 plus $1.90 per $1,000 or part thereof over $500,001	Y	P
Fee for modification CLASS 1 & 10	50% of the original CDC Fee	Y	P
Pre lodgement Complying Development Certificate meeting for CLASS 1 and 10 buildings where the advice of Council is requested by an applicant or certifying authority prior to formal engagement.	$582.00	Y	P

CLASS 2 to 9

Includes multi unit development, townhouses, commercial and industrial buildings

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Up to $20,000	$1,037.00	Y	P
From $20,001 to $100,000	$1686.00 plus $1.90 per $1,000 or part therof over $20,001	Y	P
From $100,001 to $500,000	$2,840.00 plus $1.90 per $1,000 or part therof over $100,001	Y	P
From $500,001 and over	$3,946 plus $1.90 per $1,000 or part therof over $500,001	Y	P
Fee for modification CLASS 2 to 9 building	50% of the original CDC Fee	Y	P
Pre lodgement Complying Development Certificate meeting for CLASS 2 to 9 buildings where the advice of Council is requested by an applicant or certifying authority prior to formal engagement.	$582.00	Y	P

Construction Out of Hours

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Amended permit	$145.00	N	F
Out of hours permit	$809.00	N	F
Out of hours permit (emergency application)	$1,053.00	N	F

Fire Safety

Annual Fire Safety Statements

Part 12 - Environmental Planning and Assessment (Development Certification and Fire Safety) Regulation 2021. E P & A Regulations 2021

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Annual Fire Safety Statements *[continued]*

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement - Nursing home / Hospital per building	$337.00	N	F
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement Residential or Commercial Premises – up to 6 tenancies/units	$157.00	N	F
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement Residential or Commercial Premises – 7 up to 20 tenancies/units	$215.00	N	F
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement Residential or Commercial Premises – 21 tenancies/units and above	$337.00	N	F
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement Churches, charitable organisations premises	$71.00	N	F
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement Schools premises – per building	$157.00	N	F
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement Child Care Centres premises	$218.00	N	F
Administration fee processing annual fire safety statement Boarding House/Motel or the like	$215.00	N	F
Annual Fire Safety Statement Audit or Premises Inspection/Consultancy plus $140.00 per hour or part thereof	$349.00	Y	F
SUBMISSION OF SUPPLEMENTARY FIRE SAFETY STATEMENT	$349.00	N	F

Environmental Planning & Assessment Act

Compliance Costs

EPA Regulations 2021 Clause 284

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
NOI – Compliance cost Notice fee for any costs or expenses relating to the preperation or serving of the notice to give a development control order	$340.00 per hour plus professional costs recovery where required to a maximum of $750.00	N	L

Compliance and Regulation

Companion Animals

Statutory fees subject to change by Office of Local Government

Cats

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Animal registration – desexed cat (post 4 month)	$70.00	N	L
Animal registration – not desexed cat (post 4 month)	$164.00	N	L
Lifetime registration of animal owned by pensioner – desexed	$35.00	N	L
Lifetime registration of animal owned by pensioner – not desexed	$35.00	N	L
Lifetime – registration of animal owned by breeder	$70.00	N	L
Annual Permit not desexed	$99.00	N	
Animal Registration Pound Shelter Rate Cat	$0.00	N	
Cat- Registration Fee (Pre 4 month)	$70.00	N	L

Dogs

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Animal registration – desexed dog (post 6 month)	$80.00	N	L

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Dogs *[continued]*

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Animal registration – not desexed dog (post 6 month)	$262.00	N	L
Lifetime registration of animal owned by pensioner – desexed	$35.00	N	L
Lifetime registration of animal owned by pensioner – not desexed	$35.00	N	L
Lifetime registration of animal owned by breeder	$80.00	N	L
Annual Permit restricted/dangerous dogs	$236.00	N	
Animal Registration Pound Shelter Rate	$0.00	N	
Animal Registration Vet Approved Not Desexed Dog	$80.00	N	
Dog - Late De-Sexing Fee	$189.00	N	L
Dog Registration Fee (Pre 6 months)	$80.00	N	

Animal Control

Note: Animal impounding payable to Council's service provider.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Impounding release (dogs)	$82.00 payable to Council's Service provider	N	M
Dog maintenance for subsequent days or part thereof	$51.50 per day, payable to Council's service provider	N	M
Cat impounding and release	$82.00 payable to Council's service provider	N	M
Cat maintenance for subsequent days or part thereof	$51.50 per day, payable to Council's service provider	N	M
Vetenirary Consultation @ Impounding facility	$124.68	N	M
Transport/Return of Impounded Animal by Council to Owner	$53.00	N	P
Dangerous Dog Enclosure - Compliance Certificate, Section 36 Companion Animal Regulation 2018	$150.00	N	L
Sale of dog poo bags	$8.50	Y	R
Animal Permit/Registration - Late Fee	$23.00	N	L

Kayak & Dinghy Storage

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application Fee per application	$300.00	Y	R
Residents Fee per year	$200.00	Y	R
Non-Residents per year	$300.00	Y	R

Impounding

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Impounding fee – Charity/Clothing Bins	$657.00	N	F
Release of Motor Vehicle	$158.00	N	F
Administration fee for production of "Release Agreement" to be furnished to auction house or holding yard.			
Illuminated advertising signs (includes unilluminated real estate signs)	$416.00	N	F

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Impounding [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Impounded advertising signage (plus any additional costs incurred by Council)	$255.00	N	F
A-Frame signs	$195.00	N	F
Banners – community organisations	$84.00	N	P
Banners – commercial organisations	$194.00	N	F
General Articles	$162.00	N	F
Shopping Trollies	$83.12	N	P

Environmental Health - Premises Inspection

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Premises Inspections related to Regulated Activities, includes vapour recovery - plus $140 per hour after the 1st hour or part thereof (per inspection)	$292.00	N	F
Skin penetration and beauty salons plus $140 per hour after the 1st hour or part thereof (per inspection)	$292.00	N	F
Food business plus $142 per hour after the 1st hour or part thereof (per inspection)	$292.00	N	F
Food business – Annual Administration charge – Up to and including 5 full-time equivalent food handlers (Does not apply to Non Profit Community Groups)	$151.00	N	F
Food business – Annual Administration charge – More than 5 full-time equivalent food handlers (Does not apply to Non Profit Community Groups)	$279.00	N	F
P & C School canteens (per hour or part there of)	$157.00	N	P
Non-profit community group food outlet (per inspection)	$48.00	N	P
Food Premises – Fit Out inspection (To assess compliance with relevant consent and Food Premises Standards)	$348.00	N	F
Administration Fee for Improvement Notice under Food Act	$565.00	N	L
Certificate of clearance fee under Food Act	$500.00	N	L
Notification of installation of a new warm water system or cooling tower/water system (Clause 13G & 13T of Public Health Reg 2012)	$120.00	N	L
Regulated systems (Cooling towers, Warm water systems - plus $149 per hour after the 1st hour or part thereof per inspection)	$291.00	N	F
Public Swimming Pool Inspections – Water quality (plus $149 per hour after the 1st hour or part thereof)	$291.00	N	F
Notification of public swimming pool or spa pool	$105.00	N	F
Notification of carrying out of skin penetration procedure	$105.00	N	
Notification for register of morturies	$105.00	N	F
Temporary food vendors inspection at events (per food stall or mobile vehicle)	$292.00	N	F

Public Health Regulations Schedule 5

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration fees for issue of Improvement Notices OR prohibition Orders in relation to premises with a Regulated System	$665.00	N	L
Administration fees for issue of Improvement Notices OR prohibition Orders in any other case (skin penetration, swimming pools and spas)	$309.00	N	L

Public Health Regulations Schedule 5

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Re-Inspection fee on premises issue with a Prohibition order Hourly rate(Min 1/2 hr & max 2 hrs)	$255.00	N	L

Applications made under Section 68 Local Govt Act or Section 125 of Roads Act

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Install a manufactured home, moveable dwelling or associated structure on land	$696.00	N	F
Place waste containers in a public place (SKIP BINS): Application – non refundable – Required within 24 hours URGENCY FEE	$296.00	N	R
Place waste containers in a public place (SKIP BINS): Application – non refundable – General – over 24 hours	$182.00	N	R
Skip bin 0 – 6 cubic metres (per week or part thereof)	$188.00	N	F
Skip bin 6 – 10 cubic metres (per week or part thereof)	$183.00	N	F
Skip bin 10 cubic metres and above (per week or part thereof)	$358.00	N	F
Place waste containers in a public place : Amended Permit Fee – non refundable	$119.00	N	F
Waste Container rental in a public place – this is to be paid on a pro-rata basis for period 1 July – 30 June	$0.52 per litre per annum of total waste container volume	N	F
Construct temporary enclosure for purpose of entertainment	$370.00	N	F
Application to Install a system of Sewage Management	$342.00	N	F
Operate a system of Sewerage Management	$148.00	N	F
Outdoor Dining Application/Modification (non refundable)	$453.00	N	F
Outdoor Dining Neighbourhood Centers - Zone A rental per square metre per annum of occupied space – this is to be paid on a pro-rata basis for period 1 July-30 June	$232.00 per square metre per annum	N	F
Outdoor Dining Local Centers, Zone B rental per square metre per annum of occupied space – this is to be paid on a pro-rata basis for period 1 July-30 June	$319.00 per square metre per annum	N	F
Engage in a trade or Business on Community Land Temporary stall per day	$135.00	N	P
Engage in a trade or Business on Community Land Charity groups per day	$26.00	N	P
Engage in a trade or Business on Community Land Annual fee (per annum)	$883.00	N	F
Direct or procure a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the public on community land (Charity/Community)	$151.00	N	F
Direct or procure a theatrical, musical or other entertainment for the public on community land (Business)	$883.00	N	F
Play a musical instrument or sing for fee or reward on community land (busking): Application – non refundable (includes 1 month busking if approved).	$24.00	N	P
Note: Children under 18 free, but application must be made and permit granted before commencing activity			
Play a musical instrument or sing for fee or reward on community land (busking): Annual Application – non refundable (includes 1 month busking if approved).	$150.00	N	F
Note: Children under 18 free, but application must be made and permit granted before commencing activity			
Operate a loudspeaker or sound amplifying device on community land	$77.00	N	P
Deliver a public address or hold a religious service or public meeting on community land	$203.00	N	F
Stand Plant, swing, hoist or pump goods across or over any part of a public road or footpath (Mobile cranes & Concrete pumps): Application (non refundable) – Required up to 48 hours	$405.00	N	R
Stand Plant, swing, hoist or pump goods across or over any part of a public road or footpath (Mobile cranes & Concrete pumps): Application (non refundable) – Required more than 48 hours	$271.00	N	R
Stand Plant, swing , hoist or pump goods across or over any part of a public road or footpath (Mobile cranes & Concrete pumps) – Rental per day, or extended period, to stand plant, swing, hoist or pump over the footway or road area – per day	$356.00	N	F
Stand Plant, swing , hoist or pump goods across or over any part of a public road or footpath (Tower cranes) – Rental per day, or extended period, to stand plant, swing, hoist or pump over the footway or road area	$3,950.00 up to 3 months	N	F
Stand Plant, swing , hoist or pump goods across or over any part of a public road or footpath (Tower cranes) – Rental per day, or extended period, to stand plant, swing, hoist or pump over the footway or road area	$7,912.00 up to 6 months	N	F
Stand Plant, swing , hoist or pump goods across or over any part of a public road or footpath (Tower cranes) – Rental per day, or extended period, to stand plant, swing, hoist or pump over the footway or road area	$15,824.00 up to 12 months	N	F

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Applications made under Section 68 Local Govt Act or Section 125 of Roads Act [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Expose or allow to be exposed any article in or on or so as to overhang any part of the road or outside a shop window or doorway abutting the road, or hang the article beneath an awning over the road (display goods on footpath). Application fee – Non – refundable	$229.00	N	F
Expose or allow to be exposed any article in or on or so as to overhang any part of the road or outside a shop window or doorway abutting the road, or hang the article beneath an awning over the road (display goods on footpath) - Local Centres - Zoned B2 LEP	$307.00 per square metre per annum	N	F
Expose or allow to be exposed any article in or on or so as to overhang any part of the road or outside a shop window or doorway abutting the road, or hang the article beneath an awning over the road (display goods on footpath) - Neighbourhood Centres - Zoned B1 LEP	$224.00 per square metre per annumn	N	F
Store building materials on footpath: Application (non refundable)	$260.00	N	F
Store building materials on footpath – Rental per square metre per week, or part thereof – minimum charge of 5 square metres per week	Single dwellings $27.00 per sq metre	N	F
Store building materials on footpath – Rental per square metre per week, or part thereof – minimum charge of 5 square metres per week	Other $43.50 per sq metre	N	F
Install or operate amusement devices	$257.00	N	F
Use a standing vehicle or any article for the purpose of selling any article in a public place (mobile food vendors & temporary food stalls) per day	$150.00	N	F
Use a standing vehicle or any article for the purpose of selling any article in a public place (mobile food vendors & temporary food stalls) – Annual – to be paid on a pro-rata basis for the period 1 July-30 June	$985.00	N	F
Review of determination	$229.00	N	F
Modified application	$113.50	N	F
Request for extension of time	$113.50	N	F
Clothing Bin Application (non refundable) – per bin – Valid 3 years	$375.00	N	F
Clothing Bin Placement – per annum per bin	$505.00	N	F

Protection of the Environment Operations (General) Regulations

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration fee for issue of Clean up notices	$840.00	N	L
Administration fee for issue of Prevention Notices	$840.00	N	L
Administration fee for issue of Noise Control Notices	$840.00	N	L

Parking

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Off Street Carpark – Occupancy application (non refundable)	$229.00	N	F
Off Street Carpark – Occupancy rate per day	$151.00	N	F
Off Street Car Park, meter $ per day	$8.50	Y	F

Development - Advertising

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Development application advertising fees for Advertised Development	$71.00	N	L
Development application advertising fees for Designated Development	$71.00	N	L
Development application advertising fees for Prohibited Development	$71.00	N	L
Advertisement of Section 4.55(2) and 4.56 applications	$910.00	N	F
Development application advertising as required under the Community Participation Plan – Notification	$86.00	N	F

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Development - Advertising [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Development application advertising for development for which an environmental planning instrument requires notice to be given otherwise than as referred to above	$1,105.00	N	L

Development Application Fees

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Fee Unit	The Fee Unit amount is determined under the Regulation. The Regulation provides for an annual increase of the Fee Unit in accordance with movements in the Consumer Price Index for the Quarter ending 31 March in each year from 2023. The Fee unit for 26/27 was $118.55	N	L
Refer to the Environment Planning & Assessment Amendment (Estimated Development Cost) Regulation 2023, which makes consequential in calculating development costs. Note: In the event of any inconsistency between the Fees in this Policy and the EP&A Regulations 2021 (Regs), the fees in the Regs shall prevail			
2.1 Development application for the development, other than a development application referred to in item 2.2 or 2.3, involving the erection of a building, the carrying out of a work or the demolition of a work or building with an estimated cost of development		N	L
Between $1 & $5,000	1.29 Fee Units	N	L
1.29 Fee Units			
Between $5,001 & $50,000	Base fee of 1.98 fee units, plus $3.00 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $5,000	N	L
Between $50,001 & $250,000	Base fee of 4.12 fee units, plus $3.64 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $50,000	N	L
Between $250,001 & $500,000	Base fee of 13.56 fee units, plus $2.34 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $250,000	N	L

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Development Application Fees [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Between $500,001 & $1,000,000	Base fee of 20.41 fee units, plus $1.64 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $500,000	N	L
Between $1,000,001 & $10,000,000	Base fee of 30.58 fee units, plus $1.44 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $1,000,000	N	L
$10,000,001 & over	Base fee of 185.65 fee units, plus $1.19 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $10,000,000	N	L
2.2 Business Advertising - sign(s) only	1 advertisement of 3.33 fee units, plus $93.00 for each additional advertisement Development applications for development for the purpose of 1 or more advertisements, but only if the fee under this item exceeds the fee that would be payable under item 2.1	N	L
2.3 Single Dwelling cost $100,000 or less	5.32 fee units Development application for development involving the erection of a dwelling house with an estimated cost of $100,000 or less	N	L
2.4 Subdivision (other than strata) involving the opening of a public road	Base fee of 7.77 fee units, plus $65.00 for each additional lot created by subdivision	N	L
2.5 Subdivision (other than strata) not involving the opening of a public road	Base fee of 3.86 fee units, plus $53.00 for each additional lot created by subdivision	N	L

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Development Application Fees [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
2.6 Subdivision involving Strata subdivision	Base fee of 3.86 fee units, plus $65.00 for each additionallot created by subdivision	N	L
2.7 Development application for development not involving the erection of a building, the carrying out of a work, the subdivision of land or the demolition of a work or building	Base fee of 3.33 fee units	N	L

Additional Application Fees

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
3.2 Additional fee for development applications for development requiring concurrence, other than if concurrence is assumed under the Regulation, section 55	(a) Fee payable to consent authority 1.64 fee units (b) Fee payable to concurrence authority 3.74 fee units	N	L
3.1 Additional fee for development application for integrated development	(a) Fee payable to consent authority 1.64 fee units (b) Fee payable to approval body 3.74 fee units	N	L
3.3 Additional fee for development application for designated development	10.76 fee units	N	L
Administration Cost – Biodiversity Offset Policy	$150.00	N	L
Offset Inspection/Consultation per Hour – Biodiversity Offset Policy	$150.00	N	L
3.4 Additional fee for development application that is referred to design review panel for advice	35.08 fee units	N	L
3.5 Giving notice of designated development	25.96 fee units	N	L
3.6 Giving of notice for nominated integrated development . threatened species development or Class 1 aquaculture development	12.92 fee units	N	L
3.7 Giving of notice for prohibited development	12.92 fee units	N	L
3.8 Giving of notice for other development for which a community participation plan requires notice to be given	1.8 fee units	N	L
Additional fee for Urban Design Review Consultant	$3,000.00	N	L
DA Technology fee (paperless lodgement)	up to 0.02% X cost of works or CIV (min $75 and max $2,000)	N	F
DA Technology fee (3D model)	0.03% X cost of works or CIV (min $500 and max $1,500)	N	F

Amended Information for Development Application/Section 4.55, Section 8.2 lodged prior to determination

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Administration fee as a % of the DA fee	20% minor changes 40% major changes	N	P

Application for minor works - heritage item or conservation area (CL 5.10(3) Ku-ring-gai LEP

Application for minor works - $312 or $520 if a site inspection is required

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application for minor works – heritage item or conservation area (CL 5.10(3) Ku-ring-gai LEP	Application for minor works - $415 if located in a heritage conservation area or $625 if the property is a heritage listed item. An addtional $415 fee will be applied for applications that involve more than 2 elements	N	F
Application for minor works - $312 or ($520 if a site inspection is required)			

Extension of Development Consents

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Application to extend consent period for a development consent (application must be submitted before consent expires)	$477.00	N	P

Development Assessment

Pre-Development Application Consultation

Additional fees may apply if consultation exceeds 1 hour.

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Residential alterations and additions, ancillary structure, pools, tennis court, garage etc including signage and advertising structure	$675.00	Y	F
New dwelling house	$974.00	Y	F
Dual occupancy, granny flat or secondary unit	$1,083.00	Y	F
Seniors living development, multi dwelling housing, residential flat building, including state significant development, mixed use and new retail/commercial development	0-20 units - $3,240 / 21-40 units - $3,782 / 40+ units - $4,317	Y	F
Boarding Houses	0-10 rooms - $1247 / 11-15 rooms - $1559 / 16+ rooms - $2078	Y	F
0-10 rooms - $1247 / 11-15 rooms - $1559 / 16+ rooms - $2078			
Alterations to churches	$613.00	Y	F

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Pre-Development Application Consultation [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Alterations to nursing homes and hospitals	0-20 beds - $2,000/ 20+ beds - $2,500	Y	F
Alterations and additions to retail commercial development	$1,006.00	Y	F
Subdivision to create 2 lots	$847.00	Y	F
Subdivision to create in excess of 2 lots	$1,480.00	Y	F
Pre development application follow up meeting (fee per additional meeting)	up to 40% of original fee	Y	F
Alterations to schools; sporting facilities	$2,262.00	Y	F
New Childcare Centres	$3,070.00	Y	F
Alterations to Child Care Centres	$1,230.00	Y	F

Post-Development Application Consultation

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Post DA coordination meetings	$500.00	Y	P
Meeting with relevant specialist council officers to clarify specific DA conditions and council requirements for CC and construction arrangements.			

Development Engineering

Section 88 Certificate Conveyancing Act (Cl 29 Conveyancing Reg 2018)

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Section 88G certificate (Conveyancing)	(a) If the authority has inspected the relevant land for the purposes of issuing the Certificate - 0.35 fee units or (b) 0.1 fee units in any other case	N	L
Legal Requirements (a) If the authority has inspected the relevant land for the purpose of issuing the Certificate - 0.35 fee units, or (b) 0.1 fee units in any other case			
Section 88G certificate (Conveyancing) express service	$164.00	N	R

Subdivision Certificates - torrens, strata and company title

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Endorsement of any final plan of subdivision (linen plan release)	$535.00 plus $80 each lot (other than strata) created and $65 for each strata lot created	N	F
Lodgement of amended plan of subdivision	$211.00	N	F

Legal Documents

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Endorsement of legal documents related to development including Section 88E, positive covenant, and restriction on use.	$182.00 plus $571.00 where Council seal is required	N	F
Endorsement for release or variation of easement, covenant, restriction, etc	$182.00 plus $571 where Council seal is required	N	F
Endorsement of Section 88B instruments	$387.00	N	F
Lodgement of amended 88B instrument	$122.00	N	F

Infrastructure Inspection Fees (formerly Infrastructure Restoration).

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
For residential development activity – minor building activity up to $10,000	$0.00	N	Z
For residential development activity – $10,001 to $20,000	$111.00	N	F
For residential development activity – over $20,001	$111.00 plus 0.15% of building value.	N	F
Commercial demolitions	$1,262.00	N	F
Residential demolitions	$464.00	N	F
All commercial development activities	$111.00 plus 0.25% of building value	N	F

Infrastructure Damage Security Bond - Section 157, of the EP& A Reg 2021

Refundable bond applies to:
a) Development Consents where cost of works is $10,001 or more
b) CDC's where cost of works is $25,000 or more

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
$1 to $10,000	$0.00	N	L
$10,001 – $25,000	$935.00	N	L
$25,001 to $50,000	$1,300.00	N	L
$50,001 to $200,000	$2,075.00	N	L
$200,001 to $500,000	$4,155.00	N	L
$500,001 to $1,000,000	$7,795.00	N	L
$1,000,001 to $2,500,000	$13,505.00	N	L
$2,500,001 to $5,000,000	$18,700.00	N	L
$5,000,001 to $10,000,000	$25,975.00	N	L
$10,000,001 and over	$25,975 plus 0.15% of Construction value	N	L
Works involving demolition ONLY of two or more dwellings or lots – Or as calculated above whichever is higher	$7,795.00	N	L

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Infrastructure Damage Security Bond - Section 157, of the EP& A Reg 2021 [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Infrastructure Damage Inspection/Administration Fee – for cost of works up to $2 million – For Development consents and CDCs (Section 608 Local Government Act; Clause 136M of EP& A Reg 2021)	$425.00	N	F
Inspection fee is for 2 inspections – 1st prior to commencement of works & 2nd after works have been completed and issue of the Occupation Certificate for the whole building works (and associated administration costs)			
Infrastructure Damage Inspection/Administration Fee – For cost of works over $2 million – For Development consents and CDCs (Section 608 Local Government Act; Clause 136M of EP& A Reg 2021)	$1,063.00	N	F
Inspection fee is for 2 inspections – 1st prior to commencement of works & 2nd after works have been completed and issue of the Occupation Certificate for the whole building works (and for associated administration costs)			
Re-inspection/Administration Fee – For Development consents and CDCs (Section 608 Local Government Act; Clause 136M of EP& A Reg 2021)	$140.00	N	F

Miscellaneous Engineering assessments

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Traffic and construction management plan (CC's) assessment fee	$673.00	N	P
Traffic and construction management plan (CC's) re-assessment fee	up to 40% of original fee	N	F

Stormwater Management

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
OSD Marker Plate	$15.00 per plate	N	M

Landscaping

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Vegetation Management Plan assessment (Additional fees charged at $200/hour will apply where amendments or a re-inspection are required)	$512.00	Y	F

Landscaping and Tree Bonds - Public Land

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
Tree protection: new dwellings, alterations & additions & all non-residential	Min $1,000 Max. $10,000 (if over $10,000, requires a report to Council)	N	P
Landscape restoration: new dwellings, alterations & additions & all non-residential	Min.$2,000 - Max.$10,000 (over $10,000, requires a report to Council)	N	P

Section 4.55 and 4.56 of the Act; Schedule 4, Part 4 EP&A REG 2021

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
4.1 modification Section 4.55(1) modification to rectify minor error, incorrect description or calculation	0.83 fee units	N	L
4.2 modification Section 4.55(1A) and 4.56 modifications involving minimal environmental impact	Lesser of - (a) 7.54 fee units, or (b) 50% fee for original application	N	L

Section 4.55(2) or 4.56 not involving minimal environmental impact modifications of development consent:

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
4.3 Modification application under the Act, section 4.55(2) or 4.56(1)	50% fee for original application (a) less than 1 fee unit, or (b) 1 fee unit or more and the original development application did not involve the erection of a building, the carrying out of a work or the demolition of a work or building	N	L
4.4 Modification application under the Act, section 4.55(2) or 4.56(1)	2.22 fee units 4.4 Modification application under the Act, section 4.55(2) or 4.56(1) that does not, in the consent authority's opinion, involve minimal environmental impact, if (a) the fee for the original development was 1 fee unit or more,and (b) the original development application involved the erection of a dwelling house with an estimated cost of $100,000 or less	N	L

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Section 4.55(2) or 4.56 not involving minimal environmental impact modifications of development consent: [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
4.5 Modification application under the Act, section 4.55(2) or 4.56(1)	up to $5,000 - 0.64 fee units Modification application under the Act , section 4.55(2) or 4.56(1) that does not, in the consent authority's opinion, involve minimal environmental impact, if the fee for the original application was 1 fee unit or moreand the application relates to an original development application, other than an original development application specified in item 4.3 or 4.4, with an estimate cost as shown in the fees	N	L
$5,001 - $250,000	Base fee of 0.99 fee units, plus $1.50 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $5,000	N	L
$250,001 - $500,000	Base fee of 5.85 fee units, plus $0.85 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $250,000	N	L
$500,001 - $1 million	Base fee of 8.33 fee units, plus $0.50 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $500,000	N	L
$1,000,001 - $10 million	Base fee of 11.54 fee units, plus $0.40 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $1 million	N	L

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Section 4.55(2) or 4.56 not involving minimal environmental impact modifications of development consent: [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
More than $10 million	Base fee of 55.40 fee units, plus $0.27 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $10 million	N	L
4.6 Additional fee for modification application if notice of application is required to be given under the Act, section 4.55(2) or 4.56(1)	7.78 fee units	N	L
4.7 Additional fee for modification application that is accompanied by statement of qualified designer	8.89 fee units	N	L
4.8 Additional fee for modification application that is referred to design panel for advice	35.08 fee units	N	L

Applications for Review or Appeal Part 7

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
7.1 Application for review under the Act, section 8.3 that relates to a development application not involving the erection of a building, the carrying out of a work or the demolition of a work or building	50% fee for original development application	N	L
7.2 Application for review under the Act, section 8.3 that relates to a development application involving the erection of a dwelling house with an estimated cost of $100,000 or less	2.22 fee units	N	L
7.3 Application for review under the Act, section 8.3 that relates to a development application, not referred to in item 7.1 and 7.2 for development with an estimated cost of up to $5,000	0.64 fee units	N	L
$5,001 to $250,000	Base fee of 1.00 fee unit, plus $1.50 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $5,000	N	L
$250,001 to $500,000	Base fee of 5.85 fee units, plus $0.85 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $250,000	N	L
$500,001 to $1,000,000	Base fee of 8.33 fee units, plus $0.50 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $500,000	N	L
$1,000,001 to $10,000,000	Base fee of 11.54 fee units, plus $0.40 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $1 million	N	L

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Applications for Review or Appeal Part 7 [continued]

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
More than $10,000,000	Base fee of 55.40 fee units, plus $0.27 for each $1,000 or part $1,000 by which estimated cost exceeds $10,000,000	N	L
7.4 Application for review of decision to reject and not determine a development is-application under the Act, section8.2(1)(c) if the estimated cost of development	(a) less than $100,000 0.64 fee units (b) $100,000-$1 million 1.75 fee units (c) more than $1 million 2.92 fee units	N	L
7.5 Appeal against determination of modification application under the Act, section 8.9	50% fee that was payable for the application the subject of the appeal	N	L
7.7 Notice of application for review of a determination under the Act, section 8.3	2.0 fee units	N	L

Site Compatibility and Site Verification Certificates

Name	Year 26/27 Fee (incl. GST)	GST	Pricing Principles
8.1 Application for site compatibility certificate under State Environmental Planning Policy(Housing) 2021-	Base fee 3.10 fee units plus $42.00 for each dwelling. The maximum fee payable is 6.26 fee units including the base fee and additional fee	N	L
8.2 Application for site compatibility certificate under State Environmental Planning Policy(Infrastructure)2017 or State Environmental planning Policy (Educational Establishments and Child Care Facilities) 2017) 2021-	Base fee of 3.10 fee units plus $265.00 for each hectare, or part hectare, of area of land. The maxumum fee payable is 6.26 fee units, including the base fee and additional fee	N	L


Our Ku-ring-gai:
Working together
Long Term Financial Plan
2026-2036
June 2026
Ku-ring-gai Council

Need help?

This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 to request the service contact Ku-ring-gai Council on your behalf on T: 02 9424 0000 during business hours, Monday to Friday, 8.30 am - 5.00 pm.

Simplified Chinese

需要帮助吗？

本文件包含重要信息。如果您不理解本文件，请致电翻译口译服务 131 450。 让其代表您致电 9424 0000 联系Ku-ring-gai议会。营业时间：周一至周五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Traditional Chinese

需要幫助嗎？

本檔包含重要資訊。如果您不理解本檔，請致電翻譯口譯服務 131 450。 讓其代表您致電 9424 0000 聯繫Ku-ring-gai議會。營業時間：週一至週五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Korean

도움이 필요하십니까?

이 문서에는 중요한 정보가 담겨 있습니다. 여러분이 이해할 수 없다면, TIS (번역 및 통역 서비스)의 131 450번으로 전화하십시오. 9424 0000번으로 여러분을 대신하여 전화해서 쿠링가이 카운슬을 연락해 달라고 요청하십시오. 영업 시간: 월요일–금요일, 오전 8시30분–오후 5시.

Persian

آیا به کمک نیاز دارید؟

این مدرک حاوی اطلاعات مهمی است. اگر آنها را نمی فهمید، خواهش می کنیم به خدمات ترجمه نوشتاری و گفتاری (Translating and Interpreting Service) به شماره ۱۳۱ ۴۵۰ تلفن کنید و از آن سرویس بخواهید از جانب شما با شهرداری کورینگای (Ku-ring-gai Council) در ساعات کاری، دوشنبه تا جمعه از ساعت ۸:۳۰ صبح تا ساعت ۵:۰۰ بعد از ظهر با شماره تلفن ۰۲ ۹۴۲۴ ۰۰۰۰ تماس بگیرند.

Japanese

ご質問がありますか？

当文書には重要な情報が記載されています。もし何か不明な点があれば、月曜から金曜の午前8:30から午後5:00までの受付時間内に、まず131 450の通訳翻訳サービスにお電話いただき、通訳を介してKu-ring-gai Councilのサービス担当（電話:02 9424 0000）までお問合せください

Hindi

सहायता चाहिए?

इस दस्तावेज़ में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है। यदि यह आपको समझ नहीं आती, तो कृपया अनुवाद और दुभाषिया सेवा को 131 450 पर कॉल करें, और इस सेवा को आपकी ओर से फ़ोन: 02 9424 0000 पर व्यावसायिक घंटों के दौरान, सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 8.30 से शाम 5.00 बजे तक कू-रिंग-गई काउन्सिल से संपर्क करने के लिए अनुरोध करें।

These languages were chosen as they are the most widely spoken by Ku-ring-gai residents indicated by ABS Census data.

Need assistance with hearing or speaking?

Contact Ku-ring-gai Council using the 24-hour **National Relay Service:**

TTY users: Call 133 677 then dial 02 9424 0000.

Voice Relay users: Call 1300 555 727 then ask for 02 9424 0000.

NRS Chat:
Go to www.accesshub.gov.au/services/nrs-chat and enter 02 9424 0000.

For all other assistance options see www.accesshub.gov.au

Need help to access Council's building?

Disability parking and access are available via a ramp and lift, off Radford Place at the rear of Council's building, at 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon, NSW.

Call 02 9424 0000 Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm if you need further assistance.

KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL

818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

P: 02 9424 0000 | **E:** krg@krg.nsw.gov.au

W: krg.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgment of traditional owners

Ku-ring-gai Council recognises the traditional custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging

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Executive summary

Ku-ring-gai Council's Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) contains a set of long-range financial projections based on an informed set of assumptions. It is designed to reflect the financial impacts of providing current levels of service and the planned programs of capital works.

The plan is informed by the Community Strategic Plan and Delivery Program and focuses on community needs and Council's strategic priorities.

The LTFP includes an analysis of:

- Council's financial objectives, and methods of monitoring financial performance
- Existing and emerging challenges to Council's financial position
- Assumptions used to develop the plan
- Financial scenarios, including one scenario which relies on a Special Rate Variation (SRV)
- Sensitivities which are most likely to affect the plan
- Detailed financial tables

The LTFP contains a core set of assumptions. These assumptions are based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) forecasts, interest rate expectations, employee award increases, loan repayment schedules, special price forecasts for certain Council specific items, planned asset sales and other special income and costs.

Overview

The LTFP covers the financial years 2026/27 to 2035/36. It recognises its current and future financial capacity, to continue delivering services, facilities and infrastructure to the community while commencing new initiatives and projects to achieve the goals set down in its Community Strategic Plan.

Financial planning over a 10-year time horizon is challenging and relies on a variety of assumptions that will undoubtedly change during this period. The LTFP is therefore closely monitored, and regularly revised, to reflect these changing circumstances.

The years ahead are an important implementation phase, as Council responds to population growth and state housing policy. Council will manage these changes by continuing to update plans and strategies in a way that addresses local requirements. In response to population growth and housing policy, Council will prioritise planning, infrastructure and community investment while carefully managing financial capacity to ensure long-term sustainability. While future budgets allow for some population growth, the timing and scale of this growth remain uncertain, requiring a balanced approach to investing in ageing assets and new infrastructure.

While Council remains in a satisfactory financial position, long term financial sustainability continues to be a significant challenge for Council and local governments across Australia.

This is largely due to rising costs generated by increasing community demand for services, aged facilities and infrastructure and restricted revenue that does not keep up with those costs.

To ensure long-term financial sustainability, it is crucial to explore additional recurrent revenue sources that strike a balance between the community's capacity and willingness to pay and the demand for services, facilities, and infrastructure. Addressing these challenges requires careful consideration and decisions regarding the revenue and expenditure pathway, especially amidst changing circumstances.

The LTFP notes that Council's financial position, and its current infrastructure backlog, will worsen without additional sources of funding. It also notes that Council is currently running an efficient operation, with a population to staffing level which is the second lowest in Sydney.

The financial challenges and risks facing Council include the following:

Normal Operations

- Limited revenue growth poses significant challenges for Council in keeping pace with rising costs. In 2026/27, rates revenue is projected to increase by 4.4% in line with the rate peg set by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART). The rate peg is assumed to gradually decrease from 4% in 2027/28 to 3% in 2030/31, yet Council anticipates a series of underlying operating deficits. This situation primarily flows from cost increases in asset depreciation, labour and material and contracts, outweighing increases in Council's revenue sources.

Asset Management

- Council has insufficient existing funding streams to sustainably manage and improve its existing infrastructure assets and meet community expectations. Council's infrastructure asset portfolio is large ($1.8 billion assets) and is continuously increasing which puts pressure on future maintenance and renewal budgets. Unless additional funding is identified the condition of Council's assets is expected to deteriorate and the infrastructure backlog will continue to increase significantly.

Debt Management

- The $13.5 million loan required to fund construction of the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre is proposed to be partly repaid from a special rate variation.

Two scenarios are outlined in detail in the LTFP for consideration, as listed below:

Base Case (rate peg), which projects a 'business as usual' scenario leading to accelerated asset degradation

Under this scenario:

- The 2026/27 rate revenue peg of 4.4% would apply.
- Council will record annual operating deficits averaging $189,000 (excluding capital grants and contributions).
- Without additional funds to address infrastructure needs, Council's infrastructure backlog is projected to grow significantly over the next 10 years. The cost to bring unsatisfactory assets to a satisfactory condition would increase by 99.2% to $193.9 million, while the cost to bring them to a new condition would grow by 44.2% to $285 million.
- Potential review and cuts to Council services or projects will be required.

There would be a noticeable decline in the quality and adequacy of Council's infrastructure, with additional infrastructure service failures. This would be most pronounced in the stormwater and building asset classes.

Renew and Enhance Infrastructure (Special Rate Variation)

Under this scenario:

- A 29% rate increase, including a Special Rate Variation (SRV) of 24.6% above a confirmed 4.4% rate peg would apply, providing $20.7 million in additional revenue per annum, commencing in 2026/27.
- Council would record operating surpluses averaging $23.6 million (excluding capital grants and contributions).

- With these surpluses, Council would be able to undertake extensive renewal and upgrade work to existing stormwater and drainage, community building, recreational facility, footpath infrastructure, and build new footpaths and traffic and transport related infrastructure.
- Compared to the Base Case, Council would be able to spend an additional $245 million in capital expenditure over 10 years.
- Council's infrastructure backlog is projected to decrease over the next 10 years. The cost to bring assets to a satisfactory condition (CTS) would fall from $83.9 million in 2026/27 to $25.9 million in 2035/36, while the cost to bring assets to a new condition would reduce to $96.7 million.
- Impact on average rates: Inclusive of the rate peg, in 2026/27, average residential rates would increase by $499 and average business rates would increase by $1,676.

The Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario is Council's preferred scenario as it:

- Will provide major infrastructure improvements, namely extensive renewal and upgrade work to existing stormwater and drainage, community buildings, recreational facilities, footpath infrastructure renewal. In addition, it will provide funding for construction of new footpaths and traffic and transport related infrastructure.
- Will provide a partial funding source for the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre loan. This received substantial support during the exhibition of four rate increase options between July-September 2025 (45% of representative survey respondents stated they were at least somewhat supportive of the Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario).
- Is in line with Council's 2024 Community Research Report, which found a majority of community members were at least somewhat supportive of paying higher rates to fund improvements in parks and sportsgrounds, roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage, public toilets, swimming pools and community buildings.[1]
- Will address infrastructure areas which the 2024 Community Research Report found had high levels of community importance but lower levels of satisfaction, namely the condition of footpaths and traffic management.[2]
- Is in line with a capacity to pay analysis and will only be implemented alongside careful consideration of hardship applications, in line with Council's Rates, Charges and Sundry Debts - Assistance, Concessions and Recovery Policy.
- Represents best balance between good infrastructure outcomes, community feedback and community capacity to pay.

Both scenarios also cater for:

- Adequate cash reserves to pay current liabilities
- Debt repayments within the relevant performance measure, and a clear timeline for the extinguishing of debt.

[1] See page 49 of 2024 Community Research Report at www.krg.nsw.gov.au/Council/Strategic-plans-finance-reports-and-publications/Performance-reporting/Community-feedback-report
[2] See page 42 of 2024 Community Research Report

About the Ku-ring-gai Council area

The Ku-ring-gai Council area covers some 85 square kilometres and, in 2025, had an estimated residential population of 128,542.

By 2035, as Sydney continues to grow and new NSW Government housing policies come into effect, our population is estimated to grow by 14% to 144,664.

Ku-ring-gai is also home to 15,158 local businesses, with the largest sectors being health care and social assistance, education and training and professional, scientific and technical services.

Ku-ring-gai Council services are delivered to the community via five departments together with the General Managers unit (Civic) and Major Projects unit. Each discrete service is provided by one of the twenty-two business/service units that operate across the departments.[3]

Some of the unique features of the Ku-ring-gai LGA, which need to be considered by this LTFP, include that Ku-ring-gai has:

- On a per capita basis, the highest level of open space of any Sydney council
- A socio-economic advantage rating which in 2021 was the third highest in Australia
- A heavy reliance on residential, as distinct to business rates
- A relatively low population density of 1,487 people per square kilometre, which is below the metropolitan average.

This LTFP further explains how the above and other local features influence Council's financial position.

[3] See page 123 of Council's 2023/24 Annual Report

Long Term Financial Plan objectives and performance monitoring

Council's overall guiding principle, in preparing this Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), is to maintain a healthy financial position, underpinned by a sound income base and commitment to control and delivery of services, facilities and infrastructure demanded by the community in an effective and efficient manner.

For this LTFP, Council has worked to outline a new and updated set of financial objectives, which are explained further in Table 1 below.

MAINTAIN LONG TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY
Deliver a balanced budget and operating surpluses to funds capital works
Meet key financial performance measures including liquidity and cash reserves
Deliver community-aligned services
MANAGE INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS AND CAPITAL WORKS
Establish priority for funding and infrastructure needs
Meet key infrastructure and asset performance measures
Ensure sufficient maintenance and renewal of Council assets
Assess and adjust the current capital works plan for feasibility and affordability
Secure funding for significant projects
MANAGE DEBT RESPONSIBLY
Ensure debt is affordable and within limits
Monitor and supervise debt levels and consider refinancing
Identify and plan sources of repayment
BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE
Act with integrity and ethically in all financial matters
Make informed and careful decisions in all financial matters
Provide clear and accurate financial information
Accept responsibility and be accountable for financial decisions

Table 1: Council's financial objectives

Performance monitoring

Council reviews and updates its LTFP on an annual basis as part of the annual exhibition of its Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework. This includes reviewing the revenue and expenditure assumptions which underpin the LTFP.

Council monitors progress on its Annual Budget and the LTFP by undertaking quarterly budget reviews. These reviews examine major operating and budget variations, provide updated Operating Result and Cash and Investments statements along with information on contracts and consultancy expenses.

Terminology

For the purposes of this document, when this document refers to a "Sydney council average", this is a reference to data collected from councils that the NSW Office of Local Government defines as Metropolitan

or Metropolitan Fringe, excluding councils which did not provide data or the City of Sydney Council, which is regarded as an outlier.

References to “performance measures” is a reference to “performance benchmarks” for financial and asset outcomes as outlined in the Integrated Planning & Reporting Handbook. These benchmarks are also incorporated in Council’s Financial statements.

Existing and emerging challenges to Council's financial position

This section outlines the existing and emerging challenges impacting Council's financial position, which this LTFP seeks to address.

Local government sector-wide financial sustainability challenges

Two recent Parliamentary reports have illustrated local government sector-wide funding and financial sustainability challenges.

In February 2025, the Australian Parliament's Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport published an interim report into local government sustainability[4].

Observations from this report, which are directly relevant to this LTFP, are that:

- Councils are increasingly being required to provide a more diverse range of services and manage increasingly complex infrastructure assets (including services and assets formerly provided by State and Federal governments).
- Councils are facing increasing costs managing the impacts of extreme weather events. Each of these events typically costs Council several hundred thousand dollars in clean-up expenses, which are not always recoverable from the NSW Government.
- To support needed new housing supply, councils are expected to fund a widening gap between developer contributions and the cost of providing infrastructure.

Separately, in November 2024, the NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development published a report which looked at the ability of local governments to fund infrastructure and services.[5]

This report agreed with the Australian Parliament's report that councils are now delivering increasingly diverse services and facing increasing costs due to extreme weather.

It also raised concerns that the existing system of rate revenue capping has not kept pace with the level of income councils need to adequately meet the needs of their communities.

It concludes that "the ongoing financial challenges councils are experiencing cannot be overcome through fiscal discipline alone and are threatening the long-term sustainability of the sector".

Cost-shifting

Both above Parliamentary inquiries raised concerns about the financial position of councils being undermined by the NSW or Australian Governments shifting costs on to councils.

The NSW Legislative Council's Standing Committee on State Development recommended that the NSW Government identify opportunities to reduce activities which shift cost burdens from the NSW Government to local councils and also undertake greater consultation with councils before implementing any cost-shifting.

The Australian Parliament inquiry recommended the creation of a new tripartite agreement between all three levels of government, that ends the cost shifting onto councils.

4 Find out more at www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/House/Regional_Development_Infrastructure_and_Transport/Localgovernmentsustaina

5 Find out more www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/committees/inquiries/Pages/inquiry-details.aspx?pk=3040

Ku-ring-gai Council has identified some $19 million worth of costs, applied in 2023/24, which were as a result of NSW Government cost-shifting. This primarily includes:

- $4.3 million in emergency services levy payment
- $5.4 million public shortfall between actual State Government subsidies and the subsidy council would have been eligible as per the *Library Act (NSW)*
- $4.9 million in waste levy, the difference between the levy Council pays on its waste disposal and received grants
- $3.9 million shortfall between capped statutory development application fees, and the cost of processing these applications
- $0.3 million in under-funding for the mandatory pensioner rate rebate

These costs represent an average impact of $404 per current Ku-ring-gai ratepayer[6].

Ku-ring-gai rating challenges

Rates on unimproved land values are Council's most important revenue source, comprising around half of Council's operational revenue in 2024/25.

However, Ku-ring-gai's relatively large areas of non-rateable public open space and low population density, along with its inability to rely on large amounts of funding from business rates, means the council is less able than many other local government areas to fund services and key infrastructure such as roads and open space improvements. This comparative disadvantage is exacerbated by ongoing capping on rates revenue by the NSW Government.

Low rates per capita

The information below is based on the latest Comparative Data for 2023/24 available from the Office of Local Government website.

Ku-ring-gai Council's total rates revenue per capita in 2023/24 was $584, which was 7.3% below the metropolitan and metropolitan fringe average of $630. This figure is an indication that Council has comparatively less capacity, compared to most other Sydney council areas, to service the needs of its population through its rates revenue.

This largely comes about because Ku-ring-gai is, unlike many other council areas, unable to rely on significant business rating revenue. Ku-ring-gai in 2023/24 earned $40 in business rates per capita, compared to a Sydney council average of $132. Furthermore, in 2023/24, Council's total business rating revenue of $5.2 million was well below the Sydney average of $21.2 million in the same year.

In the local government sector, business rate income is regarded as a significant financial benefit, as the rate paid per dollar of business rateable land is often higher than residential land.

[6] Based on 46,479 rates assessments as of May 2026

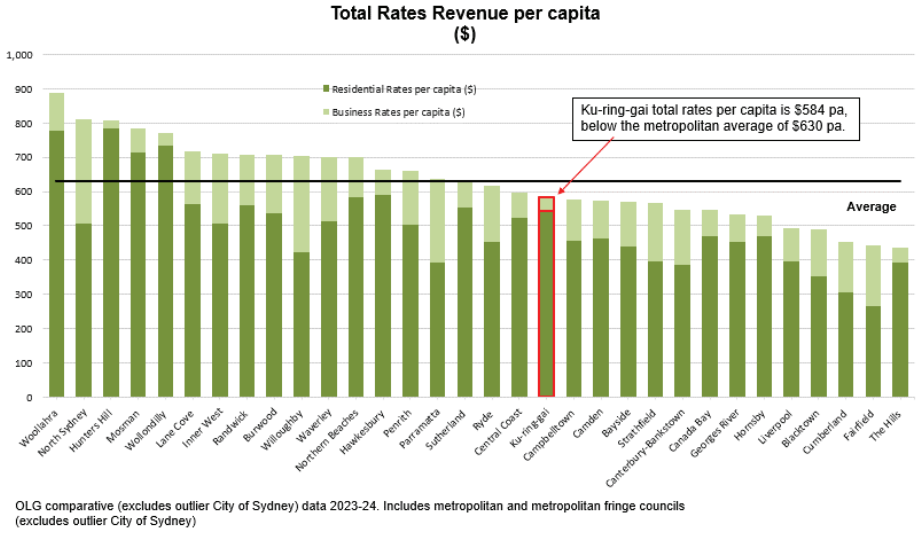


Figure 1: Ku-ring-gai Council's 2023/24 total rates revenue per capita compared to other Sydney councils

Comparatively low available rates per kilometre of road

Road length is a direct driver of council costs (for cleaning, maintenance, renewal and traffic management). Road length also correlates with the amount of area that is developed for human habitation, requiring support from local government services and infrastructure. Therefore, rates per km of road is a useful proxy measure of service efficiency and levels of resourcing compared to other councils.

Ku-ring-gai Council's rates per km of road ($153,678) is 27% below the Sydney council average ($209,798). This is an indication of the comparatively lower levels of rates funding that Council has available to maintain services.

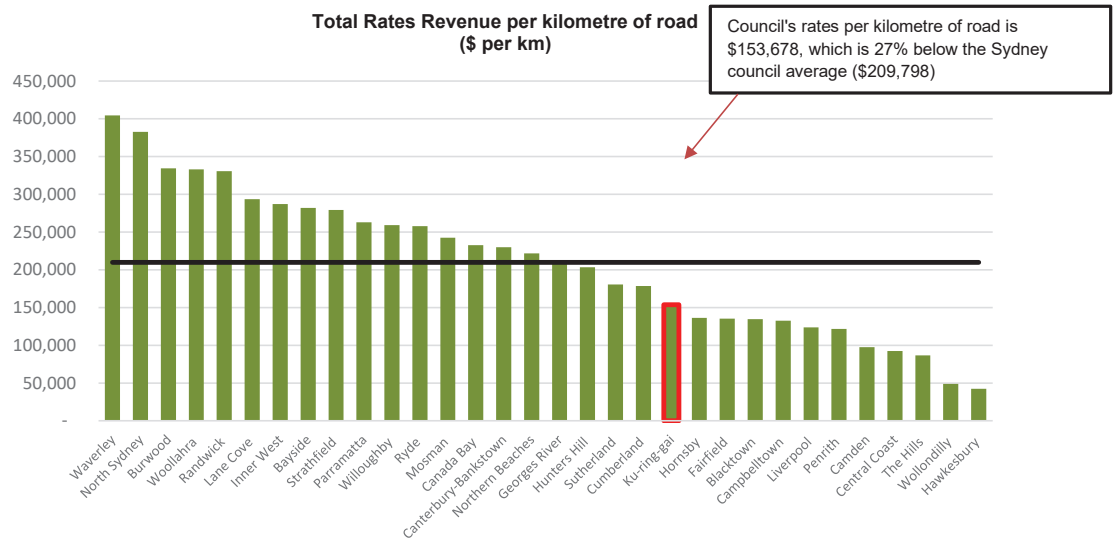
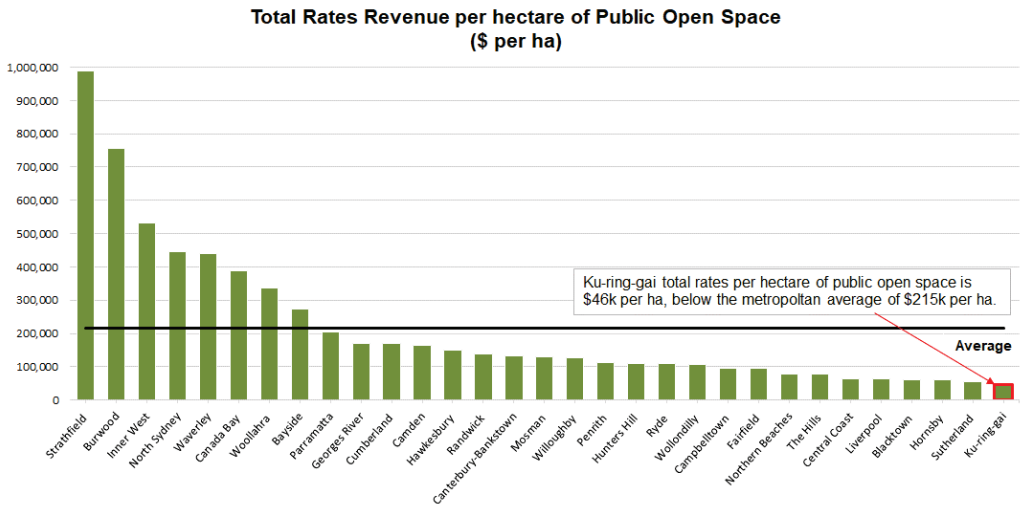


Figure 2: Amount of rates revenue per kilometre of road compared to other Sydney councils

Comparatively low available rates funding per hectare of open space

Area of open space directly impacts on council costs related to maintenance and upkeep of parks, playing fields and bushland reserves. Rates per hectare of open space is also a useful proxy measure of service efficiency and levels of resourcing compared to other councils.

Ku-ring-gai Council's rates per hectare is $46,000, which is the lowest rate in Sydney and significantly lower than the average, suggesting under-resourcing.



OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains and Lane Cove)

Figure 3 – Amount of rates revenue available for each hectare of public open space compared to other Sydney councils

Financial Sustainability Review

In 2022/23, and partially in response to some of the above funding challenges, Council commissioned independent consultants to undertake an independent review of its Resourcing Strategy, LTFP and Assets Management Strategy. This review, known as the Financial Sustainability Review, was reported to Council in February 2023.

The review examined the following questions:

- Are the assumptions underpinning Council's financial strategies sound?
- Are the strategies sufficient to maintain Council's assets and infrastructure portfolios and deliver its 10-year capital works plan?
- What options does Council have to deliver its maintenance and works commitments and obligations?

The review found that, Council had:

- Operating expenditure per capita which was below the average amount for major metropolitan councils.
- A relatively efficient staffing structure, with each staff member servicing more residents than any other major metropolitan councils
- An infrastructure backlog which was higher than comparable metropolitan councils

- When coupled with lower operating expense per resident and lower increases in operating expenditure of the past 5 years, it suggests Council has been on an improvement path and further opportunities for improvement may be limited.

Based on its analysis, the review recommended Council take a range of actions, including:

- Reviewing Council services, including for service levels and efficiency and effectiveness
- Updating the portfolio-wide asset condition of buildings and drainage, to better understand the funding requirements in these areas
- Reviewing current contribution plans
- Examining the need for a Special Rate Variation (SRV).

The outcomes and recommendations of the Financial Sustainability Review, and Council's response to these recommendations, have informed the development of Council's budget for the 2023/24 to 2025/26 financial years, and this LTFP.

Infrastructure assets

In response to the Financial Sustainability Review, Council has conducted updated reviews on stormwater drainage and buildings.

In addition, data from Council's recent financial statements, and partially in response to the above updated condition reviews, has shown that Council's backlog of necessary infrastructure renewals, and gap between actual and required maintenance, is increasing.

Stormwater drainage condition review

Ku-ring-gai Council is responsible for around 12,000 stormwater drainage pipes which are predominantly located under road reserves and run to a length of nearly 300km. Council is also responsible for around 12,100 drainage pits, headwalls or other inlet structures, and a range of open drainage channels. In 2024/25, the gross replacement cost (GRC) of stormwater assets was $517 million.

This stormwater system plays a crucial role in draining rainwater from private and public buildings, streets and open space, particularly during heavy rainfall events.

However, Council's stormwater infrastructure has largely not been renewed since being built when the Ku-ring-gai area was first developed between the early to mid-1900s.

In 2022/23, Council conducted a comprehensive revaluation of its stormwater assets which uncovered that these assets were in a more deteriorated state than had been previously assumed. Examples of deterioration included pipe blockages, joint failure and cracking, and tree root and other foreign object intrusion.

Council followed this revaluation with an external review of stormwater assets, which was undertaken in 2023/24. This review involved the collection of additional CCTV data and an independent assessment of the conditions, useful lives and performing a revaluation of stormwater assets.

This review estimated that 43% of Council's stormwater assets were classified as being in a poor or very poor condition, with many of the assets coming to the end of their useful life and not operating as efficiently as they should.

The review introduced a new optimal renewal methodology, resulting in reduced depreciation costs. The methodology identified that stormwater pipes in certain conditions could be renewed more cost-effectively by adding a new inner lining, a process known as re-lining, eliminating the need for full replacement. This

approach significantly lowers renewal costs while maintaining the functionality and longevity of stormwater pipes.

Buildings condition review

Council is responsible for some 300 buildings with a gross replacement cost of $207.36 million, ranging from administration buildings through to bus shelters, amenities blocks, libraries, community halls, childcare centers and car parks.

In response to a Financial Sustainability Review recommendation, Council in 2023/24 engaged independent asset consultants to develop a prioritised capital upgrade program for Council's buildings portfolio and to review the Asset Management Plan (AMP) for its building assets.

This review identified that about 53% of the evaluated buildings needed capital upgrades, with recommended treatment options of either refurbishment or knockdown and rebuild.

These buildings typically require works to address:

- Modern accessibility standards, including through the construction of access ramps, disabled toilets and providing sufficient internal access movement space
- The needs of the rising number of female athletes and users, including the provision of separated changing facilities and toilets
- Significant issues with the building's structure or performance, such as waterproofing failure, poor lighting or degraded internal finishes.

The review resulted in development of a 10-year detailed prioritised program of building upgrade works with estimated costs of around $163.5 million over 10 years to modernise Council buildings, with most buildings requiring refurbishment and some requiring a knockdown.

Funding gap for asset maintenance

The Financial Sustainability Review highlighted a funding gap for the asset maintenance program. While maintenance is currently funded from general revenue, the existing allocation is insufficient to sustain the program and meet required performance measures, requiring additional funding sources.

Council has also faced challenges in keeping up with its maintenance program in the past.

The table below shows the gap between actual and required maintenance since 2022/23. Maintenance under-spending is most pronounced in the stormwater and roads asset classes

Year	Required maintenance ($000s)	Actual maintenance ($000s)	Gap
2022/23	$17,720	$16,200	$1,520
2023/24	$18,740	$17,230	$1,510
2024/25	$20,300	$18,256	$2,044
Total	$56,760	$51,686	$5,074

Table 2 – Gap between required and actual maintenance since 2021/22

The relevant performance measure is for councils to spend at least 100% of the amount that is required to maintain assets. This is known as the Asset Maintenance Ratio.

In 2024/25, Ku-ring-gai Council's Asset Maintenance Ratio was 89.93% and therefore Council did not meet the relevant measure.

Rising infrastructure backlog

After considering the updated asset condition reports, the cost to bring all Council's key asset classes in a very poor, or poor, condition to a satisfactory condition increased from just over $17 million in 2018/19 to $95 million in 2024/25. This increase resulted from detailed analysis of condition data across some asset classes, aligning the data with increased infrastructure costs, and comprehensive asset revaluations to ensure greater accuracy.

Furthermore, in 2024/25, the cost of bringing infrastructure to a satisfactory standard represented 7.89% of the net carrying amount of these assets, which was well above the relevant performance measure of 2% or less (known as the Infrastructure Backlog Ratio).

From 2018/19 to 2022/23, the cost to bring Council's infrastructure assets to agreed service levels increased from $72.3 million to $323.3 million. These figures represent the cost of bringing assets in an unsatisfactory condition (that is very poor and poor) to a new condition. Following an external review of Council's stormwater assets, this figure reduced to $196.6 million in 2024/25. The reduction was driven by the adoption of the optimal renewal methodology, which significantly lowers renewal costs while preserving the functionality and longevity of stormwater pipes.

From 2018/19 to 2024/25, the percentage of Council's assets in a poor (renewal required) or very poor (urgent renewal/upgrading required) condition has increased from 6.2% to 18.9%.

The above figures illustrate Council's increasing challenge to renew infrastructure to meet community expectations and NSW Government performance measures.

Community research

In 2024, Council commissioned independent research on the community perception of its services and facilities. This research involved interviews with 501 randomly selected Ku-ring-gai residents, with the results from these interviews weighted so that they reflected the adult age and sex characteristics of the Ku-ring-gai population[7].

As part of this research, Council asked respondents whether they would be willing to pay higher rates to support improvements in a range of areas.

Table 3 shows the areas which had the highest levels of support in response to this question.

Area	Percentage of respondents who were at least somewhat supportive of a rate rise
Parks and sportsgrounds	74%
Roads	73%
Footpaths	69%
Stormwater drainage	62%
Public toilets	59%
Swimming pools	56%
Theatres	54%
Other cultural facilities	53%
Community buildings	52%

Table 3 – Percentage of residents who are at least somewhat supportive of a rate rise to support improvements in certain asset areas

[7] See Community feedback report Ku-ring-gai

Challenges delivering new infrastructure to support growth and changing community needs

In late 2023, the NSW Government announced major Statewide planning reforms, which had a significant effect on Ku-ring-gai.

The first of these reforms involved the creation of Transport Oriented Development precincts from Roseville to Gordon stations. Council estimates that these reforms will generate some 23,000 new dwellings and an increased population of 46,000. This means the new residents who will eventually live in these precincts will increase the LGA's overall 2023 population by 36%.

The second of the reforms, known as the Low and Mid-Rise reform, was exhibited in early 2024 and began progressively coming into operation during 2025. This reform will see additional dual occupancy, terrace, townhouse and small apartment building development in other well-located areas across the LGA. The precise dwelling yield from this reform is not known at this stage.

To better meet the infrastructure needs of this increased population, Council commenced a review of its local infrastructure contributions plan, which outlines how Council requires the development industry to contribute to the cost of delivering infrastructure that supports new development. By undertaking this review, Council will seek to ensure that the plan is aligned with the infrastructure needs of new residents in the precincts.

However, in doing this Council will be limited by the NSW Government's development contribution framework.

Firstly, Council can generally only levy contributions for the infrastructure needs of the new residents, as distinct to the needs of existing residents. This means some new infrastructure will need to be funded by both development contributions and other revenue sources, such as rates.

Secondly, outside of town centres, Council's contribution rate per new dwelling is limited to $20,000. This cap was first issued in a Ministerial Direction in 2009, and the maximum figure has not been inflated at any time over the last fifteen years. Land acquisition and construction costs have increased significantly since this time. This situation places greater pressure on Council's other revenue sources to fund infrastructure for these new residents.

Thirdly, Council, in reviewing its contributions plan, will be limited as to the types of infrastructure it can levy if it wants to maintain comparable to current contributions rates. For instance, Council will only be able to levy for the land for community facilities, but not the construction of these facilities, which will need to be funded through other means.

Furthermore, while Council will gain additional rate revenue from new dwellings, it will also face additional costs servicing the needs of residents in these dwellings. This revenue will also tend to exacerbate the LGA-specific rating structure disadvantages explored earlier in this chapter.

Council has factored additional rate revenue from dwelling growth into its scenario planning and determined that under a 'business as usual' scenario (known as a Base Case), Council will run operating deficits and have difficulty adequately managing local infrastructure, even with this additional revenue.

Given the above, it is imperative that Council considers an alternative financial scenario to manage the infrastructure for not only existing community members, but also future members.

Scenario planning

The LTFP is a model to consider scenarios for the funding of operating and capital expenditure.

Detailed forecasts of all sources of operating revenue and expenditure are utilised to derive the maximum surplus available to apply to Council's rolling program of capital investments in new or refurbished infrastructure.

Two ten-year financial scenarios have been prepared, to apply for the years from (and including) 2026/27 to 2035/36. These scenarios are:

- **Base Case** (rate peg only)
- **Renew and Enhance Infrastructure** (which incorporates a rate increase of 29% (including a Special Rate Variation of 24.6% and rate peg of 4.4%) to apply in 2026/27, with rates to subsequently increase by the annual rates peg in future years. This is Council's preferred scenario.

These scenarios are explained in the following pages.

Council's decision to have a 29% rate increase as its preferred scenario followed extensive community feedback on four rate increase options from 21 July to 1 September 2025.

These options were a Base Case (rate peg only) known as the Deteriorating Infrastructure option, and three Special Rate Variation options, namely a 22% increase known as Renew Infrastructure, a 29% increase known as Renew and Enhance Infrastructure and a 33% increase known as Renew, Enhance and Expand Infrastructure. These options were outlined in the LTFP adopted by Council at its June 2025 meeting.

The Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario has been updated to incorporate the confirmed 2026/27 rate peg and is Council's preferred scenario as it:

- Will provide major infrastructure improvements, namely extensive renewal and upgrade work to existing stormwater and drainage, community building, recreational facility and footpath infrastructure, and build new footpaths and traffic and transport related infrastructure.
- Will provide a funding source for the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre construction loan.
- Received substantial support during the exhibition of four rate increase options between July-September 2025 (45% of representative survey respondents stated they were at least somewhat supportive of the Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario).
- Is in line with Council's 2024 Community Research Report, which found a majority of community members were at least somewhat supportive of paying higher rates to fund improvements in parks and sportsgrounds, roads, footpaths, stormwater drainage, public toilets, swimming pools and community buildings.
- Will address infrastructure areas which the 2024 Community Research Report found had high levels of community importance but lower levels of satisfaction, namely the condition of footpaths and traffic management.
- Is in line with a capacity to pay analysis and will only be implemented alongside careful consideration of hardship applications, in line with Council's relevant Rates, Charges and Sundry Debts - Assistance, Concessions and Recovery Policy.
- Represents best balance between good infrastructure outcomes, community feedback and community capacity to pay.

Meanwhile the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, has also been prepared in accordance with the Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario from 2026/27.

Revenue and expenditure assumptions applicable to all scenarios

The scenarios are based on a range of revenue and expenditure assumptions, as outlined below. A full list of these assumptions is available at **Appendix A**.

In addition, the Sensitivity Analysis available later in this document tests different outcomes from changes to some key assumptions listed below.

Revenue assumptions

Rates revenue peg

Council will increase rates revenue by 4.4% in 2026/27, in line with the rate peg applied by the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART).

From 2027/28, Council is assuming the rate peg granted by IPART will decrease gradually from 4% to 3% in 2030/31 onward. In addition, Council assumes a 0.3% population growth component based on historical growth forecasts.

Council has also incorporated, into its scenarios, assumptions that NSW Government-initiated housing reforms will generate additional rate revenue from an increase in dwellings, above historical growth forecasts. Across the life of the LTFP, Council is forecasting an average annual growth in rates revenue of 3.6% due to this situation. This revenue will be needed for meeting the service needs of new residents and for building future infrastructure.

Fees and charges

Council derives approximately 13% from user charges.

The 2026/27 Fees & Charges have been reviewed to ensure closer alignment with increases in costs. This resulted in an average increase of 3.9% for a variety of non-statutory fees as reflected in the fees & charges schedule (2026/27). Fees and charges are expected to increase in line with projected CPI for future years; an average of 2.6% per year is predicted over the remaining forecast period.

Charges for domestic waste have been increased by 3.7% in 2026/27 to reflect increased domestic waste management contractor costs. From 2027/28 the charges for domestic waste are assumed to increase by 8% to fund higher waste collection and disposal costs.

Investment revenue

Investment revenue has been estimated based on current cash levels and future expected earnings of the Bank Bill Swap Rate (BBSW) + 1.1% over the 10-year period.

The forecast annual interest rate is 4.2% in 2026/27, gradually decreasing to an average 3.7% for the remaining years to 2035/36.

Grants for recurrent and capital purposes

Grants are forecast to increase by 2.7% in 2026/27 followed by an average of 2.3% for the remaining years in line with the CPI.

Operating grants and contributions are expected to remain static across the next decade.

Council's main form of grant assistance is the Australian Government's Financial Assistance Grant (FAG), which is distributed to councils via State Governments. FAGs consist of two components both of which are

distributed to councils: a general-purpose component and a local road component. Council is projecting a FAG grant of $5.05 million in 2026/27.

Capital grants and contributions are volatile over the forecast period as they can relate to specific one-off major projects.

Asset sales

The LTFP assumes asset sales of $2.2 million from 2026/27 to 2035/36. These asset sales will be used to help fund works identified in the Ku-ring-gai Contributions Plan 2010.

Some of the works in the Plan, however, will also cater for the existing population and therefore require both general Council funding (known as a co-contribution) as well as funding from development contributions. Asset sales will contribute towards this general Council funding.

Expenditure assumptions

Employee costs

Labour costs are projected to increase by average 4.2% for each year during the life of the LTFP.

These cost projections are based on:

- A 4.5% increase assumed in the Local Government Award in 2026/27, 4% in 2027/28, 3.5% in 2028/29 and 2029/30 and then 3% increase for the remaining years of the LTFP.
- In addition, 0.8% is allowed for performance incentive payments, linked to Council's performance management system, for each year of the LTFP.
- An assumption worker's compensation insurance costs will also increase by 3% per annum

Operational and capital materials and contracts

Expenditure in this area is estimated to increase by 2.7% in 2026/27, followed by 2.5% in 2027/28, 2.4% in 2027/28 and 2.3% for the remaining years which is in line with CPI forecasts.

Costs are expected to continue to increase in the current volatile economic environment, and future budgets will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs have been estimated based on 95 basis points over 90-day BBSW (Bank Bill Swap Rate) per annum, with a maximum rate of 4.3% in 2026/27. The average annual interest rate is 3.7% for the ten years to 2035/36.

Depreciation expense

Depreciation is the gradual allocation of the cost of using an asset over its useful life. It reflects the consumption of the asset's service potential in providing services to the community each year. Depreciation forecasts relate to existing assets and to new and upgraded assets.

It is forecast that Council's depreciation expense will increase by an average of 3.9% each year because of new depreciation associated with Council's large capital works program and the large increase in gross replacement cost of existing assets that is recognised each time a revaluation is undertaken. Funding depreciation in future will remain a challenge for Council as the asset portfolio continues to increase.

Other expenses

Other expenses increase by an average of 2.4% per year from 2026/27 and include items like statutory levies, donations, sponsorships and other sundry expenditure.

Costs are expected to continue to increase in the current volatile economic environment, and future budgets will need to be adjusted accordingly.

Both revenue and expenditure

Consumer Price Index (inflation)

A Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.7% for 2026/27, followed by 2.5% for 2026/27, 2.4% for 2027/28 and an average 2.3% increase in CPI for all remaining years, has been built into the LTFP for a range of revenue and expenditure measures in line with the Access Economics forecast.

Major projects referenced in scenario planning

Four major projects have been referenced in scenario planning. These are listed below. Other major projects being delivered during the LTFP are listed further in this report.

Major Town Centre Projects

The years ahead are an important implementation phase, as Council responds to population growth and state housing policy. Council will manage these changes by continuing to update plans and strategies in a way that addresses local requirements.

Council is planning for major town centre projects (also known as the hub projects) over the next ten years and beyond in Lindfield, Turramurra and Gordon that will provide civic improvements and community facilities. These projects will proceed under all scenarios.

The Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) assumes that the capital and operating costs of these projects will be funded through a combination of development contributions, the contributions of (or value from) Council land, and additional rate revenue generated from new dwellings. The future direction of these projects will depend on the viability of development under revised planning controls.

Cultural and Environmental Education Centre, St Ives Showground

The primary function of the Cultural and Environmental Education Centre (CEEC) project at St Ives Showground will be the delivery of environmental education, aimed at facilitating increased environmental awareness in the community and influencing positive behavioural change for the benefit of the environment.

The CEEC project is funded from development contributions and the existing environmental levy, with future operational costs funded from the general fund.

Cash reserves

Council has a number of cash reserves which are held for the following reasons:

- Legal constraint (externally restricted) - e.g. Section 7.11 and Section 7.12 Development Contributions, Domestic Waste Reserve
- To manage cash flow for abnormal items and thus reduce impact on service delivery.
- Specific revenue - e.g. contribution to works, unexpended grants.

External reserves can only be used for the purpose for which funds were collected. Internal projects reserves are used solely to provide for future expenditure on assets renewal and other capital projects.

Cash reserves are carefully managed to achieve optimum investment income and to be available when needed for unplanned expenditure. Internal cash reserves are kept at a sustainable level for all future years of the LTFP.

Base Case (rate peg)

Explanation

This scenario is based on Council's current level of service as per the 2026/27 budget expanded over ten years and adjusted for various price forecast indexes. Rates revenue will increase in line with the NSW Government rate peg only.

Under this scenario, Council will deliver a series of underlying operating deficits from 2027/28. This situation primarily flows from cost increases in asset maintenance, depreciation, labour and material and contracts, outweighing increases in Council's revenue sources.

These ongoing deficits will mean Council will not be able to invest additional funds into asset maintenance and renewal, leading to, a significant increase in Council's infrastructure backlog and a continued under-spending on maintenance.

As a result, Council will be unable to maintain and renew existing infrastructure to meet community needs or key statutory benchmark expectations. This will lead to a noticeable decline in the quality and adequacy of Council's existing infrastructure, including additional infrastructure service failures.

Council will, however, maintain adequate liquidity levels to meet its debts and liabilities as they fall due, while also ensuring the capacity to discharge its current debt and fund several major one-off asset upgrades.

Council rate revenue would rise in line with the IPART rate peg, and no additional SRV is forecasted. This will lead to an average residential rate increase of $76, and an average business rate increase of $254, in 2026/27 in line with the rate peg only.

The financial tables applicable to this scenario are available in **Appendix B**.

Financial and infrastructure outcomes

Operating results

Under the Base Case scenario, Council is projected to achieve a modest operating surplus of $46,000 in 2026/27, excluding grants and contributions for capital purposes. However, from 2027/28 onward, Council is expected to experience annual operating deficits (excluding capital grants) followed by a return to operating surpluses in the final three years of the forecast period.

It is also a consequence of Council's operating budget bearing the burden of an annual $1.7 million loan repayment for the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre, in the absence of a Special Rate Variation (as was intended) to fund this cost.

A significant outcome of this situation is that Council will have no ability to invest surpluses into reserves, which could be allocated to fund renewal and upgrade of existing infrastructure and new infrastructure.

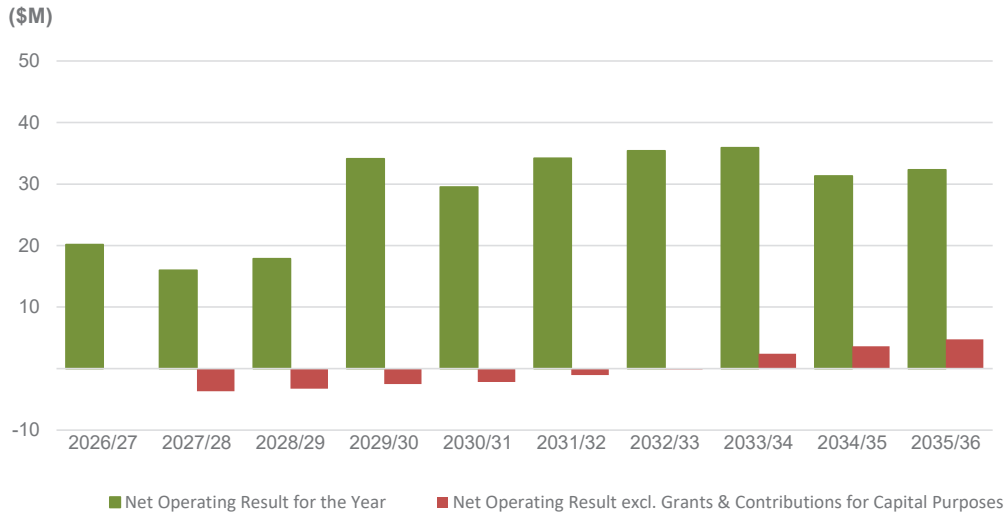


Figure 4 – Operating Result outcomes under Base Case scenario

Performance measures

Under the Base Case scenario, Council will fail to meet a range of performance measures, which is a sign that Council will not be delivering a level of financial sustainability to support associated good service level and infrastructure outcomes. In particular Council's:

- Operating Performance Ratio, which measures the ability to contain costs within allocated revenue, will fall short of the benchmark (0%) and deteriorate by an average of 0.3% per year from 2026/27, as operating deficits are projected in future years. This indicates an ongoing challenge in balancing revenue and expenses, which could impact Council's ability to fund some services, asset maintenance and other projects.
- Building and Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio, which measures the rate of asset renewal against depreciation, will decline from 102.1% in 2026/27 to 51.1% in 2035/36. With the benchmark set at 100%, this sharp decrease suggests that Council will struggle to maintain asset renewal at the pace required, leading to significant deterioration of key assets and facilities.
- Infrastructure Backlog Ratio (CTS), which measures the cost to bring assets to a satisfactory condition against the net carrying amount of these assets, will increase from 8.9% in 2026/27 to 15.6% in 2035/36. The benchmark of less than 2% indicates that Council will continue to face a growing infrastructure backlog in future years. The Infrastructure Backlog Ratio to bring assets to a new condition (CTA), will slightly increase from 10.5% in 2026/27 to 10.9% in 2035/36.

While Council's Asset Maintenance Ratio (which measures actual versus required maintenance) will remain stable, it will still be below the benchmark of 100% in all years of the LTFP. In other words, Council will continue to spend less than is required on asset maintenance, leading to a greater unwanted deterioration of those assets.

Council's Unrestricted Current Ratio, which is a measure of liquidity, will remain above the financial measure of 1.5:1 by averaging 2.1:1 during the life of the LTFP. This is an indication that Council will be

able to maintain adequate cash levels to meet current liabilities, but not to undertake significant investments needed to maintain and renew infrastructure.

Financial Stability Ratios	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36		Status
Operating Performance Ratio	0.0%	-2.2%	-1.8%	-1.6%	-1.3%	-0.5%	-0.1%	1.0%	1.5%	2.0%	>= break-even	Benchmark not met
Own Source Revenue	84.6%	85.1%	85.0%	79.7%	81.9%	81.4%	81.9%	83.0%	85.4%	85.8%	>60%	Meets benchmark
Unrestricted Current Ratio	2.50	1.98	1.77	1.75	1.74	2.04	1.99	2.12	2.28	2.45	>1.5	Meets benchmark

Asset Management Ratios	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36		Status
Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio	102.1%	102.5%	78.7%	72.7%	69.9%	59.8%	81.4%	76.4%	53.4%	51.1%	>100%	Benchmark not met
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio (CTS)	8.9%	8.9%	9.1%	9.6%	10.2%	11.0%	11.8%	12.8%	13.9%	15.6%	<2%	Benchmark not met
Asset Maintenance Ratio	94.1%	92.0%	90.4%	89.8%	89.3%	89.1%	88.3%	88.0%	86.5%	86.4%	>100%	Benchmark not met

Table 4 – Base Case performance against performance measures

Impact on infrastructure assets

Council is already facing a large infrastructure backlog. Under the Base Case scenario, this backlog is projected to increase significantly, further exacerbating the challenge of addressing critical infrastructure renewals.

The cost to bring poor and very poor infrastructure assets to a satisfactory condition will increase from $97.3 million in 2026/27 to $193.9 million in 2035/36. Meanwhile the cost to bring these same assets to a new condition will increase from $198 million in 2026/27 to $285 million in 2035/36.

The impact of this situation would include:

- A further deterioration in Council's buildings, and the ongoing inability of many of these buildings to respond to community expectations, particularly in the areas of accessibility and adequate facilities for female athletes and users.
- Service failures in Council's stormwater system, including:
    - Increased flooding, causing road detours and impacts on homes and businesses
    - The more frequent forming of potholes and sinkholes and road subsidence requiring costly repairs
    - Pollution and contamination through unwanted sediment and large debris backlogs entering local waterways.
- More footpaths which present as trip hazards
- Less funds being available to upgrade recreational facilities.

Projected income

Council's revenue would increase from $197 million in 2026/27 to $271 million over the ten years, which (after excluding the impact of capital grants and contributions) increases by an average of 3.9% per year.

Council rate revenue would rise in line with the IPART rate peg, and no additional SRV is forecasted. This will lead to an average residential rate increase of $76, and an average business rate increase of $254, in 2026/27 in line with the rate peg only.

Council has projected that recent housing reforms will lead to additional rate revenue through an increase in the number of dwellings, estimated at an average annual growth of 3.0% from 2026/27. However, the uptake of further development remains uncertain, making accurate forecasting challenging. The additional revenue will be allocated to cover the increased expenditure associated with the population growth from these developments. These forecasts will require close monitoring and adjustments as more accurate data becomes available.

Projected operational expenditure

Operating expenditure is forecast to increase from $177 million in 2026/27 to $239 million over the 10-year period, an average annual increase of 3.4%. No additional funding will be allocated to asset maintenance or to address the increased costs of depreciation.

Materials and contracts represent Council's largest expense, an average of 42% over the forecast period, followed by employee costs at 34% and depreciation at 18%.

The following additional operating expenditures, beyond the assumed increases, are included in the projections for the years following 2026/27:

- Borrowing costs for St Ives Indoor Sports Centre with annual repayment of $1.7 million funded from general revenue and a part subsidy secured through the Low-Cost Loan Initiative (LCLI) managed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). The total subsidy over the life of the loan secured by Council is $1.2 million.
- Operating costs for Lindfield Major Town Centre project (also known as the Lindfield Village Hub). These costs will average $2 million per annum from 2029/30, funded from general revenue. Additional rates revenue is assumed to be received from supplementary rating, ie dwelling growth to partly cover this cost.

Projected capital expenditure

Council projects a total capital expenditure of $705 million over the life of the LTFP. The largest category, 36% is allocated to Streetscape & Public Domain, followed by 31% for Roads & Transport and 19% for Parks & Recreation which includes land acquisitions funded by development contributions.

Assumptions around capital expenditure, asset valuations and asset management are covered in the Asset Management Strategy and have been incorporated into the LTFP.

A summary and breakdown of future capital expenditure by asset category for the next 10 years is provided in Table 5.

$ '000	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	Total
Planning, Community & Other	3,223	2,880	2,733	3,931	4,021	4,675	6,014	6,361	7,736	5,498	47,072
Roads & Transport	25,678	19,275	16,447	20,315	19,253	21,211	30,463	27,697	20,672	16,843	217,854
Streetscape & Public Domain	4,241	28,177	32,762	38,997	32,530	26,241	31,332	14,068	9,638	35,453	253,439
Parks & Recreation	16,570	17,711	15,807	9,990	8,541	8,510	10,307	14,792	18,356	12,012	132,596
Stormwater Drainage	2,705	2,919	2,609	1,897	1,941	1,986	2,031	2,078	2,126	2,175	22,467
Council Buildings	4,263	3,301	3,171	1,542	1,578	1,614	1,651	1,689	1,728	1,767	22,304
Trees & Natural Environment	509	890	5,385	315	322	445	337	345	353	361	9,262
Total Projects	**57,189**	**75,153**	**78,914**	**76,987**	**68,186**	**64,682**	**82,135**	**67,030**	**60,609**	**74,109**	**704,994**

Table 5 - Projected capital expenditure under Base Case scenario

Liquidity measures

Working capital is a measure of Council's liquidity and ability to meet its obligations as they fall due. It is one of the primary measures of the overall financial position, which allows for unforeseen expenditure, reductions in revenue or other unplanned events.

The working capital is projected at $8.1 million for 2026/27 and increases by an average 1% p.a. during the forecast years to allow for increases in expenditure in future years. This level of working capital highlights an adequate liquidity position with Council being able to meet its short-term liabilities when they fall due.

Cash reserves are projected to remain at sustainable levels initially; however, ongoing operating deficits and continued investment in infrastructure are expected to reduce these reserves over time.

Debt management

In this scenario, Council's outstanding debt is projected to reduce to $17.6 million by the end of 2026/27 and will be fully discharged by the end of 2031/32. This includes the repayment of the following loan balances:

- $9.5 million for the acquisition of Council's investment property at 828 Pacific Highway, Gordon. The building is leased and is expected to generate sufficient revenue over the life of the Plan to fully repay the outstanding debt.
- $7.5 million loan to fund Council's contribution to the new St Ives Indoor Sports Centre. Under the Base Case scenario this loan will be repaid over 10 years using general funds offset by the LCLI subsidy.

The LTFP includes provisions for debt repayments to be made according to the repayment schedules outlined in the terms of each individual loan.

The following chart shows Council's projected outstanding debt and the net debt service cost for the next 10 years. Total debt service cost includes total interest plus principal repayments. Current loans will be repaid by the end of 2031/32.

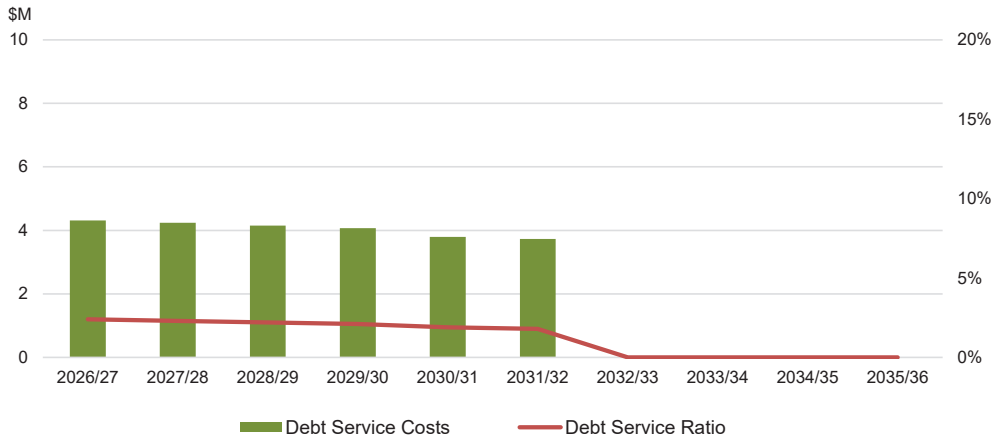


Figure 5 - Council's debt service costs and ratio under Base Case

Renew and Enhance Infrastructure (Special Rate Variation) – preferred scenario

Explanation

Under this scenario, Council would increase rates by 29% in 2026/27, including a 24.6% Special Rate Variation and 4.4% rate peg. The Special Rate Variation would stay in Council's rate base on a permanent basis with rate revenue increasing from 2027/28 onwards in line with the rate peg announced by IPART.

The SRV would have the effect of providing an additional and ongoing $20.7 million per annum (before indexation for rate pegging).

Compared to the Base Case, this scenario will deliver the following additional funding on an annual basis:

- $5.9 million for stormwater and drainage, including improvements to kerb inlets, pipes and drains to reduce flooding risk and improve stormwater management. Council would seek to reline, rather than replace, pipes to save costs.
- $6.7 million for community buildings, including the renewal and upgrade of buildings such as halls, public toilets and pavilions, Improvements would focus on improved safety, lighting, accessibility and women's facilities
- $1.9 million for recreational facilities, including improvements to playing surfaces, pathways, lighting, drainage and fencing at fields, courts, parks and open space, and swimming pool infrastructure upgrades to the Ku-ring-gai Fitness and Aquatic Centre
- $0.94 million for existing footpaths, including removing trip hazards and improving surfaces.
- $2.1 million for new footpaths, with a focus on areas of high pedestrian traffic, including near transport hubs, shops, schools, hospitals, nursing homes and parks.
- $1.7 million for traffic and transport facilities, including funding for traffic facilities, pedestrian safety and bus stop improvements.

It will also generate $1.46 million to fund loan repayments for the construction of the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre.

After this loan is paid off by 2031/32, the funding previously allocated to loan repayment will be invested into renewal of recreational facilities (for example sports fields, parks and open space facilities).

Impact on residential and business rates

In 2026/27, including the rate peg, the average residential rate is projected to increase by $499 and the average business rate by $1,676. Information on projected average rate increases, from 2026/27 to 2029/30, under this scenario are available in Appendix D.

The financial tables which are applicable to this scenario are available in **Appendix C**.

Financial and infrastructure outcomes

Operating result

It is assumed in the LTFP that additional rates, if approved, will commence from 2026/27 resulting in average surpluses of $23.3 million from 2026/27 to 2035/36 which will fund infrastructure renewal works.

The chart below shows the forecast operating result before and after capital grants and contribution items.

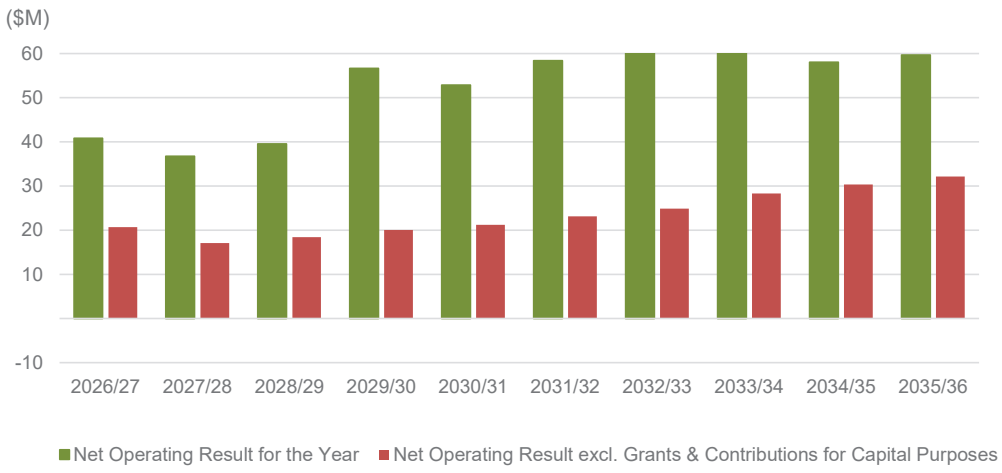


Figure 6 – Operating results under Renew and Enhance infrastructure scenario

Performance measures

This scenario delivers a response to performance measures, which is a significant improvement to the Base Case performance measures.

Financial Stability Ratios	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	Benchmark	Status
Operating Performance Ratio	10.5%	8.2%	8.6%	8.8%	9.1%	9.8%	10.1%	11.1%	11.5%	11.8%	>= break-even	Meets benchmark
Own Source Revenue	86.1%	86.5%	86.4%	81.4%	83.5%	83.0%	83.4%	84.4%	86.6%	86.9%	>60%	Meets benchmark
Unrestricted Current Ratio	2.62	2.01	1.81	1.80	1.79	2.12	2.06	2.22	2.37	2.36	>1.5	Meets benchmark

Asset Management Ratios	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	Benchmark	Status
Building & Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio	159.4%	158.0%	132.9%	125.7%	121.8%	111.1%	131.3%	125.5%	101.7%	151.1%	>100%	Meets benchmark
Infrastructure Backlog Ratio (CTS)	7.5%	6.3%	5.3%	4.5%	3.8%	3.2%	2.7%	2.0%	1.8%	1.7%	<2%	Benchmark not met
Asset Maintenance Ratio	93.8%	96.7%	94.8%	93.9%	92.9%	92.4%	91.3%	90.6%	88.3%	88.0%	>100%	Benchmark not met

Table 6 – Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario performance against performance measures

Infrastructure backlog and impacts

Under this scenario, the cost to bring poor and very poor infrastructure assets to a satisfactory condition will reduce from $83.9 million in 2026/27 to $25.9 million in 2035/36, a decrease of 69%. Meanwhile the cost to bring these same assets to a new condition would reduce from $182 million in 2026/27 to $97 million in 2035/36, a decrease of 47%.

Council will be able to maintain a Building and Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio of greater than 100% (in other words over the benchmark).

Projected income

Council's revenue has been forecast to increase from $218 million in 2026/27 to $301 million over the ten years, which (after excluding the impact of capital grants and contributions) increases by an average of 5.2% per year.
Increases in revenue are due to rates and annual charges (including a SRV from 2026/27), user fees and charges and other revenue including rent income from Council's investment property.

In 2026/27, including the rate peg, the average residential rate is projected to increase by $499 and the average business rate by $1,676. Information on projected average rate increases, from 2026/27 to 2029/30, under this scenario are available in Appendix D.

An SRV will generate additional $20.7 million rates income (above the rate peg) per year from 2026/27, of which 93% will be allocated to infrastructure renewal works and new footpaths. The remaining 7% of the special rate variation will fund repayment of the loan for the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre until 2031/32, after which this funding will be allocated to recreational facilities.

Projected operational expenditure

Compared to the Base Case scenario, operational asset maintenance costs will increase by $1.16 million per annum from 2027/28, due to the annual increase of $3.8 million in new and upgraded assets delivered under the Renew and Infrastructure scenario. Some funding from additional rates may need to be diverted from asset renewal to asset maintenance to cover the increase.

Projected capital expenditure

Under this scenario, Council would be able to set aside $950 million for capital expenditure during the life of the LTFP, which represents an increase of $245 million compared to the Base Case.

Under this scenario, compared to the Base Case, spending would significantly increase in Roads and Transport (up by 36% to $296 million due to existing and new footpath works), Streetscape and Public Domain (up by 34% to $340 million), and Council Buildings (up by 335% to $97 million).

Over the 10-year period, this scenario allocates capital expenditure as follows: Streetscape & Public Domain 36%, Roads & Transport 31%, 14% to Parks & Recreation, 10% to Council Buildings and 9% to other asset categories.

Assumptions around capital expenditure, asset valuations and asset management are covered in the Asset Management Strategy and have been incorporated into the LTFP.

$ '000	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	Total
Planning, Community & Other	3,223	2,880	3,811	5,033	5,149	5,829	7,195	6,361	7,736	5,498	52,715
Roads & Transport	30,423	24,138	21,427	25,410	24,465	26,542	38,278	35,692	26,380	42,905	295,660
Streetscape & Public Domain	12,049	36,179	40,957	47,380	41,106	35,015	40,307	23,249	19,030	45,062	340,334
Parks & Recreation	16,570	17,711	15,807	9,990	9,669	8,510	10,307	11,168	23,298	9,484	132,514
Stormwater Drainage	2,705	2,919	2,609	1,897	1,941	1,986	2,031	2,078	2,126	2,175	22,467
Council Buildings	10,969	10,175	10,210	8,743	8,944	9,150	9,360	9,576	9,796	10,021	96,944
Trees & Natural Environment	509	890	5,385	315	322	445	337	345	353	361	9,262
Total Projects	**76,448**	**94,892**	**100,206**	**98,768**	**91,596**	**87,477**	**107,815**	**88,469**	**88,719**	**115,506**	**949,896**

Table 7 - Projected capital expenditure under Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario (significant expenditure changes compared to the Base Case scenario highlighted in green)

Liquidity measures

Council's working capital result, under this scenario, is unchanged from the Base Case.

Borrowings

Borrowings between this scenario, and the Base Case scenario, are unchanged. Once the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre loan is discharged by the end of 2031/32, the funds will be reallocated to the recreational facilities category.

Current loans for Council's investment property at 828 Pacific Highway and the St Ives Indoor Sports Centre will be serviced.

The LTFP provides for repayments of debt to occur on either a schedule specified by the terms of individual loans or at a time where funds are available, and the overall cost of debt can be reduced by making opportunistic repayments.

The following chart shows Council's projected outstanding debt and the Net Debt Service Cost for the next 10 years. Net Debt Service Cost includes total interest plus principal repayments.

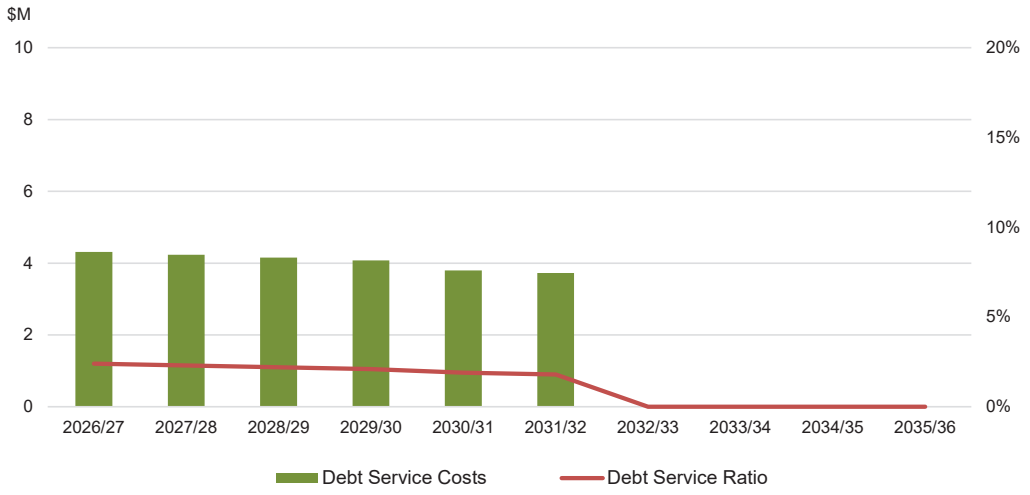


Figure 7 – Council's debt service costs and ratio under the Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario

Scenario comparison

The table below provides a comparison of the Base Case and Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenarios.

Scenario	Base Case	Renew & Enhance Infrastructure
Rate peg (2026/27)	4.4%	4.4%
Special rate variation (2026/27)	0%	24.6%
Total rate increase (2026/27)	4.4%	29%
Average Operating Result[8] from 2026/27 to 2035/36	$350k (deficit)	$23.6m (surplus)
Infrastructure Backlog in 2026/27[9]	$198m	$182m
Infrastructure Backlog in 2035/36 [10]	$285m	$97m
% change in Infrastructure Backlog from 2026/27 to 2035/36	44% increase	47% decrease
Focus areas for additional funding for renewal of existing infrastructure	None, no additional funding available	Buildings Footpaths Stormwater Recreational facilities
Funding for new infrastructure projects which are currently not funded	None, no additional funding available	St Ives Indoor Sports Centre Expansion of new footpath program Traffic and transport facilities
Ten-year capital expenditure program	$705.0m	$949.9m
Debt extinguished	2031/32	2031/32

Table 8 – Scenario comparison

[8] Excludes capital grants and contributions.
[9] Infrastructure backlog on 2026/27 is lower in the Renew & Enhance Infrastructure scenario due special rate variation allocated.
[10] This is the cost to bring Council's Very Poor and Poor Assets to an agreed level (CTA).

Capacity of ratepayers to afford Special Rate Variation (SRV)

To progress an SRV application, Council must illustrate that the impact on affected ratepayers is reasonable. This is known as a capacity to pay analysis.

Council has undertaken a preliminary analysis of the capacity of residential ratepayers to afford all the rate increase options exhibited from July to September 2025.

Indicators in favour of a capacity to pay include the fact the Ku-ring-gai LGA has:

- Among Australia's highest levels of advantage and lowest levels of disadvantage, when using the Australian Bureau of Statistics' Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) score.
- A lower proportion of vulnerable households, pensioners and people requiring core assistance, compared to Greater Sydney
- A lower percentage of income spent on rates (according to 2021 Census income data) and a higher proportion of full home ownership, compared to Greater Sydney
- An improvement in household savings from 2018/19 to 2023/24, compared to a reduction in savings across Australia during the same period
- At the end of 2024/25, just three ratepayers subject to Council's Rates, Charges and Sundry Debts - Assistance, Concessions and Recovery Policy.

Indicators which show capacity to pay limitations include:

- A proportion of households paying mortgages, and overall levels of mortgage stress, which are higher than Greater Sydney
- A lower proportion of working age individuals compared to Sydney
- An average residential rate which, if a 29% rate increase is implemented in 2026/27, will move from the 8th highest among Sydney metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils, to the 3rd highest.
- A percentage of outstanding rates which has increased in each year since 2020/21 and, in 2024/25, sits above the benchmark level of 5%

Overall, it is considered that the indicators in favour of a residential ratepayer capacity to pay outweigh the potential limitations.

Regarding business ratepayers, Ku-ring-gai has historically had average business rates well below the average of comparable councils. With a 29% rate increase, Ku-ring-gai will move only slightly above the overall average rate for all councils.

When reviewed in tandem with the low proportion of business ratepayers, positive industry indicators, as well as low levels of outstanding business rates, it is considered that there are good indicators of capacity to pay for business ratepayers.

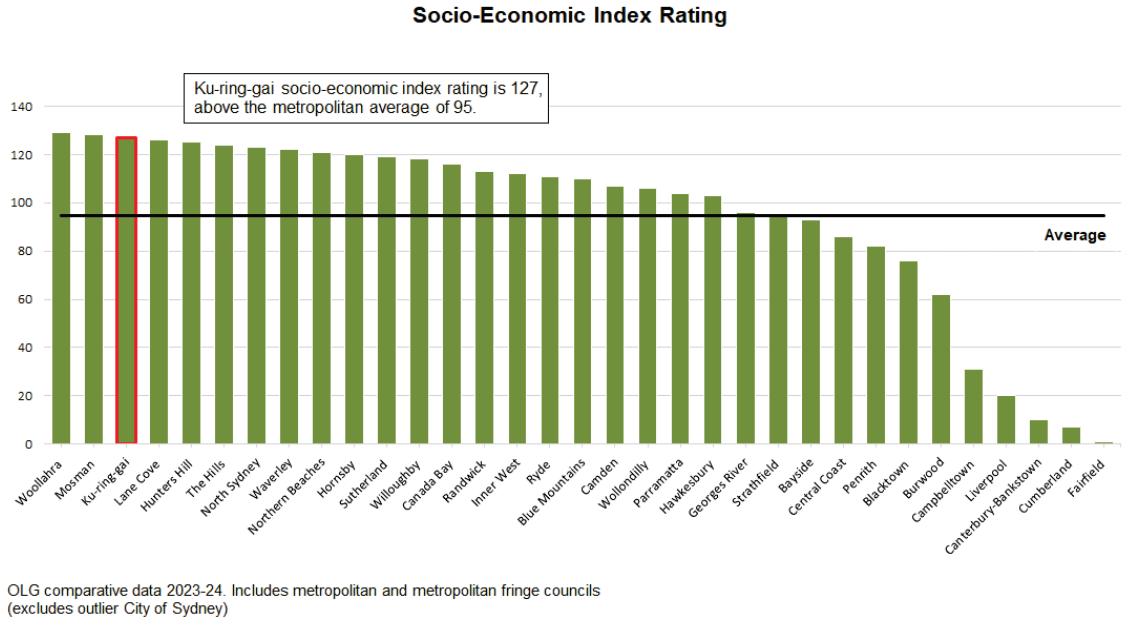
Below are some of the key data sources in favour of a residential capacity to pay.

Socio-economic advantage

Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that the population of the Ku-ring-gai local government area has the third highest level of socio-economic advantage among all Sydney, NSW and Australian local government areas.

Advantage ranking	Council	State
1	Woollahra	NSW
2	Mosman	NSW
3	Ku-ring-gai	NSW
4	Darwin Waterfront Precinct	Northern Territory
5	North Sydney	NSW
6	Waverley	NSW
7	Lane Cove	NSW
8	Peppermint Grove	Western Australia
9	Nedlands	Western Australia
10	Cottesloe	Western Australia

Table 9 – Ranking of most advantaged Australian councils under Australian Bureau of Statistics 2021 Index of Relative Socio-economic Advantage and Disadvantage (IRSAD)

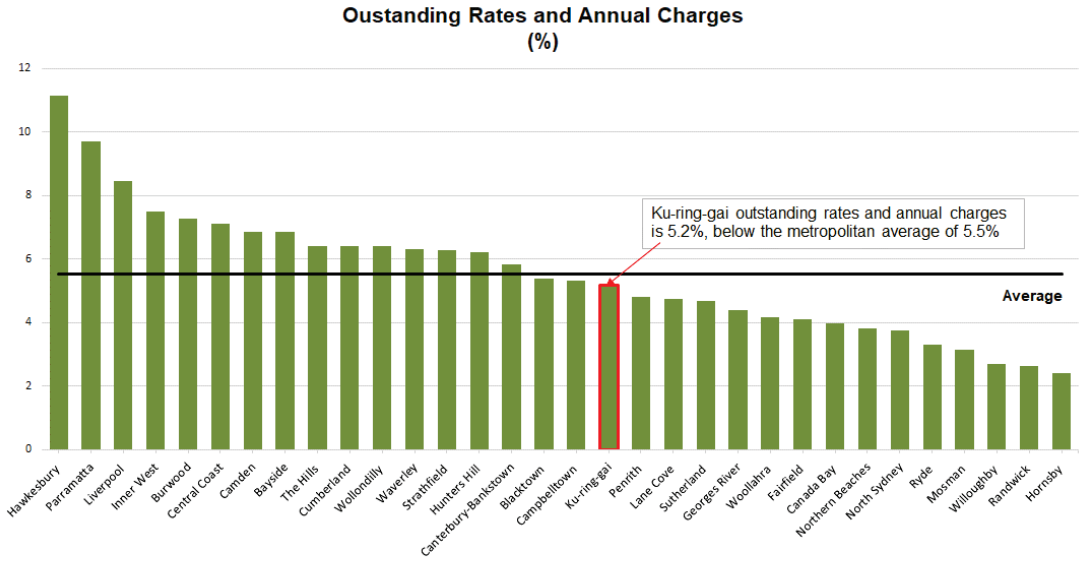


OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney)

Figure 8 – Ku-ring-gai's socio-economic index rating compared to other Sydney councils 2023/24

Outstanding rates

Ku-ring-gai's percentage of outstanding rates and charges, in 2023/24, was 5.2%, which was slightly below the metropolitan and metropolitan fringe council average of 5.5% in 2023/24, according to Office of Local Government comparative data. Council regularly has levels of outstanding rates that are below average in NSW, an indication of both capacity and willingness to pay.

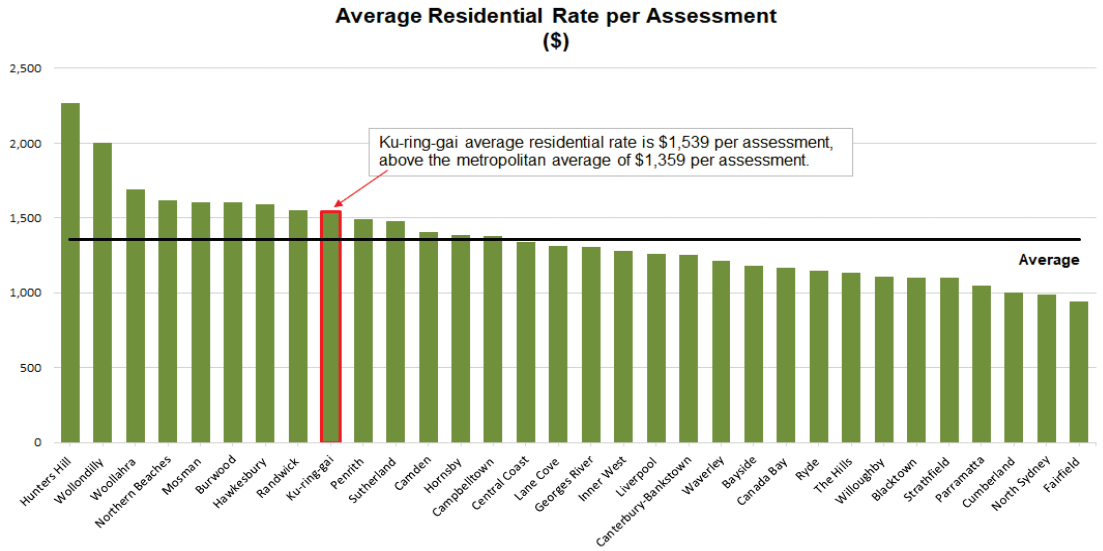


OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains)

Figure 9 – Percentage of rates and charges outstanding among Sydney councils in 2023/24

Average residential rates

Council's average 2023/24 residential rate of $1,539, while above the Sydney council average of $1,359, falls beneath other high socio-economic areas such as Hunters Hill, Woollahra, Northern Beaches, Burwood, Randwick and Mosman. In addition, the table below does not take into account a confirmed SRV in Willoughby which commenced in 2024/25, nor a SRV approved for Northern Beaches to commence in 2025/26.



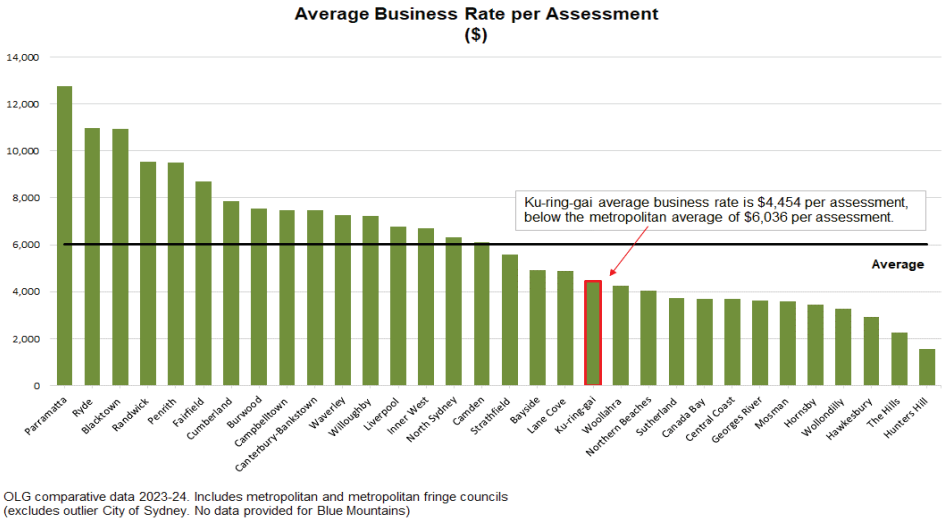
OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains)

Figure 10 – Average residential rate - metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils in 2023/24

If the preferred SRV option is implemented in 2026/27, this will increase the average residential rate, mainly due to large property land values in the LGA and a low proportion of business rates.

Average business rates

Council's average business rate of $4,454 in 2023/24, was well below the metropolitan average of $6,036.

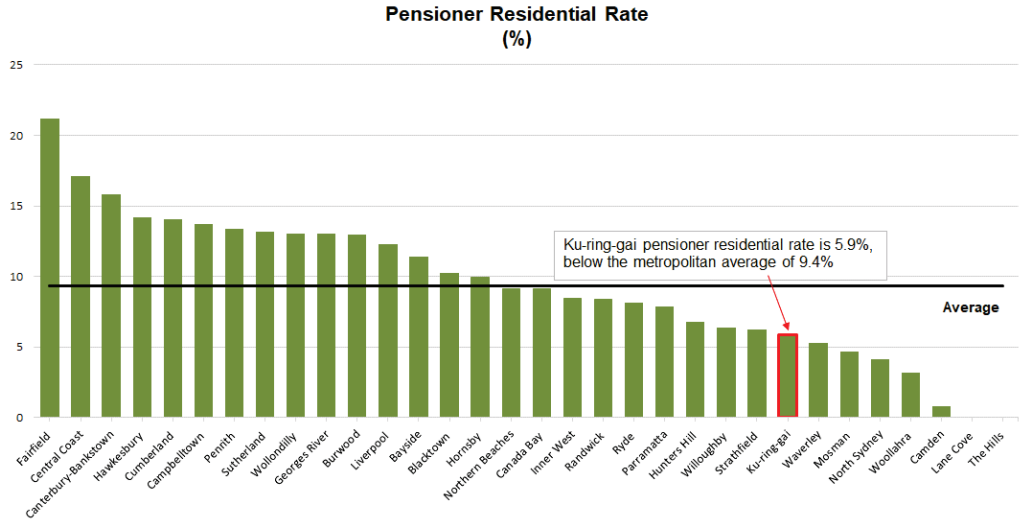


OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains)

Figure 11 – Average business rate among metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils in 2023/24

Relatively low rate of pensioners paying rates

In 2023/24, on average, some 9.4% of residential ratepayers across Sydney councils were claiming the pensioner rate. In Ku-ring-gai, the figure was 5.9%. Ku-ring-gai's low rate of pensioner ratepayers is therefore a potential indicator of capacity to pay.



OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains)

Figure 12 – Percentage of residential ratepayers who were claiming the pensioner rebate in 2023/24

Residential rates to income ratio

When average weekly residential rates for 2023/24 are compared with the median weekly household income to create a residential rate to income ratio, Ku-ring-gai sits towards the lower end of all metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils.

This indicates that on average Ku-ring-gai's residential rates are comparatively affordable for its community, with a lower ratio indicating increased affordability. The average across all comparison councils is 1.2%, with Ku-ring-gai sitting below this at 1.0%.

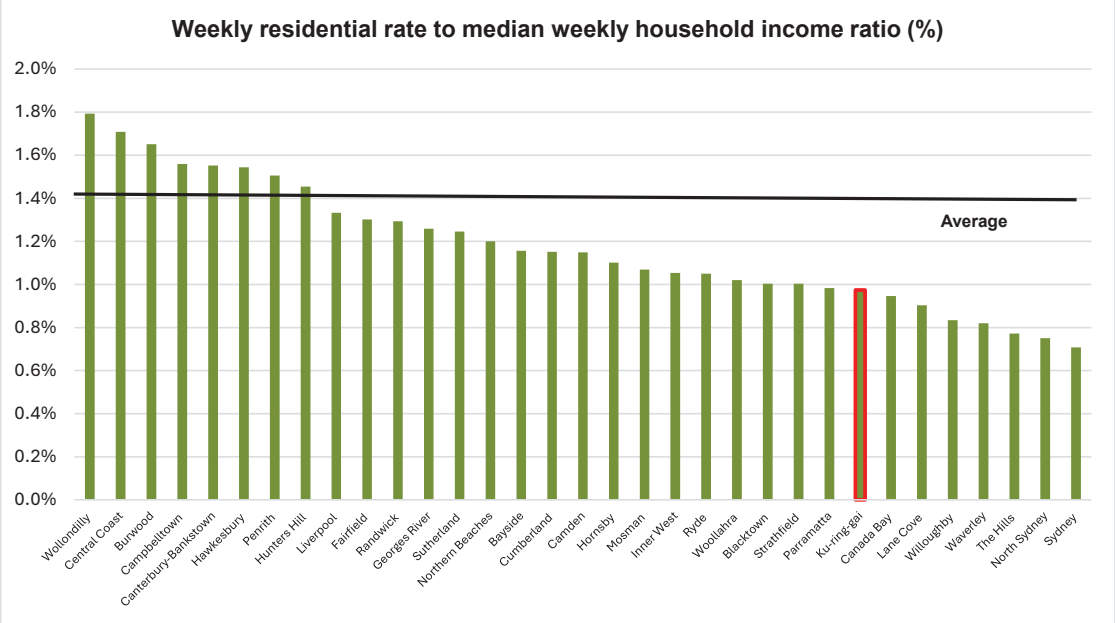


Figure 13 – Weekly residential rate to median weekly household income ratio 2023/24

Hardship provisions

Council has a *Rates, Charges and Sundry Debts – Assistance, Concessions and Recovery Policy,* which is available on Council's website.

The Policy states that Council recognises that ratepayers may at times have difficulty paying their rates and charges and outlines the steps and processes Council will consider in these circumstances. Council will be careful and considerate in the assessment of any hardship applications.

Key assistance measures provided by Council are

- **Flexible Payment Plans**: Ratepayers facing financial difficulty may request customised payment plans. Arrangements are assessed individually, with consideration given to the applicant's circumstances and payment history.
- **Flexible Payment Solution:** Council introduced a new flexible payment solution ("Payble") for ratepayers. It enables ratepayers to easily set up and manage payment plans for both current and overdue rates. The platform aims to make paying rates more convenient, reduce the number of overdue accounts, and lower administrative costs associated with payment processing.
- **Interest Relief:** Council may reduce or waive interest on overdue rates and charges for eligible applicants who demonstrate genuine hardship and adhere to agreed payment arrangements.

- **Pensioner Concessions:** Statutory rebates and additional voluntary concessions are available to eligible pensioners. This includes a statutory concession of up to $250, which Council is required to provide under the Local Government Act. Council also provides an additional voluntary concession which makes up 8.5% of total rates and charges. In 2026/27, for the average pensioner, this amount is worth an additional concession of $176 for the base case scenario and $205 for the renew & enhance scenario.
- **Hardship Applications**: Ratepayers experiencing financial hardship can apply for assistance. Applications are reviewed confidentially and, on a case-by-case basis, in line with Council's policy and legislative requirements. Council staff will offer guidance and support through the hardship application process
- **Debt Recovery and Support**: Council's approach to debt recovery prioritises fairness and transparency, with a focus on supporting ratepayers to meet their obligations while ensuring responsible financial management.

Productivity and cost containment

Council has demonstrated financial discipline over a long period of time, containing the cost of providing services within a culture of continuous productivity improvement.

In progressing its preferred rate increase, Council will continue to take actions to deliver productivity and cost containment, to seek out efficiencies and find alternative revenue sources, to reduce the overall impact on ratepayers.

Council has demonstrated financial discipline over a long period of time, containing the cost of providing services within a culture of continuous productivity improvement.

Our approach to financial management and efficiency is structured around five key elements:

- **Financial management and governance:** Council operates under a stringent legislative and regulatory framework which ensures responsible and sustainable spending.
- **Optimisation of revenue:** Seeking opportunities to increase revenue from diverse sources to minimise the financial burden on ratepayers.
- **Service improvement review program:** Targeted reviews to reallocate resources, streamline business processes, and benchmark operations against best practices and other councils to identify areas for improvement and efficiency.
- **Ongoing business improvements:** Other initiatives to streamline processes, reduce unnecessary administration and waste, and innovations to maintain levels of services within available budgets, and free up funding and staff time.
- **Tracking and reporting performance:** Public reporting on key financial, efficiency and productivity measures, progress of service improvement reviews and delivery of other business improvements.

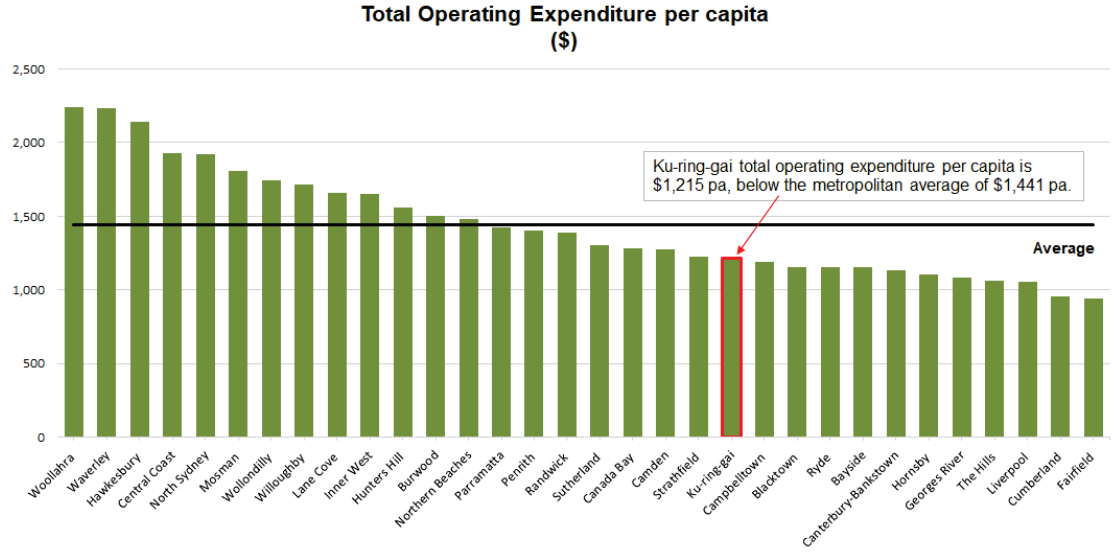
This chapter explains a number of the actions Council has taken, and will continue to take, to reduce the ratepayer burden.

Recent comparative data

Operating expenditure per capita

Expenditure per capita is considered a factor of efficiency because it reflects how effectively a council delivers services and manages resources relative to its population.

In 2023/24, Ku-ring-gai Council had an operating expenditure per capita of $1,215, which was 16% less than the Sydney average of $1,441, and is a further indicator of efficiency. This suggests that Council is managing its operations and delivering services more cost-effectively compared to the average across Sydney.

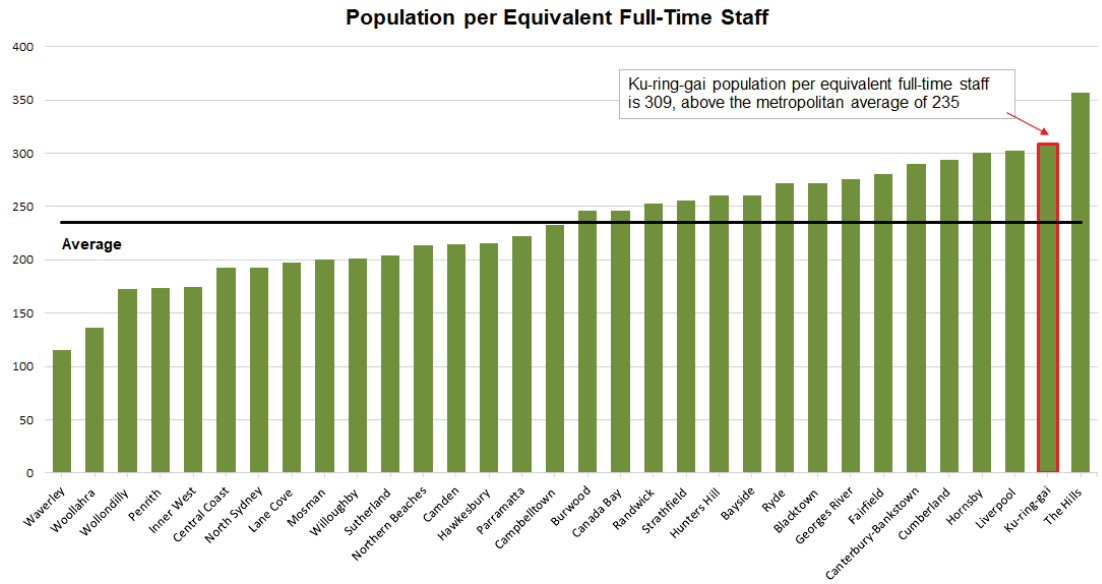


OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains)

Figure 14 – Operating expenditure per capita among Sydney councils 2023/24

Ratio of residents to staff

Each individual Ku-ring-gai Council full-time equivalent staff member in 2023/24 serviced 309 residents, which is the second highest of any Sydney council and well above the Sydney average of 235 residents. The Financial Sustainability Review indicated this was a sign of efficiency.



OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains)

Figure 15 – Number of residents for each full-time equivalent staff member among metropolitan councils in 2023/24

Low operating expenditure cost increases

In recent years, Ku-ring-gai has had the 4th lowest average annual increase in operating expenditure out of any Sydney council, which is a sign of cost containment and efficiency.

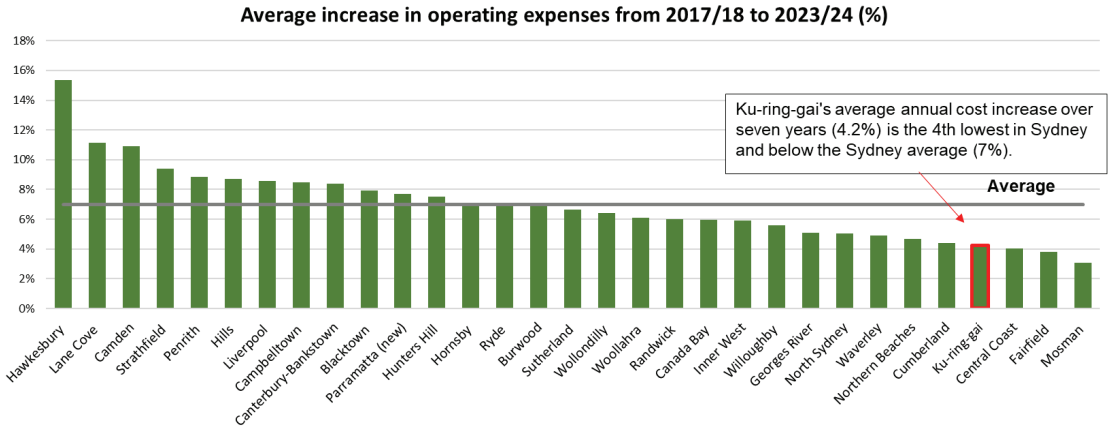
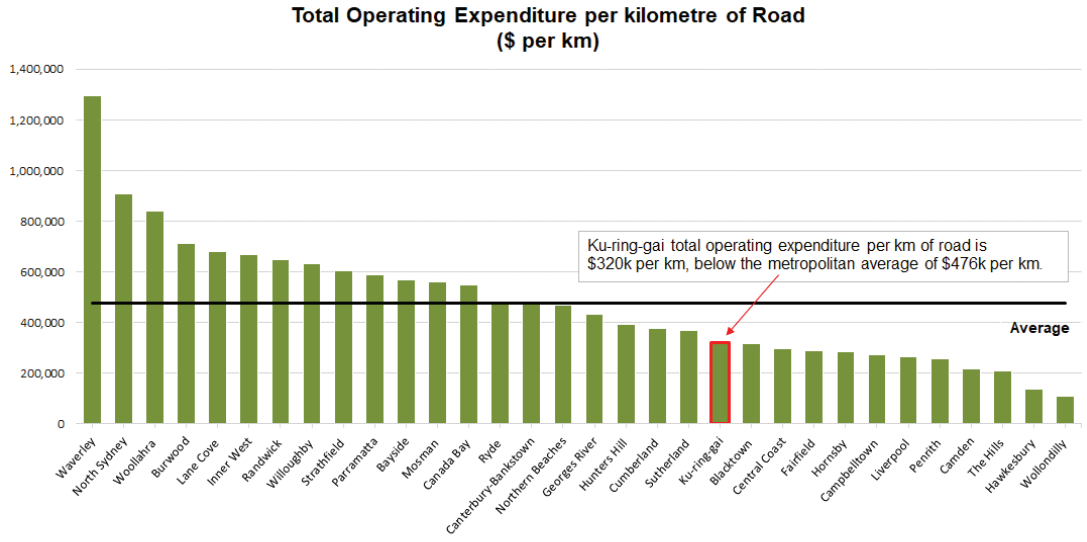


Figure 16 – Average increase in operating expenses among metropolitan councils from 2017/18 to 2023/24 (Source OLG Data 2023/24)

Operating expenditure per kilometre of road

Operating expenditure per kilometre (km) of road includes all operating expenditure, not just the amount spent on roads. It is a useful indicator for urban metropolitan councils as the length of road generally correlates to the amount of area that is developed for human habitation, requiring support from local government services and infrastructure. Ku-ring-gai operating expenditure per km of road is $320,000 which is 32% below the metropolitan average of $476,000 per km or road.



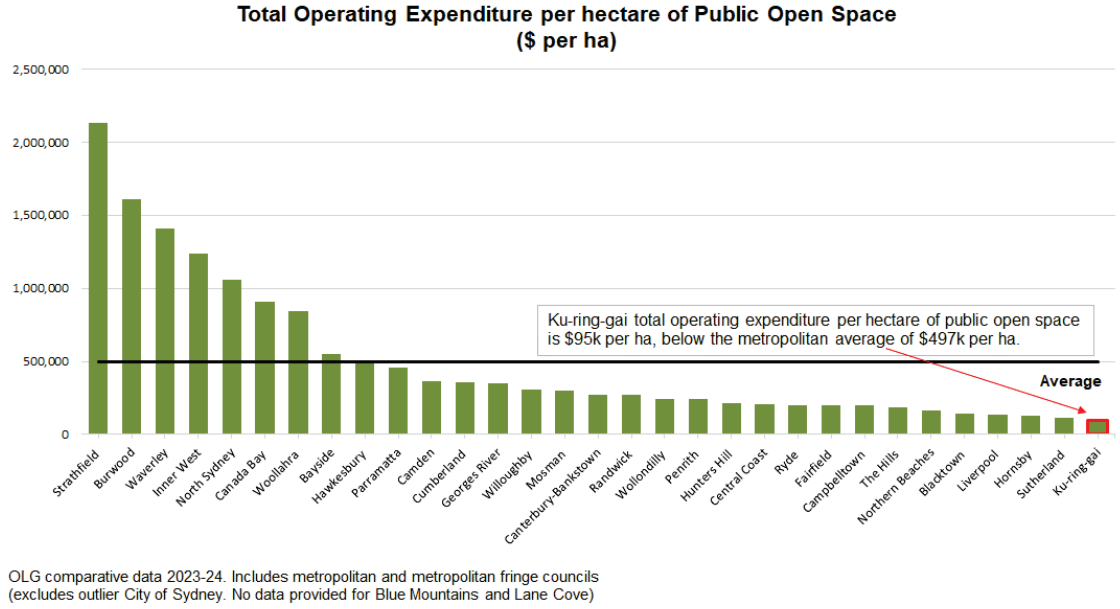
OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains)

Figure 17 – Total Operating Expenditure per kilometre of road among metropolitan councils in 2023/24

Operating expenditure per hectare of open space

Ku-ring-gai Council's spending on open space is significantly lower than the group average, at 80% less per hectare.

With an expenditure of $95,486 per hectare, Ku-ring-gai ranks last among thirty-one councils, compared to the group average of $496,516 per hectare. However, this also reflects the financial challenge posed by having a vast area of open space to service with comparatively lower rates revenue.



OLG comparative data 2023-24. Includes metropolitan and metropolitan fringe councils (excludes outlier City of Sydney. No data provided for Blue Mountains and Lane Cove)

Figure 18 – Total Operating Expenditure per hectare of Public Open Space among metropolitan councils in 2023/24

Service reviews

Council commenced a targeted service review framework to further encourage service delivery improvement across Council operations.

The framework includes a service review program to systematically review Council services, identify opportunities to improve efficiency and effectiveness, and to support the delivery and evaluation of necessary changes.

The program will also include the identification of key performance indicators and benchmarks to measure and track productivity and performance over time.

The following service improvement reviews are currently underway or have been completed in 2024/25:

- **Communications and engagement**: A key finding from the review was that staffing levels of the Corporate Communications team are lower compared to other benchmarked councils and the unit is operating with a leaner communication and engagement function relative to its peers.
- **Maintenance of sports fields**: The review highlighted that material and contract costs have increased significantly over the past three years (primarily due to rising contractor expenses and electricity), but that employee costs have remained stable. Comparisons with Northern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils (NSROC) members revealed that Ku-ring-gai provides a

significantly higher number of turf fields per resident, and that operational costs per hectare and per field are amongst the lowest in the region.

- **Development application (DA) assessment service**: The review found that resourcing levels were comparable to other councils but may not be sufficient to meet increasing workload and the requirement to reduce assessment times in the coming years.

Recommendations arising from each of these reviews are being implemented, and the progress and outcomes will be published in Council's Annual Reports.

Targeted reviews of Councils compliance and regulatory functions and community development programs have completed, and reviews of environment and sustainability programs and libraries are in progress and will finalise in 2025/2026.

Savings, productivity and revenue measures

Council has implemented a range of measures to increase non-rate revenue and improve efficiency.

Some revenue measures have included:

- Increasing rental returns from property management through repurposing of certain existing buildings, the removal of historical subsidy arrangements and renewals in line with market valuations
- Improving revenue from tennis court bookings, through increased utilisation, an improved online booking system and automated court allocation service
- Reviewing and adjusting fees and charges to reflect costs of providing the services supported by these fees (such as golf course fees to align with other comparable courses within the region and to reflect the increase in maintenance costs.
- Actively pursuing grant opportunities to support asset upgrades, programs and other initiatives.

Other saving and productivity measures included:

- Strict budget control by freezing volume increases, requiring departments to operate within their allocated budgets, redirecting savings to fund capital works and maintain affordability
- Actively managing debt by moving from variable to fixed-rate loan interest rates, to reduce loan costs by managing the risk of increasing rates
- Securing a loan subsidy for a major project through the LCLI (Low-Cost Loan Initiative) managed by the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI)
- Introducing a new Application for convenient and efficient payment of rates by ratepayers, along with a new Waste Application to improve the customer experience and reduce enquiries on waste collection.
- Delivering library collection management and technology systems efficiencies
- Improving asset management initiatives through detailed analyses and strategic planning for:
    - Stormwater Management (covered earlier in this report): By optimising the pipe relining methodology, Council achieved cost savings in the replacement of drainage assets and reduced depreciation expenses.
    - Building Portfolio: A comprehensive review enhanced understanding of long-term funding needs and resulted in the development of a prioritised capital upgrade program for Council's buildings.
- Continuing to be part of the shared service for internal audit service, which provides services for six Councils. This enables economies of scale in the provision of internal audit services and improved efficiency.

Alternatives to a Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Service reductions

While Council will continue to look for better ways of delivering services, and is continually examining its service delivery program, it does not believe that wholesale service reductions is a viable alternative to a SRV.

Under the preferred Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario, the SRV would yield an additional $20.7 million above rate peg in revenue in 2026/27, and largely be put towards infrastructure renewal, which is equivalent to around 35% of Council's projected employee benefits and on-costs in the same year. The areas subject to service reductions would need to be considered through a consultative budget process and would inevitably result in the removal of services which are currently rated as important by community members.

In addition, the significant reduction in staffing which would come about through the service reductions would severely inhibit the ability of Council to deliver the infrastructure renewal which is needed, nor attract additional or new staff to undertake this work.

Debt and borrowing

Taking out new borrowings to deal with broader financial sustainability and infrastructure provision issues without identified sources of repayment is not considered to be a prudent approach.

This is because borrowing would:

- Worsen Council's Operating Results, by adding debt repayments
- Require future generations to pay for today's expenditure
- Not be linked to an individual asset or project; and
- Not address the underlying business fundamentals.

Further asset sales

The issue of asset sales was examined in Council's Financial Sustainability Review, published in February 2023. It noted that the asset sale strategy originally envisaged in 2016, involving the sale of $111 million in assets to improve Council's financial sustainability and to undertake major projects, was not likely to be implemented at that time (due to a lack of support for the sale of particular assets). It also raised concerns about asset sales being used as a basis for long-term financial sustainability.[11] As such, further asset sales are not proposed as an alternative to a SRV. However, future asset sales to fund major projects remain an option for Council to explore.

Further revenue and efficiency measures

The previous chapter outlines a range of revenue and efficiency measures. It is unlikely that further revenue and efficiency measures will be sufficient to overcome the very significant infrastructure backlog which has been forecast in this LTFP.

[11] Ku-ring-gai Council Financial Sustainability Review, by Morrison Low, published January 2023, pages 14-17

Sensitivity analysis

The following table lists the major assumptions affecting the LTFP results and shows the impact of varying them. This impact is classified as Low, Moderate or Significant in terms of quality and quantum of service delivery to constituents.

	Impact	Comment
Revenue		
Inflation/CPI	Low	Changes in inflation will affect both revenue and expenditure, but increases in the assumption are likely to be negative for the projected operating surplus.
Rates Income – Rate Peg	Moderate to Significant	The official rate peg for 2025/26 announced by IPART was 6.1%, and 4.4% in 2026/27. The rate peg is assumed to increase by 4% in 2027/28, 3.5% in 2028/29 and 2029/30 and 3% in all remaining years, along with a 0.3% population increment. Changes in rate pegging will affect revenue forecasts, and these will have a large impact on the LTFP Model. Non-achievement of property and rates income growth forecasts will directly affect provision of new infrastructure and the rate at which existing infrastructure can be renewed.
Investment Earnings	Moderate	Council's investments portfolio is subject to fluctuations in interest rates. An adverse movement in interest rates will reduce investment income and impact on capital expenditure and service levels, with only a minor offset through savings in variable interest loan costs. Council is forecasting an increase in interest earning in the short term, however, projected increased spending from developer contribution reserve will decrease Council's investment portfolio and interest earnings mid- to long term.
Proceeds from Asset Sales	Moderate	The LTFP assumes sale of assets ($2.2 million) for the 10 years fund Council's co-contribution in its S7.11 Development Contributions Plan. If these asset sales are not realised, either cuts to services and other capital would have to be made or alternatively the s7.11 projects requiring Council co-contributions would have to be deferred or deleted from the program.
Grants	Low for specific purpose grants. Moderate/Significant for general purpose grants (FAG)	The LTFP model includes operational grants and capital grants that have already been awarded. Council does not have a strong reliance on specific purpose grants revenue in comparison with other sources of revenue. Programs funded by specific purpose grants may not be offered by the Council if the grants were eliminated. The general-purpose (including local roads) component of the Council's Financial Assistance Grant (FAG) is $5.05 million. If this grant were reduced or eliminated, the Council would need to consider significantly reducing capital expenditure and operating service levels.
Expenditure		
Employee Costs	Significant	This is one of Council's largest costs. The number of employees in operating activities is assumed to remain constant with cost increases in line with forecast or known Award changes. This volume assumption is at risk from possible future changes to conditions, further devolvement of functions from other levels of government and from growth in Council services requiring additional staffing. The Award increase assumptions are at risk as Council has no direct control over this. The current estimate is a 4.5% increase 2026/27, 4% in 2027/28, 3.5% in 2028/29 and 2029/30 and then a 3% increase for the remaining years of the LTFP. This exceeds other cost increases, which puts pressure on balancing future budgets.
Borrowing costs	Moderate	Council's outstanding loan balance will reach $17.6 m in 2026/27. The outstanding loans will be discharged by 2031/32 from future net revenue generated from leasing out the investment property at 828 Pacific Highway, Gordon, and a proposed special rate variation. This carries a moderate risk in terms of delays in realising income if the current building (investment property) in future is leased out at a lower occupancy rate than predicted in the LTFP.

Table 10 – Sensitivity analysis

The following table illustrates monetary sensitivity to variations in the assumptions

Income & Expenditure Categories	Assumption	2026/27 Base $'000	Sensitivity to a 10% Variation in the Assumption $	Sensitivity to a 20% Variation in the Assumption $
Income:				
Rates	4.70%	87,032	409,050	818,100
Annual Charges (DW & others)	2.50%	28,175	70,438	140,875
Fees & Charges	3.52%	27,254	95,934	191,868
Operating Grants	2.70%	10,215	27,581	55,161
Interest on Investments	4.22%	9,289	39,200	78,399
Other Income	2.70%	14,872	40,154	80,309
Expenditure:				
Employee Costs	5.30%	58,556	310,347	620,694
Borrowing Costs	4.25%	915	3,889	7,778
Materials & Contracts	2.70%	75,348	203,440	406,879
Depreciation	-1.44%	30,363	43,118	86,236
Other Expenditure	2.70%	11,609	31,344	62,689

Table 11 – Monetary sensitivity to variations to assumptions

The sensitivity analysis shows that rates income and employee costs would have the greatest impact if there were a future variation from the LTFP assumptions.

If there are adverse variations in the future from the LTFP assumptions, adjustments will need to be made to operations and capital programs to maintain financial sustainability. The sensitivity analysis brings into sharp focus the need to manage employee numbers and costs.

Capital works projects

Council will progress a large number of projects during the life of the LTFP. A sample of these projects are listed below.

Werona Avenue and Heritage Square, Gordon

This project involves upgrade works to Werona Avenue on the eastern side of Gordon and upgrade works to Heritage Square on St Johns Avenue. The works will complement the completed St Johns Avenue Streetscape works. Improvements will include new and renewed footpaths with high quality paving; street trees; new LED street lighting; and street furniture. Construction is planned to commence in late 2026/ early 2027.

Bedes Forest Expansion, St Ives

Council adopted a concept plan for the park in 2022 and is currently finalising construction drawings for this new park on the corner of Yarabah Avenue and Stanley Street, St Ives. The park will be almost 8,000 square metres in area, once completed, and will provide a diversity of activity areas including open grass, a playground, basketball facilities, a community garden, as well as an extensive nature play area. Construction is planned to commence in late 2026.

Robert Pymble Park

The Robert Pymble Park Master Plan was adopted by Council in March 2020. The Landscape Masterplan aims to conserve, protect, and enhance the landscape character of Robert Pymble Park while improving the amenity and aesthetics of the park.

The first stage of the Master Plan works, the upgrade of the playground, was completed in February 2023. Works are on-going for the completion of detailed design which will be completed in late 2026/early 2027. Construction phase is now planned to commence in late 2027/ early 2028.

Gordon (North) Streetscape Improvements

This project involves upgrade works to streets in the northern part of Gordon local centre including Fitzsimons Lane, Merriwa Street and Pacific Highway. The area has undergone extensive renewal in the past 10 years which has brought a large number of new residents. Improved pedestrian safety and amenity have become a priority. Improvements will include new and renewed footpaths with high quality paving; street trees; new LED street lighting; and street furniture. There have been some significant delays with the detailed design of this project which has pushed construction back. The construction phase is now planned to commence in late 2026/ early 2027.

Lindfield Streetscape Improvements

This project involves upgrade works to streets on the eastern side of Lindfield including Lindfield Avenue and Tryon Road. The works will complement the recently completed Lindfield Village Green and will focus on improving pedestrian safety by managing traffic and parking conflicts and improving access to the rail station. Improvements will include new and renewed footpaths with high quality paving; street trees; new LED street lighting; and street furniture. New traffic signals at the intersection of Lindfield Avenue and Tryon Road will replace the existing signals. New traffic signals at the intersection of Strickland Avenue and Pacific highway are also proposed to support the delivery of the Lindfield Village Hub. Construction is planned to commence in early 2027 pending authority approvals.

Pymble Streetscape Improvements

This project involves upgrade works to Grandview Street, Pymble local centre. The works will focus on improving pedestrian conditions and providing outdoor dining areas through footpath extensions and traffic calming measures. Improvements will include new and renewed footpaths with high quality paving; street trees; new LED street lighting; and street furniture. The project will be handed over to Operations in late 2026 to prepare detail design and tender documentation.

St Ives Streetscape Improvements

This project involves upgrade works to streets and parks of St Ives local centre including Stanley Street, Porters Lane, Rosedale Road as well as Rotary and Memorial Parks. The works will focus on improving pedestrian conditions and improving conditions for bicycle user. Small parks will be renewed to create environments where residents and workers can rest and linger. Improvements will include new and renewed footpaths with high quality paving; street trees; new LED street lighting; and street furniture.

Council adopted the St Ives Public Domain Plan in March 2022. The project will be handed over to Operations in early 2027 to prepare detail design and tender documentation.

Turramurra Streetscape Improvements

This project involves upgrade works to Rohini Street in Turramurra local centre. The works will focus on improving pedestrian conditions through improved pedestrian crossing points and providing outdoor dining areas. A key focus of the plan will be to upgrade the bus interchange to improve safety, capacity and functionality. Staff are currently working with representatives from Transport for NSW to finalise the interchange design and funding. Improvements will include new and renewed footpaths with high quality paving; street trees; new LED street lighting; and street furniture.

Council adopted the Turramurra Public Domain Plan in March 2022. The project will be handed over to Operations in early 2027 to prepare detail design and tender documentation.

Roseville Streetscape Improvements

This project involves upgrade works to Hill Street, Roseville. The works will focus on improving pedestrian conditions though footpath widening and traffic calming measures. Improvements will include new and renewed footpaths with high quality paving; street trees; new LED street lighting; and street furniture.

Council adopted the Roseville Public Domain Plan in March 2022. The project will be handed over to Operations in early 2027 to prepare detail design and tender documentation.

Appendix A - LTFP Forecasts and Assumptions

REVENUE ASSUMPTIONS	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30	Projected 2030/31	Projected 2031/32	Projected 2032/33	Projected 2033/34	Projected 2034/35	Projected 2035/36
FORECASTS - ACCESS ECONOMICS										
Consumer Price Index (CPI)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
BBSW - 90 Day	3.3%	2.9%	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%	2.5%	2.5%	2.4%
INCOME ASSUMPTIONS										
Rates										
Rates Pegging Forecast	4.4%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%
Rates Population Growth	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Total Rates Change	4.7%	4.3%	3.8%	3.8%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%	3.3%
Fees and Charges	3.5%	3.2%	2.8%	2.8%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%
Domestic Waste Price Increase	2.5%	8.0%	6.5%	3.0%	2.4%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%	2.0%
Pensioner Rebate Growth	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%	1.3%
Stormwater Management Charge (rates growth only)	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Trade Waste - Annual Charges	3.5%	8.0%	6.5%	3.0%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%
Interest Income										
Interest Income - Rate based on 90 Days BBSW	4.2%	4.0%	3.8%	3.8%	3.7%	3.7%	3.6%	3.6%	3.6%	3.5%
Grants Income										
Recurrent Grants (CPI)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Capital Grants (CPI)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Proceeds from Assets Sales										
Asset Sales	0	463	259	794	632	0	0	85	0	0
EXPENDITURE ASSUMPTIONS										
Labour Costs	5.3%	4.8%	4.3%	4.3%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%	3.8%
Workers Compensation (= Emp Costs)										
Superannuation	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Material & Contracts - Operational Expenditure										
Operating Expenses (CPI)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Street Lighting Charges (IPART Decision)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Building Electricity Charges (IPART)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Water Charges (IPART Determination)	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%	6.8%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Fire Levy (CPI)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Planning Levy (CPI)	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Materials & Contracts - Capital Expenditure	2.7%	2.5%	2.4%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%
Borrowing Costs										
Loan Rate (95 bps over 90 BBSW or max of 4%)	4.3%	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%	3.7%

Appendix B – Base Case (Business as usual) financial tables

10 Year Financial Plan for the Years ending 30 June 2036

Projected Income Statement
Base Case (Business as usual)

$'000	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30	Projected 2030/31	Projected 2031/32	Projected 2032/33	Projected 2033/34	Projected 2034/35	Projected 2035/36
Income from Continuing Operations												
Rates & Annual Charges	103,479	110,063	115,207	121,626	128,604	134,984	141,249	147,643	154,982	161,557	167,993	174,244
User Charges & Fees	24,097	23,956	27,254	29,151	30,058	30,904	31,648	32,409	33,288	34,060	34,855	35,675
Interest & Investment Revenue	10,530	9,104	9,289	6,141	4,688	3,890	3,477	3,436	3,267	3,288	3,672	3,809
Other Revenues	14,317	13,895	14,872	15,357	15,807	16,271	16,695	17,131	17,578	18,038	18,510	18,994
Grants & Contributions for Operating Purposes	8,459	8,711	10,215	10,075	10,191	10,285	10,430	10,501	10,614	10,786	10,690	10,806
Grants & Contributions for Capital Purposes	18,043	14,827	20,123	19,649	21,124	36,611	31,666	35,251	35,537	33,497	27,689	27,524
Other Income:												
Net gains from the disposal of assets	3,675	-	-	330	187	578	464	-	-	64	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	**182,600**	**180,556**	**196,960**	**202,329**	**210,659**	**233,523**	**235,629**	**246,371**	**255,266**	**261,290**	**263,409**	**271,052**
Total Income excluding Proceeds from Asset Sales & Capital Income	160,882	165,729	176,837	182,350	189,348	196,334	203,499	211,120	219,729	227,729	235,720	243,528
Expenses from Continuing Operations												
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	49,146	54,159	58,556	61,356	63,986	66,727	69,255	71,879	74,603	77,430	80,364	83,409
Borrowing Costs	1,173	1,130	915	776	627	479	330	186	75	75	75	75
Materials & Contracts	67,873	69,722	75,348	79,471	81,327	84,446	87,362	89,368	91,421	93,520	95,668	97,865
Depreciation & Amortisation	27,062	29,525	30,363	31,996	33,290	34,534	35,808	36,994	38,386	39,597	41,131	42,366
Other Expenses	5,352	5,130	5,487	5,623	5,758	5,891	6,027	6,165	6,307	6,452	6,600	6,752
Other Operational Projects Expenses	9,997	11,152	6,122	6,940	7,609	7,154	7,148	7,373	8,880	8,098	8,033	8,070
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	**160,603**	**170,818**	**176,791**	**186,162**	**192,597**	**199,231**	**205,930**	**211,965**	**219,672**	**225,172**	**231,871**	**238,537**
Net Operating Result for the Year	**21,997**	**9,738**	**20,169**	**16,167**	**18,062**	**34,292**	**29,699**	**34,406**	**35,594**	**36,118**	**31,538**	**32,515**
Net Operating Result for the year before Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	3,954	- 5,089	46	- 3,482	- 3,062	- 2,319	- 1,967	- 845	57	2,621	3,849	4,991

10 Year Financial Plan for the Years ending 30 June 2036

Projected Balance Sheet
Base Case (Business as usual)

$ '000	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30	Projected 2030/31	Projected 2031/32	Projected 2032/33	Projected 2033/34	Projected 2034/35	Projected 2035/36
ASSETS												
Current Assets												
Cash & Cash Equivalents	793	24,908	22,988	15,373	15,319	14,572	16,533	19,468	19,929	22,956	27,187	30,441
Investments	78,998	65,500	60,700	51,000	37,200	31,500	28,500	28,600	25,000	27,900	32,100	31,200
Receivables	15,191	14,901	16,325	16,626	17,496	20,242	19,942	20,960	21,507	21,676	21,181	21,552
Inventories	257	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228
Other	6,522	4,206	4,544	5,091	4,614	4,750	4,818	4,727	4,765	4,770	4,754	4,763
Non-Current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	133	72	216	168	-	-	21	-	-	-
Total Current Assets	**101,761**	**109,743**	**104,918**	**88,389**	**75,072**	**71,459**	**70,021**	**73,982**	**71,449**	**77,530**	**85,450**	**88,184**
Non-Current Assets												
Investments	116,142	80,046	74,158	62,229	45,525	38,490	34,920	35,022	30,571	34,055	39,134	38,175
Receivables	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	2,802,842	2,823,003	2,819,231	2,863,126	2,909,291	2,952,272	2,985,346	3,013,729	3,058,153	3,086,280	3,106,453	3,138,892
Investment Property	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500
Intangible Assets	462	347	232	117	58	58	-	-	-	-	-	-
Right of Use Asset	1,285	1,215	31,795	31,099	30,403	29,707	29,011	28,315	27,619	26,923	26,227	25,531
Total Non-Current Assets	**2,971,273**	**2,955,153**	**2,975,958**	**3,007,113**	**3,035,818**	**3,071,069**	**3,099,819**	**3,127,609**	**3,166,885**	**3,197,800**	**3,222,356**	**3,253,139**
TOTAL ASSETS	**3,073,034**	**3,064,896**	**3,080,876**	**3,095,502**	**3,110,890**	**3,142,527**	**3,169,839**	**3,201,591**	**3,238,334**	**3,275,331**	**3,307,806**	**3,341,323**
LIABILITIES												
Current Liabilities												
Payables	42,118	27,138	25,674	26,956	27,211	27,526	28,094	28,387	28,918	29,155	29,423	29,725
Borrowings	3,338	3,338	3,460	3,525	3,593	3,465	3,540	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions	13,089	13,586	14,306	14,993	15,638	16,310	16,930	17,573	18,241	18,934	19,654	20,401
Total Current Liabilities	**58,545**	**44,062**	**43,440**	**45,474**	**46,442**	**47,302**	**48,564**	**45,960**	**47,159**	**48,089**	**49,076**	**50,126**
Non-Current Liabilities												
Payables	1,477	1,412	1,347	1,282	1,217	1,152	1,087	1,022	957	892	827	762
Borrowings	20,979	17,641	14,122	10,598	7,005	3,540	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions	298	309	326	341	356	371	385	400	415	431	447	464
Total Non-Current Liabilities	22,754	19,362	15,795	12,221	8,578	5,063	1,472	1,422	1,372	1,323	1,274	1,226
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**81,299**	**63,425**	**59,235**	**57,696**	**55,020**	**52,365**	**50,036**	**47,382**	**48,532**	**49,412**	**50,351**	**51,353**
Net Assets	**2,991,735**	**3,001,472**	**3,021,641**	**3,037,806**	**3,055,870**	**3,090,162**	**3,119,803**	**3,154,209**	**3,189,803**	**3,225,918**	**3,257,455**	**3,289,970**
EQUITY												
Retained Earnings	971,890	981,628	1,001,797	1,017,964	1,036,027	1,070,319	1,100,017	1,134,424	1,170,017	1,206,135	1,237,673	1,270,189
Revaluation Reserves	2,019,845	2,019,844	2,019,844	2,019,842	2,019,844	2,019,843	2,019,786	2,019,785	2,019,785	2,019,783	2,019,782	2,019,782
Council Equity Interest	**2,991,735**	**3,001,472**	**3,021,641**	**3,037,806**	**3,055,870**	**3,090,162**	**3,119,803**	**3,154,209**	**3,189,803**	**3,225,918**	**3,257,455**	**3,289,970**
Total Equity	**2,991,735**	**3,001,472**	**3,021,641**	**3,037,806**	**3,055,870**	**3,090,162**	**3,119,803**	**3,154,209**	**3,189,803**	**3,225,918**	**3,257,455**	**3,289,970**

10 Year Financial Plan for the Years ending 30 June 2036

Projected Cash Flow Statement
Base Case (Business as usual)

$ '000	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30	Projected 2030/31	Projected 2031/32	Projected 2032/33	Projected 2033/34	Projected 2034/35	Projected 2035/36
Cash Flows from Operating Activities												
Receipts:												
Rates & Annual Charges	102,786	110,353	113,783	121,326	127,734	132,238	141,548	146,625	154,435	161,387	168,488	173,873
User Charges & Fees	26,678	23,956	27,254	29,151	30,058	30,904	31,648	32,409	33,288	34,060	34,855	35,675
Investment & Interest Revenue Received	10,282	9,104	9,289	6,141	4,688	3,890	3,477	3,436	3,267	3,288	3,672	3,809
Grants & Contributions	15,043	23,538	30,338	29,724	31,315	46,896	42,096	45,752	46,151	44,283	38,379	38,330
Bonds, Deposits, Retention amounts received	4,314	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	23,053	16,240	14,534	14,810	16,284	16,135	16,627	17,222	17,540	18,033	18,526	18,985
Payments:												
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	- 51,691	- 53,650	- 57,820	- 60,654	- 63,327	- 66,039	- 68,621	- 71,221	- 73,920	- 76,721	- 79,628	- 82,645
Materials & Contracts	- 78,809	- 84,702	- 76,812	- 78,189	- 81,072	- 84,131	- 86,795	- 89,075	- 90,890	- 93,283	- 95,400	- 97,562
Borrowing Costs	- 1,173	- 1,130	- 915	- 776	- 627	- 479	- 330	- 186	- 75	- 75	- 75	- 75
Bonds, Deposits, Retention amounts refunded	- 3,802	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	- 11,033	- 16,282	- 11,609	- 12,563	- 13,367	- 13,045	- 13,175	- 13,538	- 15,187	- 14,550	- 14,633	- 14,822
Net Cash provided (or used) in Operating Activities	**35,648**	**27,426**	**48,043**	**48,971**	**51,687**	**66,370**	**66,475**	**71,424**	**74,609**	**76,422**	**74,184**	**75,568**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities												
Receipts:												
Sale of investment securities	116,700	107,460	58,052	93,769	134,601	103,299	90,152	83,540	83,574	75,543	82,311	91,727
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	8,530	-	-	463	259	794	632	-	-	85	-	-
Payments:												
Purchase of investment securities	- 110,798	- 57,867	- 47,363	- 72,140	- 104,097	- 90,565	- 83,581	- 83,743	- 75,522	- 81,927	- 91,590	- 89,868
Purchase of investment property	- 72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	- 57,490	- 49,501	- 57,190	- 75,152	- 78,915	- 76,987	- 68,186	- 64,681	- 82,135	- 67,028	- 60,608	- 74,109
Purchase of Intangible Assets	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cash provided in Investing Activities	**- 43,129**	**93**	**- 46,501**	**- 53,060**	**- 48,152**	**- 63,458**	**- 60,984**	**- 64,884**	**- 74,084**	**- 73,328**	**- 69,886**	**- 72,250**
Cash Flows from Financing Activities												
Receipts:												
Proceeds from Borrowings & Advances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments:												
Repayments of Borrowings & Advances	- 3,281	- 3,338	- 3,397	- 3,460	- 3,525	- 3,593	- 3,465	- 3,540	-	-	-	-
Lease Liabilities (Principal Repayment)	- 32	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65
Net Cash provided in Financing Activities	- 3,313	- 3,403	- 3,462	- 3,525	- 3,590	- 3,658	- 3,530	- 3,605	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	**- 10,794**	**24,116**	**- 1,920**	**- 7,615**	**- 55**	**- 747**	**1,961**	**2,935**	**460**	**3,029**	**4,233**	**3,254**
Plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	11,587	793	24,908	22,988	15,373	15,319	14,572	16,533	19,468	19,929	22,956	27,187
Cash & Cash Equivalents - end of year	793	24,909	22,988	15,373	15,317	14,572	16,533	19,468	19,928	22,958	27,189	30,441
Plus: Investments on hand - end of year	195,140	145,546	134,858	113,229	82,725	69,990	63,420	63,622	55,571	61,955	71,234	69,375
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	**195,933**	**170,455**	**157,845**	**128,602**	**98,042**	**84,562**	**79,953**	**83,091**	**75,499**	**84,913**	**98,423**	**99,816**

Appendix C – Renew and Enhance Infrastructure financial tables

10 Year Financial Plan for the Years ending 30 June 2036

Projected Income Statement
Renew and Enhance Infrastructure (special rate variation)

$'000	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30	Projected 2030/31	Projected 2031/32	Projected 2032/33	Projected 2033/34	Projected 2034/35	Projected 2035/36
Income from Continuing Operations												
Rates & Annual Charges	103,479	110,063	135,930	143,240	151,040	158,272	165,305	172,493	180,653	188,075	195,385	202,541
User Charges & Fees	24,097	23,956	27,254	29,351	30,358	31,204	31,948	32,709	33,588	34,360	35,155	35,975
Interest & Investment Revenue	10,530	9,104	9,289	6,259	4,834	4,068	3,679	3,678	3,535	3,647	4,116	4,008
Other Revenues	14,317	13,895	14,872	15,357	15,807	16,271	16,695	17,131	17,578	18,038	18,510	18,994
Grants & Contributions for Operating Purposes	8,459	8,711	10,215	10,226	10,407	10,606	10,859	11,039	11,266	11,552	11,575	11,811
Grants & Contributions for Capital Purposes	18,043	14,827	20,123	19,649	21,124	36,611	31,666	35,251	35,537	33,497	27,689	27,524
Other Income:												
Net gains from the disposal of assets	3,675	-	-	330	187	578	464	-	-	64	-	-
Total Income from Continuing Operations	**182,600**	**180,556**	**217,683**	**224,412**	**233,757**	**257,610**	**260,616**	**272,301**	**282,157**	**289,233**	**292,430**	**300,853**
Total Income excluding Proceeds from Asset Sales & Capital Income	160,882	165,729	197,560	204,433	212,446	220,421	228,486	237,050	246,620	255,672	264,741	273,329
Expenses from Continuing Operations												
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	49,146	54,159	58,556	61,356	63,986	66,727	69,255	71,879	74,603	77,430	80,364	83,409
Borrowing Costs	1,173	1,130	915	776	627	479	330	186	75	75	75	75
Materials & Contracts	67,985	69,722	75,348	80,631	82,515	85,661	88,605	90,640	92,721	94,851	97,029	99,258
Depreciation & Amortisation	27,062	29,525	30,426	32,124	33,487	34,802	36,176	37,441	38,939	40,284	42,016	43,351
Other Expenses	5,352	5,130	5,487	5,623	5,758	5,891	6,027	6,165	6,307	6,452	6,600	6,752
Other Operational Projects Expenses	9,885	11,152	6,122	6,940	7,609	7,154	7,148	7,373	8,880	8,098	8,033	8,070
Total Expenses from Continuing Operations	**160,603**	**170,818**	**176,854**	**187,450**	**193,982**	**200,714**	**207,541**	**213,684**	**221,525**	**227,190**	**234,117**	**240,915**
Net Operating Result for the Year	**21,997**	**9,738**	**40,829**	**36,962**	**39,775**	**56,896**	**53,075**	**58,617**	**60,632**	**62,043**	**58,313**	**59,938**
Net Operating Result for the year before Grants & Contributions provided for Capital Purposes	3954	- 5,089	20,706	17,313	18,651	20,285	21,409	23,366	25,095	28,546	30,624	32,414

10 Year Financial Plan for the Years ending 30 June 2036

Projected Balance Sheet
Renew and Enhance Infrastructure (special rate variation)

$ '000	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30	Projected 2030/31	Projected 2031/32	Projected 2032/33	Projected 2033/34	Projected 2034/35	Projected 2035/36
ASSETS												
Current Assets												
Cash & Cash Equivalents	793	24,753	25,558	14,155	14,060	13,278	15,205	18,118	18,041	21,097	25,350	28,296
Investments	78,998	65,900	59,900	52,500	39,000	33,800	31,000	31,900	28,400	33,600	37,500	30,900
Receivables	15,191	14,901	17,600	17,979	18,921	21,736	21,498	22,582	23,197	23,435	23,006	23,445
Inventories	257	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228	228
Other	6,522	4,206	4,544	5,091	4,614	4,750	4,818	4,727	4,765	4,770	4,754	4,763
Non-Current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-	133	72	216	168	-	-	21	-	-
Total Current Assets	**101,761**	**109,988**	**107,831**	**90,085**	**76,894**	**74,008**	**72,917**	**77,555**	**74,631**	**83,151**	**90,838**	**87,632**
Non-Current Assets												
Investments	116,142	80,531	73,307	64,142	47,728	41,253	37,794	38,919	34,753	41,018	45,862	37,857
Receivables	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42	42
Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	2,802,842	2,804,742	2,851,578	2,914,892	2,982,357	3,046,659	3,102,656	3,153,556	3,223,129	3,271,968	3,319,387	3,392,238
Investment Property	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500	50,500
Intangible Assets	462	348	233	118	59	59	-	-	-	-	-	-
Right of Use Asset	1,285	1,215	31,795	31,099	30,403	29,707	29,011	28,315	27,619	26,923	26,227	25,531
Total Non-Current Assets	**2,971,273**	**2,937,378**	**3,007,455**	**3,060,794**	**3,111,089**	**3,168,220**	**3,220,004**	**3,271,332**	**3,336,043**	**3,390,451**	**3,442,018**	**3,506,168**
TOTAL ASSETS	**3,073,034**	**3,047,366**	**3,115,286**	**3,150,879**	**3,187,983**	**3,242,228**	**3,292,921**	**3,348,887**	**3,410,674**	**3,473,602**	**3,532,857**	**3,593,800**
LIABILITIES												
Current Liabilities												
Payables	42,118	27,138	25,674	27,127	27,385	27,703	28,275	28,572	29,107	29,349	29,620	29,927
Borrowings	3,338	3,338	3,460	3,525	3,593	3,465	3,540	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions	13,089	13,586	14,306	14,993	15,638	16,310	16,930	17,573	18,241	18,934	19,654	20,401
Total Current Liabilities	**58,545**	**44,062**	**43,440**	**45,645**	**46,615**	**47,478**	**48,745**	**46,145**	**47,349**	**48,283**	**49,274**	**50,328**
Non-Current Liabilities												
Payables	1,477	1,412	1,347	1,282	1,217	1,152	1,087	1,022	957	892	827	762
Borrowings	20,979	17,641	14,122	10,598	7,005	3,540	-	-	-	-	-	-
Provisions	298	309	326	341	356	371	385	400	415	431	447	464
Total Non-Current Liabilities	22,754	19,362	15,795	12,221	8,578	5,063	1,472	1,422	1,372	1,323	1,274	1,226
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**81,299**	**63,425**	**59,235**	**57,867**	**55,193**	**52,541**	**50,218**	**47,567**	**48,721**	**49,606**	**50,549**	**51,554**
Net Assets	**2,991,735**	**2,983,942**	**3,056,050**	**3,093,012**	**3,132,790**	**3,189,686**	**3,242,703**	**3,301,320**	**3,361,953**	**3,423,995**	**3,482,308**	**3,542,246**
EQUITY												
Retained Earnings	971,890	981,628	1,022,457	1,059,419	1,099,195	1,156,091	1,209,165	1,267,783	1,328,414	1,390,457	1,448,770	1,508,709
Revaluation Reserves	2,019,845	2,002,314	2,033,594	2,033,593	2,033,595	2,033,595	2,033,538	2,033,537	2,033,539	2,033,538	2,033,538	2,033,537
Council Equity Interest	**2,991,735**	**2,983,942**	**3,056,050**	**3,093,012**	**3,132,790**	**3,189,686**	**3,242,703**	**3,301,320**	**3,361,953**	**3,423,995**	**3,482,308**	**3,542,246**
Total Equity	**2,991,735**	**2,983,942**	**3,056,050**	**3,093,012**	**3,132,790**	**3,189,686**	**3,242,703**	**3,301,320**	**3,361,953**	**3,423,995**	**3,482,308**	**3,542,246**

10 Year Financial Plan for the Years ending 30 June 2036

Projected Cash Flow Statement
Renew and Enhance Infrastructure (special rate variation)

$ '000	Actual 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Projected 2026/27	Projected 2027/28	Projected 2028/29	Projected 2029/30	Projected 2030/31	Projected 2031/32	Projected 2032/33	Projected 2033/34	Projected 2034/35	Projected 2035/36
Cash Flows from Operating Activities												
Receipts:												
Rates & Annual Charges	102,786	110,353	133,231	142,862	150,098	155,457	165,543	171,409	180,038	187,837	195,814	202,102
User Charges & Fees	26,676	23,956	27,254	29,351	30,358	31,204	31,948	32,709	33,588	34,360	35,155	35,975
Investment & Interest Revenue Received	10,282	9,104	9,289	6,259	4,834	4,068	3,679	3,678	3,535	3,647	4,116	4,008
Grants & Contributions	15,043	23,538	30,338	29,875	31,531	47,217	42,525	46,290	46,803	45,049	39,264	39,335
Bonds, Deposits, Retention amounts received	4,314	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	23,053	16,240	14,534	14,810	16,284	16,135	16,627	17,222	17,540	18,033	18,526	18,985
Payments:												
Employee Benefits & On-Costs	- 51,691	- 53,650	- 57,820	- 60,654	- 63,327	- 66,039	- 68,621	- 71,221	- 73,920	- 76,721	- 79,628	- 82,645
Materials & Contracts	- 78,809	- 84,702	- 76,812	- 79,178	- 82,258	- 85,343	- 88,032	- 90,343	- 92,186	- 94,610	- 96,758	- 98,951
Borrowing Costs	- 1,173	- 1,130	- 915	- 776	- 627	- 479	- 330	- 186	- 75	- 75	- 75	- 75
Bonds, Deposits, Retention amounts refunded	- 3,802	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	- 11,031	- 16,282	- 11,609	- 12,563	- 13,367	- 13,045	- 13,175	- 13,538	- 15,187	- 14,550	- 14,633	- 14,822
Net Cash provided (or used) in Operating Activities	**35,648**	**27,426**	**67,491**	**69,987**	**73,527**	**89,175**	**90,163**	**96,020**	**100,137**	**102,970**	**101,781**	**103,912**
Cash Flows from Investing Activities												
Receipts:												
Sale of investment securities	116,700	105,691	57,167	80,100	124,791	94,110	82,046	75,786	77,668	70,114	82,048	90,684
Sale of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	8,530	-	-	463	259	794	632	-	-	85	-	-
Payments:												
Purchase of investment securities	- 110,798	- 56,982	- 43,942	- 63,536	- 94,876	- 82,435	- 75,787	- 77,811	- 70,002	- 81,579	- 90,792	- 76,079
Purchase of investment property	- 72	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Purchase of Infrastructure, Property, Plant & Equipment	- 57,490	- 48,771	- 76,448	- 94,893	- 100,207	- 98,768	- 91,597	- 87,477	- 107,816	- 88,469	- 88,719	- 115,506
Purchase of Intangible Assets	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Cash provided in Investing Activities	**- 43,129**	**- 62**	**- 63,224**	**- 77,865**	**- 70,034**	**- 86,299**	**- 84,706**	**- 89,502**	**- 100,149**	**- 99,849**	**- 97,463**	**- 100,901**
Cash Flows from Financing Activities												
Receipts:												
Proceeds from Borrowings & Advances	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Payments:												
Repayments of Borrowings & Advances	- 3,281	- 3,338	- 3,397	- 3,460	- 3,525	- 3,593	- 3,465	- 3,540	-	-	-	-
Lease Liabilities (Principal Repayment)	- 32	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65
Net Cash provided in Financing Activities	- 3,313	- 3,403	- 3,462	- 3,525	- 3,590	- 3,658	- 3,530	- 3,605	- 65	- 65	- 65	- 65
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash & Cash Equivalents	**- 10,794**	**23,961**	**805**	**- 11,404**	**- 97**	**- 782**	**1,926**	**2,913**	**- 78**	**3,056**	**4,253**	**2,946**
Plus: Cash & Cash Equivalents - beginning of year	11,587	793	24,753	25,558	14,155	14,060	13,278	15,205	18,118	18,041	21,097	25,350
Cash & Cash Equivalents - end of year	793	24,754	25,558	14,154	14,058	13,277	15,204	18,118	18,040	21,097	25,350	28,296
Plus: Investments on hand - end of year	195,140	146,431	133,207	116,642	86,728	75,053	68,794	70,819	63,153	74,618	83,362	68,757
Total Cash, Cash Equivalents & Investments	**195,933**	**171,185**	**158,764**	**130,797**	**100,786**	**88,330**	**83,998**	**88,937**	**81,193**	**95,715**	**108,712**	**97,053**

Appendix D – Average rate increases by ratepayer class under Renew and Enhance Infrastructure scenario

Average Residential Rate	Base Year	Year 1 2026/27	Year 2 2027/28	Year 3 2028/29	Year 4 2029/30	Cumulative Increase
Annual Residential Rate under assumed rate peg	1,720	1,796	1,868	1,933	2,001	281
Annual increase Rate Peg (%)		4.4%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	
Annual increase with SRV	1,720	2,219	2,308	2,388	2,472	752
Annual Increase rate peg (%) with an SRV of 19% for 4 years		29.0%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	
Cumulative impact of SRV above base year levels		499	588	668	752	
Difference between SRV and rate peg only scenarios		**423**	440	455	471	

Average Business Rate	Base Year	Year 1 2026/27	Year 2 2027/28	Year 3 2028/29	Year 4 2029/30	Cumulative Increase
Annual Business Rate under assumed rate peg	5,780	6,034	6,276	6,495	6,723	943
Annual increase Rate Peg (%)		4.4%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	
Annual increase with SRV	5,780	7,456	7,754	8,026	8,307	2,527
Annual increase rate peg (%) with an SRV of 19% for 4 years		29.0%	4.0%	3.5%	3.5%	
Cumulative impact of SRV above base year levels		1,676	1,974	2,246	2,527	
Difference between SRV and rate peg only scenarios		**1,422**	1,479	1,531	1,584	

Contact us

For assistance or information regarding any of Council's services or facilities please contact us. Business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30 am – 5.00 pm.

In person:
818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

Phone:
02 9424 0000

Email:
krg@krg.nsw.gov.au

Website and online chat:
krg.nsw.gov.au

Post:
Locked Bag 1006, Gordon NSW 2072

Ku-ring-gai Council

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Our Ku-ring-gai:
Working together



Asset Management Strategy 2026 - 2036

June 2026

Ku-ring-gai Council

Need help?

This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 to request the service contact Ku-ring-gai Council on your behalf on T: 02 9424 0000 during business hours, Monday to Friday, 8.30 am - 5.00 pm.

Simplified Chinese

需要帮助吗？

本文件包含重要信息。如果您不理解本文件，请致电翻译口译服务 131 450。 让其代表您致电 9424 0000 联系Ku-ring-gai议会。营业时间：周一至周五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Traditional Chinese

需要幫助嗎？

本檔包含重要資訊。如果您不理解本檔，請致電翻譯口譯服務 131 450。 讓其代表您致電 9424 0000 聯繫Ku-ring-gai議會。營業時間：週一至週五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Korean

도움이 필요하십니까?

이 문서에는 중요한 정보가 담겨 있습니다. 여러분이 이해할 수 없다면, TIS (번역 및 통역 서비스)의 131 450번으로 전화하십시오. 9424 0000번으로 여러분을 대신하여 전화해서 쿠링가이 카운슬을 연락해 달라고 요청하십시오. 영업 시간: 월요일–금요일, 오전 8시30분–오후 5시.

Persian

آیا به کمک نیاز دارید؟

این مدرک حاوی اطلاعات مهمی است. اگر آنها را نمی فهمید، خواهش می کنیم به خدمات ترجمه نوشتاری و گفتاری (Translating and Interpreting Service) به شماره ۱۳۱ ۴۵۰ تلفن کنید و از آن سرویس بخواهید از جانب شما با شهرداری کورینگای (Ku-ring-gai Council) در ساعات کاری، دوشنبه تا جمعه از ساعت ۸:۳۰ صبح تا ساعت ۵:۰۰ بعد از ظهر با شماره تلفن ۰۲ ۹۴۲۴ ۰۰۰۰ تماس بگیرند.

Japanese

ご質問がありますか？

当文書には重要な情報が記載されています。もし何か不明な点があれば、月曜から金曜の午前8:30から午後5:00までの受付時間内に、まず131 450の通訳翻訳サービスにお電話いただき、通訳を介してKu-ring-gai Councilのサービス担当（電話:02 9424 0000）までお問合せください

Hindi

सहायता चाहिए?

इस दस्तावेज़ में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है। यदि यह आपको समझ नहीं आती, तो कृपया अनुवाद और दुभाषिया सेवा को 131 450 पर कॉल करें, और इस सेवा को आपकी ओर से फ़ोन: 02 9424 0000 पर व्यावसायिक घंटों के दौरान, सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 8.30 से शाम 5.00 बजे तक कू-रिंग-गई काउन्सिल से संपर्क करने के लिए अनुरोध करें।

These languages were chosen as they are the most widely spoken by Ku-ring-gai residents indicated by ABS Census data.

Need assistance with hearing or speaking?

Contact Ku-ring-gai Council using the 24-hour **National Relay Service:**

TTY users: Call 133 677 then dial 02 9424 0000.

Voice Relay users: Call 1300 555 727 then ask for 02 9424 0000.

NRS Chat:
Go to www.accesshub.gov.au/services/nrs-chat and enter 02 9424 0000.

For all other assistance options see www.accesshub.gov.au

Need help to access Council's building?

Disability parking and access are available via a ramp and lift, off Radford Place at the rear of Council's building, at 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon, NSW.

Call 02 9424 0000 Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm if you need further assistance.

KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL

818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

P: 02 9424 0000 | **E:** krg@krg.nsw.gov.au

W: krg.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgment of traditional owners

Ku-ring-gai Council recognises the traditional custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging

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Executive summary

Council manages a diverse portfolio of community assets including roads, footpaths, stormwater infrastructure, buildings, open space, and recreational facilities. These assets are fundamental to supporting the delivery of services, maintaining community wellbeing, and ensuring the Council remains liveable, sustainable, and resilient. The scale and value of these assets make asset management a core responsibility of Council, underpinning both financial sustainability and community confidence.

The Asset Management Strategy sets the direction for how Council will plan, deliver, maintain, renew, and dispose of assets to achieve the objectives outlined in the Community Strategic Plan and Long-Term Financial Plan. It provides the framework for balancing community expectations, service levels, risks, and available resources, while responding to growth, climate change, and emerging challenges.

This Asset Management Strategy works alongside Council's Asset Management Policy and detailed Asset Management Plans to guide decision-making. Together, these documents establish a clear line of sight from high-level policy principles, through strategic priorities, to day-to-day asset management practices.

This Asset Management Strategy prioritises proactive, evidence-based management of assets, supported by improved data, integrated systems, and regular monitoring of performance. It also highlights the need for collaboration across Council, clear accountability, and ongoing communication with the community about service levels and satisfaction.

Through this approach, Council will ensure assets are managed responsibly, equitably, and sustainably. The Strategy provides the pathway to achieving long-term financial sustainability, enhanced service delivery, and stronger resilience for the community now and into the future.

Introduction

Purpose

This Asset Management Strategy (AMS) sets out Ku-ring-gai Council's approach to managing community assets in a sustainable and transparent way, and:

- supports the delivery of the community vision in Council's Community Strategic Plan (CSP)
- aligns with the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and Workforce Management Strategy as part of Council's Resourcing Strategy
- includes Council's Asset Management Policy
- is supported by a suite of Asset Management Plans (AMPs).



The AMS guides decision-making, prioritisation, and resource allocation to ensure that Council's assets are managed effectively to support the delivery of services to the community.

Strategic context

The AMS has been developed based on:

- the outcomes and objectives in the Community Strategic Plan 2035
- community engagement outcomes and identified service needs and satisfaction
- a review of Council's service delivery practices and asset management maturity
- financial sustainability indicators and long-term funding considerations

The AMS provides direction for managing Council's assets to meet the broader objectives of the Community Strategic Plan, including:

- protecting and enhancing Ku-ring-gai's unique natural environment
- supporting sustainable urban growth and change
- ensuring infrastructure and assets support community needs
- promoting an inclusive, connected, and safe community
- driving leadership, and service excellence.

The AMS implements the objectives of the Asset Management Policy and aligns with the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. It supports the Resourcing Strategy, LTFP, Delivery Program and Operational Plan, ensuring that service levels, financial decisions, and infrastructure outcomes reflect Council priorities. By linking strategic asset management to Council's planning and reporting framework, the AMS ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment between long-term infrastructure planning and community expectations.

The AMS is supported by detailed Asset Management Plans[1] for key asset classes:

- Roads, bridges, traffic facilities, kerb and guttering and carparks
- Footpaths
- Stormwater drainage infrastructure
- Recreational facilities, parks and playgrounds

[1] Note that Council is developing an Asset Plan for plant and fleet (including passenger vehicles and operational plant). Council may also develop Asset Plans for IT and other infrastructure in the future.

- Buildings, including community and commercial assets.

Council delivers a variety of services to the community, supported by a diverse asset portfolio. The management of these assets follows a systematic, whole-of-life approach to optimise asset acquisition, maximise utilisation, manage operational and service costs, and maintain assets in a condition that meets service expectations.

Whole-of-life and whole-of-Council approach

To achieve asset management best practices, industry standards and guidelines have been adopted to ensure assets are planned, created, operated, inspected, renewed and disposed of in accordance with Council's service delivery priorities.

This requires a whole-of-Council approach and commitment to strategic asset management.

Whole-of-life cost will be the basis of decision-making by Council in the acquisition of new assets, specifically considering the implications for maintenance and renewal budgets.

The intention is for Council assets to be utilised to their optimum potential to maximise usage and economic performance. An inspection regime and condition-rating system will be used to ensure agreed service levels, intervention methods, and renewal priorities can be determined across all asset classes.

The AMS applies these approaches to asset management, ensuring that all decisions from planning and acquisition through to operation, inspection, renewal, and disposal are made with consideration of Council's service delivery priorities.

Asset management planning approach

The development of this Strategy follows a structured asset management planning process, including:

- Identifying community and stakeholder needs, legislative requirements, and service expectations
- Reviewing current asset condition, performance, and risk exposure
- Linking asset management decisions to long-term financial planning and service level commitments
- Supporting the delivery of services in a sustainable, cost-effective, and transparent manner.

This approach provides the current situation detailed in the next section, where Council's asset backlog, service gaps and maintenance requirements are assessed over a ten-year horizon, forming the basis for subsequent response options and service level review.

Current situation

Council's infrastructure

Council's infrastructure assets include roads and transport assets, footpaths, recreational facilities, buildings and stormwater drainage. Recent assessments of the asset portfolio have highlighted growth in asset quantity and emerging renewal and maintenance needs. This strategy provides a framework for sustainably managing these assets, ensuring they continue to deliver the required levels of service to the community while optimising lifecycle costs. The estimated cost to fully renew all assets currently in an unsatisfactory condition is $197 million (as of 30 June 2025).

Asset cost, condition and value

Council reports the cost, condition and value of assets annually in its Financial Statements. In 2024/25, infrastructure asset values were reported as follows:

Infrastructure asset values 2024/25	Net carrying amount (WDV) $'000	Gross replacement cost $'000
Buildings	162,994	256,655
Other structures	18,866	25,111
Road and transport assets	577,702	877,529
Drainage	277,321	517,019
Open space recreational assets	103,848	169,982
Total	1,140,731	1,846,296

Table 1: Infrastructure Asset Values

Roads, transport, and drainage constitute the majority of Council's infrastructure portfolio. Community feedback highlights these assets, along with parks and gardens, as highest priority. The AMS therefore prioritises these assets while guiding funding for all essential infrastructure.

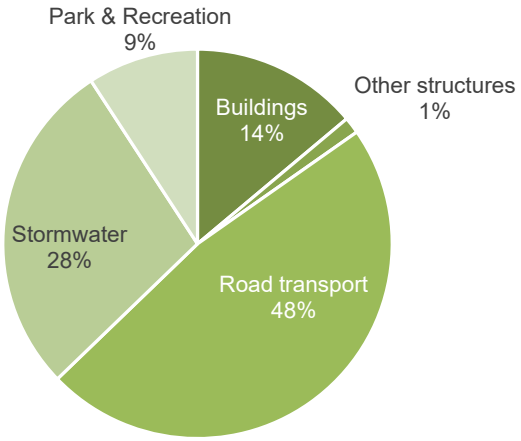

Figure 1: Composition of Assets: Percentage (%) of Total Gross Replacement Cost Ku-ring-gai Council All Asset Classes

Risk management

Council's asset management practices integrate risk management principles throughout strategic and operational processes. However, it is important that the risk management practices are consistent and documented across Council processes. Council's asset risk management is undertaken as part of individual asset management plans through Council's established Enterprise Risk Management Framework (ERM).

Over the past year, Council has further advanced its risk management capabilities. The comprehensive Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework has been implemented encompassing the ERM Policy, ERM Strategy, Risk Appetite Statement and Risk Register. These elements align with AS ISO 31000:2018, the OLG Guidelines for Risk Management & Internal Audit in Local Government and establish the overarching direction for Council's risk-taking boundaries and governance approach.

Council is undertaking independent ERM maturity assessments, ensuring Council remains on track toward its target maturity level.

Critical assets

Critical assets are those assets where the financial, business or service level consequences of failure are sufficiently severe to justify proactive inspection and rehabilitation. The following buildings are essential for Council's operations and outcomes and are considered critical assets:

- Council's administration buildings located at 818 Pacific Highway Gordon and 31 Bridge Street Pymble
- Council works depot located at 5 Suakin Street Pymble.

The risks associated with these assets include public health and safety, business continuity and emergencies. As part of the ongoing revision of Council's Asset Management Plans, further investigation into critical assets and the development of tailored maintenance strategies will be undertaken. These will help ensure continuity of service delivery and safeguard operational resilience.

As part of Council's commitment to ensuring readiness in the event of a major disruption, annual Business Continuity Planning (BCP) training and exercises are conducted. During these sessions, the Crisis Management Team (CMT), Incident Management Team (IMT), and their subordinate staff are regularly trained and exercised on realistic crisis scenarios, including asset-related emergencies. These exercises are designed to test Council's response capability, validate existing procedures, and strengthen communication and decision-making under pressure.

Council's allocation of funds

Council has undertaken whole-of-life cost assessment of Council's assets. This assessment has confirmed that current funding levels are insufficient to meet the long-term renewal and maintenance needs of the assets. This is creating a widening gap between what is required to sustain assets at agreed service levels and what is actually budgeted.

Cost to Satisfactory

The estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard is the amount of money that is required to be spent on an asset that is currently not at the condition determined to be satisfactory by Council and community, this is commonly referred to as the backlog. This indicator should not include any planned enhancements. However, it is noted that in practical terms, the asset will be renewed at the time of work.

The estimated cost to bring assets to a satisfactory standard (CTS) currently stands at $97.3 million (2026/27). Table 2 and Figure 2 illustrate that Council does not have adequate funds to meet the current level of service.

	2026/27	*2027/28*	*2028/29*	*2029/30*	*2030/31*	*2031/32*	*2032/33*	*2033/34*	*2034/35*	*2035/36*
Buildings	38,040	40,563	43,210	47,657	52,231	56,934	61,770	66,743	71,857	77,116
Road & Transport	16,645	14,761	12,784	10,151	7,865	6,917	5,939	5,880	7,681	12,526
Stormwater	42,662	46,223	50,079	54,085	58,378	62,786	67,314	71,963	76,739	81,643
Parks & Recreation	0	0	0	1,298	3,662	6,772	10,073	13,336	17,463	22,598
Total	**97,348**	**101,547**	**106,074**	**113,192**	**122,135**	**133,409**	**145,095**	**157,922**	**173,741**	**193,884**

Table 2: Infrastructure Backlog - Cost to Bring to Satisfactory (Base Case, rate peg only) ($'000)

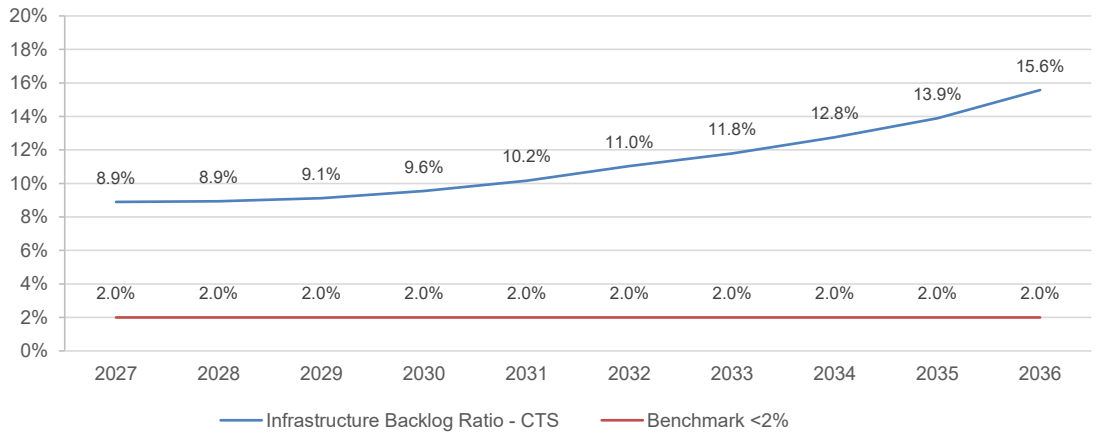

Figure 2: Infrastructure Backlog Ratio – Cost to Satisfactory (CTS) (Base Case, rate peg only)

Cost to Agreed

The cost to bring to the agreed level of service (CTA) is an estimate of the cost to renew or rehabilitate existing assets that have reached the condition-based intervention level adopted by Council. In other words, the cost to bring all assets that are in an unsatisfactory condition up to Condition 1.

When assessed against this higher benchmark, this figure increases to $197.7 million. Over the past decade, the backlog has grown significantly, particularly following recent reassessments of stormwater and building assets. Projections indicate that without intervention, this backlog will continue to escalate, placing greater pressure on Council's financial position and service delivery capacity.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Buildings	67,039	69,562	72,209	76,656	81,230	85,933	90,769	95,742	100,856	106,115
Roads & Transport	82,961	78,522	76,545	73,912	71,705	72,738	66,446	62,264	65,089	68,393
Stormwater	42,662	46,223	50,079	54,085	58,378	62,786	67,314	71,963	76,739	81,643
Parks & Recreation	5,013	3,562	5,250	7,556	9,920	13,030	16,331	19,594	23,721	28,856
Total	**197,675**	**197,868**	**204,084**	**212,210**	**221,232**	**234,487**	**240,860**	**249,563**	**266,406**	**285,008**

Table 3: Infrastructure Backlog - Cost to Bring to Agreed Level of Service (Base Case, rate peg only) ($'000)

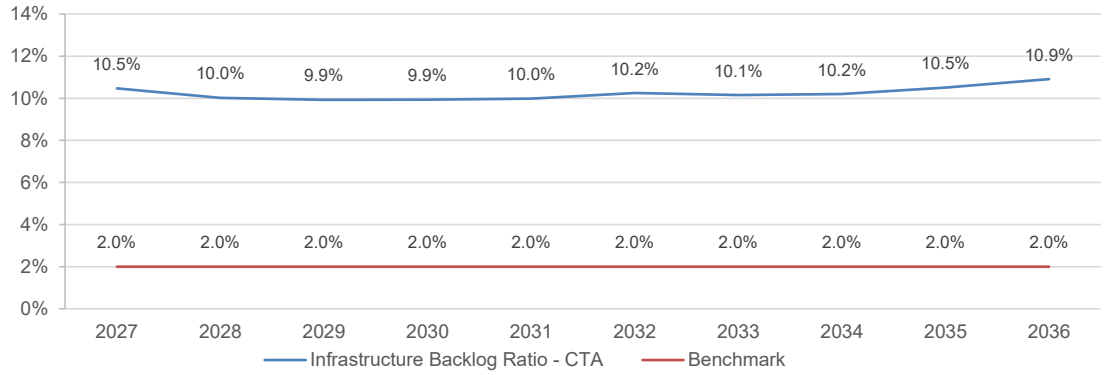

Figure 3: Infrastructure Backlog Ratio – Cost to Agreed Level of Service (CTA) (Base Case, rate peg only)

Maintenance levels

Maintenance expenditure has consistently tracked below benchmark levels. The asset maintenance ratio fell below the Office of Local Government benchmark of 100% in 2024/25 and is projected to remain below this threshold across the life of the LTFP without intervention. This demonstrates that maintenance funding is not keeping pace with asset growth or required service levels. Underfunding maintenance increases reliance on reactive works, raising costs over time and reducing asset reliability. It is expected that an increased injection of capital expenditure would reduce the need for maintenance funds over time. However, the council will review maintenance needs in 3 years' time to improve our asset management.

Asset maintenance - required by asset class $'000 (Base case – rate peg)	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Buildings	5,493	5,664	5,916	6,078	6,245	6,417	6,594	6,775	6,961	7,152
Road transport	6,279	6,837	7,243	7,701	8,175	8,521	8,927	9,189	9,478	9,769
Stormwater	1,904	1,962	2,019	2,075	2,130	2,186	2,244	2,303	2,364	2,426
Parks and recreation	7,106	7,539	7,986	8,278	8,592	8,955	9,463	10,015	10,985	11,509
Total required	**20,782**	**22,001**	**23,164**	**24,132**	**25,142**	**26,079**	**27,227**	**28,282**	**29,786**	**30,856**
Actual maintenance	19,556	20,241	20,949	21,682	22,441	23,227	24,040	24,881	25,752	26,653
Variance (actual less required)	**- 1,226**	**- 1,761**	**- 2,215**	**- 2,450**	**- 2,701**	**- 2,852**	**- 3,188**	**- 3,401**	**- 4,035**	**- 4,203**

Table 4: Maintenance Requirements vs Current Maintenance allocations

Renewal shortfall

Council's Buildings and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio was 58.39% as of 30 June 2025, well below the benchmark of >100%. This reflects the significant gap between asset consumption and asset renewal. Projections under the current base rate show that renewal funding will continue to lag behind depreciation, resulting in accelerated deterioration, increased community risk, and reduced long-term sustainability.

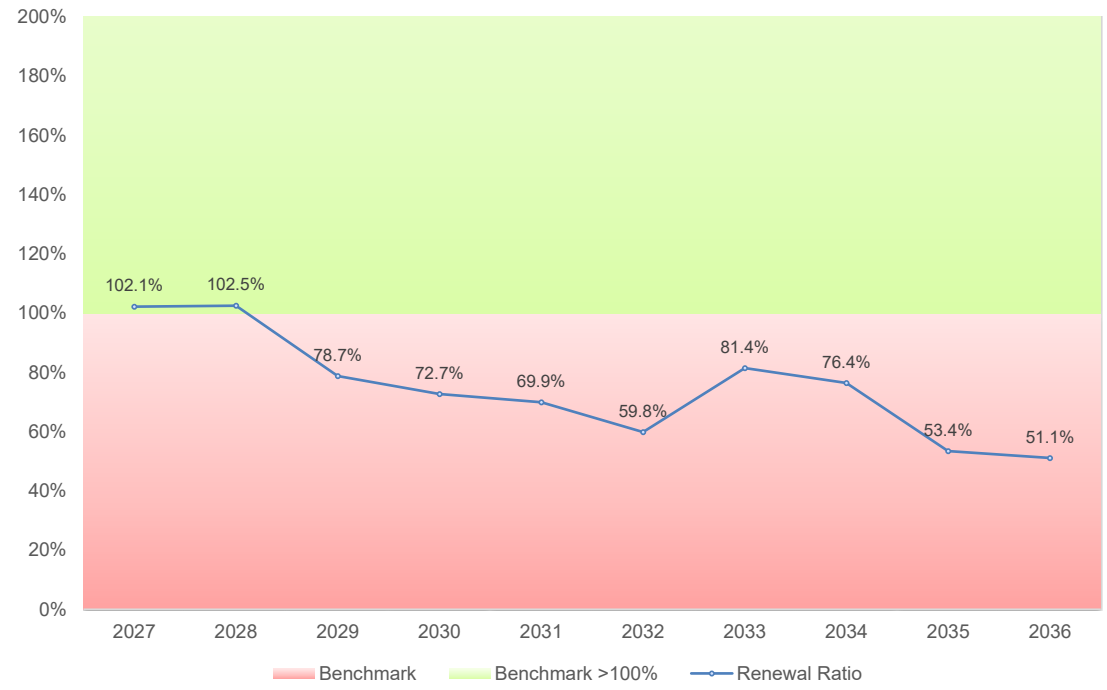

Figure 4: Building and Infrastructure Renewal Ratio Projection (Base Case, rate peg only)

Consequences of no intervention

If current expenditure levels are maintained under the Base Case (rate peg only) scenario:

- asset deterioration will continue to outpace renewal, increasing the backlog year on year
- reactive maintenance will rise, driving higher operational costs
- community service levels will decline as more assets fall below acceptable condition
- long-term liabilities will increase, reducing Council's capacity to invest in future priorities.

Need for intervention

The gap between required and actual funding is clear across all asset classes. Without adequate intervention, Council will be unable to maintain its infrastructure at sustainable levels. Addressing this gap is essential to safeguard service delivery, manage risk, and ensure that assets remain safe and functional for the community.

Response options

Council faces a clear infrastructure funding gap, with renewal and maintenance needs exceeding the resources available under the current funding structure. To address this challenge, a range of response options are considered.

Do nothing (Base Case, rate peg only)

Continuing with the base case means accepting ongoing underfunding. This would result in further asset deterioration, rising maintenance costs, an increasing infrastructure backlog and declining community service levels. Over time, this approach creates greater long-term liabilities and risks.

Reduce Level of Services (LoS)

Council could consider reducing or discontinuing services to redirect funds toward asset renewal. However, many of Council's services are essential and highly valued by the community. This importance was highlighted in the last community survey in 2024. Additionally significant cuts would reduce quality of life, undermine community wellbeing, and may be inconsistent with Council's adopted Community Strategic Plan.

Efficiency gains

While ongoing efficiencies are embedded in Council's operations, and efficiency improvements will continue to be pursued, the scale of the infrastructure funding gap far exceeds what can realistically be achieved through further internal efficiency measures.

Special Rate Variation

The introduction of a Special Rate Variation (SRV) provides a sustainable funding source dedicated to addressing the ongoing infrastructure gap. This investment will allow Council to:

- fund a proactive renewal program across all asset classes
- maintain the Building and Infrastructure Asset Renewal Ratio at greater than 100%
- reduce reliance on costly reactive maintenance
- reduce civil liability and risk
- ensure long-term financial sustainability while continuing to deliver valued community services.

Preferred response

Financial analysis undertaken confirms that only the SRV option provides sufficient resources to close the infrastructure funding gap while maintaining service delivery. Unlike the other options, the SRV:

- directly aligns funding with the scale of identified renewal needs
- minimises long-term costs by addressing renewal backlogs now, rather than allowing deterioration to accelerate
- preserves existing service levels without requiring large-scale cuts to community programs or assets
- provides a structured, transparent and sustainable funding approach consistent with the Office of Local Government's financial sustainability benchmarks.

In summary, the SRV is the only response option that enables Council to meet renewal requirements, address the infrastructure backlog, and continue delivering safe, reliable and fit-for-purpose assets for the community.

Community priorities

The 2024 Community Research Report asked respondents to state their levels of importance and satisfaction to a range of Council services and facilities. This report found that road assets, footpaths and drainage were areas with high importance but lower levels of satisfaction and therefore should be the focus of Council attention.

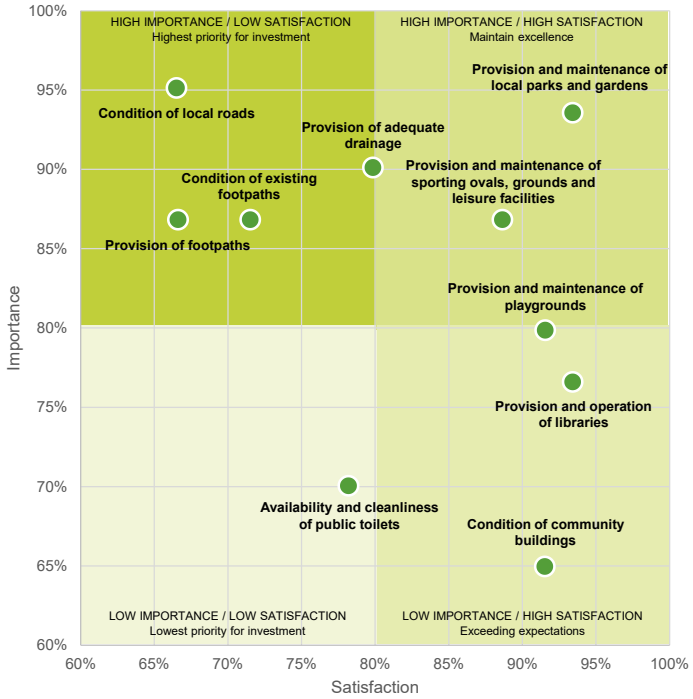

Figure 5: Community research importance / satisfaction matrix. Note: Importance refers to the aggregate percentage (%) score of the top two scores. (i.e. important and very important). Satisfaction refers to the aggregate percentage (%) score of the top three scores (i.e. somewhat satisfied, satisfied and very satisfied). Source: 2024 Community Research Report (Micromex)

The same report asked the community whether they were willing to pay higher rates to fund certain asset classes. The SRV options will also provide a substantial increase in renewal funding to asset classes that most of the community was at least somewhat supportive of paying higher rates to address, as outlined in the table below:

Asset Area	% of residents at least somewhat supportive of paying higher rates	Funded by SRV Option
Parks and Sportsgrounds	74%	Yes
Roads	73%	Yes (traffic facilities)
Footpaths	69%	Yes
Stormwater Drainage	62%	Yes
Public Toilets	59%	Yes
Swimming Pools	56%	Yes (KFAC upgrade)
Theatres	54%	No
Other Cultural Facilities	53%	No
Community Buildings	52%	Yes

Table 5: Percentage of residents supportive of higher rates for assets. Source: 2024 Community Research Report 2024 (Micromex)

Special Rate Variation – preferred scenario

Under this scenario, Council would in 2026/27 increase rates by 29%, including a 24.6% SRV and 4.4% rate peg in 2026/27. This option represents the best balance between service outcomes, backlog reduction and affordability.

- **Backlog reduction:** This scenario delivers a strong and efficient backlog outcome. By 2035/36, the Cost to Satisfactory (CTS) backlog reduces from $83.9 million to $25.9 million (a reduction of $58million or 69%), and Cost to Agreed (CTA) backlog falls from $182 million to $96.7 million (a reduction of $85.6 million or 47%). This compares to the Base Case where both the CTS and CTA backlog record substantial growth.
- **Balanced funding**: Provides $20.7 million in additional annual funding, covering renewals for stormwater, buildings, recreation, and footpaths, plus enhancements for new footpaths ($2.1 million) and traffic and transport upgrades ($1.7 million)
- **Enhancement connectivity and accessibility:** This is achieved through improved traffic facilities (e.g. signals, crossings, refuge islands and accessible bus stops) and improved mobility for people with a disability, prams and seniors. The preferred rate increase scenario will also deliver enhanced walking and cycling connections to make it safer and easier to access schools, shops, parks, and public transport.
- **Community priorities:** Aligns with community feedback and research, which highlighted road assets, footpaths and drainage as areas of high importance but low satisfaction.
- **Financial sustainability:** Strengthens Council's operating position, generating stable ongoing funding and reducing reliance on reactive repairs and accommodating enhancing road safety

This scenario provides the funding necessary to significantly reduce infrastructure backlogs across all major asset classes. By increasing renewal and upgrade investment, Council can address long-standing deficiencies, align infrastructure capacity with forecast demand, and improve community resilience to growth and climate pressures. This option also enables targeted investment in recreational facilities, new footpaths, and other upgrades such as traffic and transport improvements.

	2026/27	*2027/28*	*2028/29*	*2029/30*	*2030/31*	*2031/32*	*2032/33*	*2033/34*	*2034/35*	*2035/36*
Buildings	31,334	26,982	22,590	19,829	17,021	14,166	11,263	8,310	5,309	2,257
Road & Transport	15,767	12,945	10,074	7,135	5,050	3,512	2,670	-	1,927	6,143
Stormwater	36,756	34,264	31,921	29,580	27,373	25,125	22,837	20,508	18,137	15,723
Parks & Recreation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,739
Total	**83,857**	**74,191**	**64,585**	**56,544**	**49,444**	**42,803**	**36,770**	**28,818**	**25,372**	**25,863**

Table 6: Infrastructure Backlog - Cost to Bring to Satisfactory – Preferred Scenario - SRV ($'000)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Buildings	60,333	55,981	51,589	48,828	46,020	43,165	40,262	37,309	34,308	31,256
Roads & Transport	82,083	76,706	73,835	70,317	67,763	68,159	61,308	56,336	59,114	41,739
Stormwater	36,756	34,264	31,921	29,580	27,373	25,125	22,837	20,508	18,137	15,723
Parks & Recreation	3,111	0	0	0	0	951	2,083	3,123	5,083	7,997
Total	**182,283**	**166,951**	**157,345**	**148,725**	**141,156**	**137,400**	**126,490**	**117,277**	**116,641**	**96,715**

Table 7: Infrastructure Backlog - Cost to Bring to Agreed Level of Service – Preferred Scenario - SRV ($'000)

Roads and kerb & gutter

The road network backlog can already be eliminated under the Base Case scenario without additional SRV funding. The cost to bring the network to a satisfactory standard fall from $13.9 million in 2026/27 to zero by 2033, showing a clear pathway to sustainability within existing funding. For this reason, this asset class has not been nominated for Special Rate Variation (SRV) funding.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	13,937	12,328	9,920	7,135	5,050	3,255	0	0	0	0
Backlog - CTA	72,696	71,087	68,679	65,894	63,809	62,014	52,951	51,382	49,851	48,310
Renewal	12,053	11,273	12,359	13,139	12,755	12,802	20,480	13,298	13,623	13,956
New/Upgrade	4,275	4,277	2,868	9,247	3,939	4,321	8,195	1,649	4,080	1,160
Maintenance	1,473	1,524	1,578	1,633	1,690	1,749	1,811	1,874	1,940	2,007

Table 8: Roads and Kerb & Gutter Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections

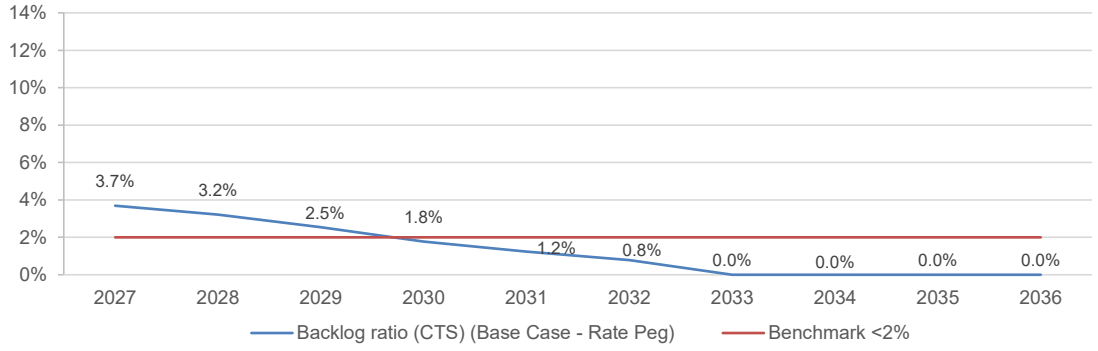

Figure 6: Roads and Kerb & Gutter Backlog Ratio – Cost to Satisfactory

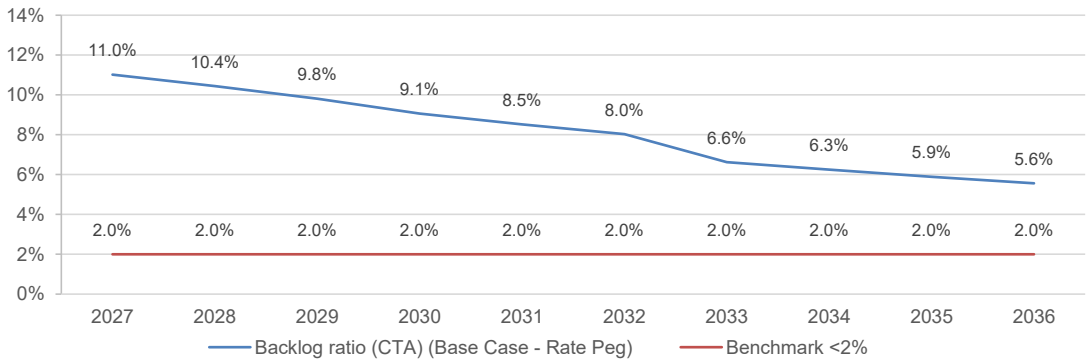

Figure 7: Roads and Kerb & Gutter Backlog Ratio – Cost to agreed level of service (CTA)

Footpaths

Under the preferred rate increase scenario, the footpath backlog is contained at around $0.6M, compared with the Base Case (rate peg only) where the backlog escalates to more than $9 million. The preferred option also prevents growth in the backlog against the agreed service level, reflecting community expectations for expanded upgrades.

Tables below present the projected capital and maintenance expenditure, along with backlog forecasts for both scenarios over the next ten years. These backlog projections are based on the reported Cost to Satisfactory (CTS).

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	2,422	2,433	2,864	3,017	2,814	3,662	4,286	5,880	7,540	9,274
Backlog - CTA	7,424	7,435	7,866	8,019	7,816	8,664	9,288	10,882	12,542	14,276
Renewal	1,099	1,733	1,420	1,830	2,344	1,404	1,767	883	904	926
New/upgrade	1,958	4,622	4,497	6,049	7,847	3,964	6,028	1,800	1,843	2,287
Maintenance	1,135	1,175	1,216	1,259	1,303	1,349	1,396	1,445	1,495	1,548

Table 9: Footpaths Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Base Case – Rate Peg ($'000)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	1,510	617	154	0	0	0	0	0	0	647
Backlog - CTA	6,512	5,619	5,156	4,423	3,347	3,333	3,110	3,871	4,714	5,649
Renewal	2,040	2,698	2,408	2,841	3,379	2,464	2,853	1,995	2,043	2,092
New/upgrade	4,060	6,776	6,703	8,308	10,160	6,333	8,454	4,284	4,387	4,892
Maintenance	1,135	1,816	1,873	1,930	1,990	2,051	1,908	1,968	2,031	2,096

Table 10: Footpaths Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Preferred Scenario - SRV ($'000)

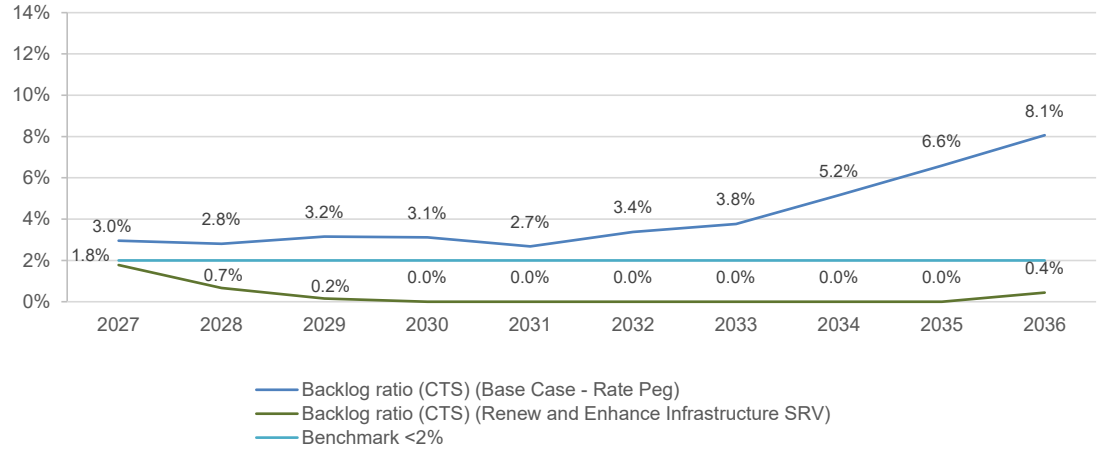

Figure 8: Footpaths Backlog Ratio – Cost to Satisfactory (CTS)

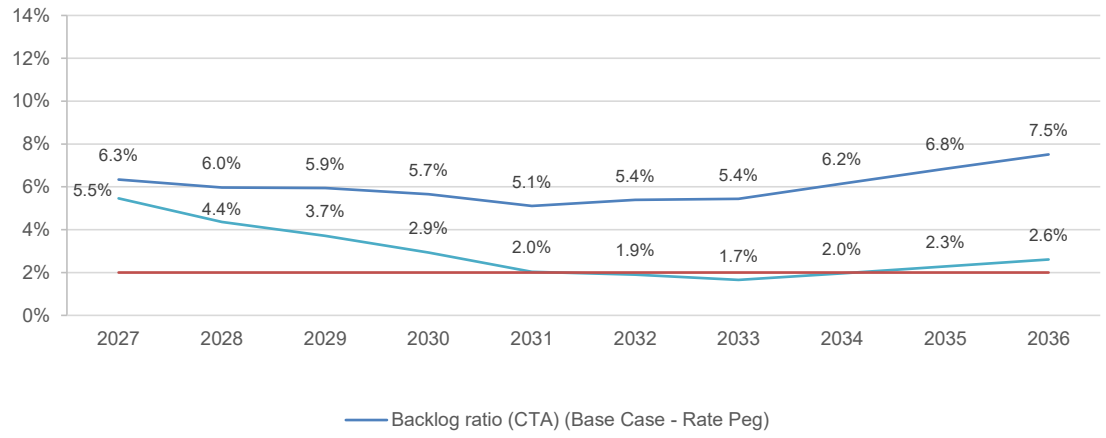

Figure 9: Footpaths Backlog Ratio – Cost to Agreed (CTA) Level of Service

New footpaths

Across the Local Government Area, an estimated 250 km of new footpaths are required to achieve a network with at least a footpath on one side of every street, while a further 620 km would be needed to provide footpaths on both sides.

Current funding levels are insufficient to fund the renewal of the existing footpath network or deliver new paths at the rate expected by the community. The demographic of the community is changing. With the increase in the average age of the community, there is a greater need to increase footpath on at least one side of the street proportional to the rate of change in demographic. The current annual allocation is only enough to achieve one side of every street by approximately 2082.

The preferred rate increase scenario would increase the annual budget for new footpaths by $2.1 million. This increase in funding will enable a footpath on one side of every street approximately by 2052 instead of 2082. The new footpath network will be made compliant with accessibility standards.

Once this target is met, Council will redirect the additional funding towards completing the second side of streets, ensuring that footpaths are progressively constructed on both sides of the road in line with long-term community expectations.

Car parks, road structures and bridges

The backlog for road structures, car parks and bridges is projected to be managed effectively, with the CTS backlog eliminated by 2033. The backlog against the agreed service level is also expected to be addressed by 2033/34 and then maintained at a sustainable level. As a result, this asset class does not require additional funding through the SRV.

However, Council has identified a critical funding shortfall for traffic and transport assets, including Disability Standard for Accessible Public Transport (DSAPT) compliance for bus stops. Priority safety works including roundabouts, median islands, and wombat crossings are unfunded in the Base Case, despite being recognised as essential. Under the preferred rate increase scenario, an additional $1.7 million per year is allocated to deliver these upgrades. This investment addresses the current funding gap and enables Council to implement targeted road safety improvements across the LGA.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	287	-	-	-	-	-	1,653	-	141	3,251
Backlog - CTA	2,842	-	-	-	79	2,060	4,208	-	2,696	5,806
Renewal	3,405	5,862	2,313	2,330	2,171	994	977	7,752	265	272
New/upgrade	7,088	19,379	9,604	8,737	8,985	3,791	3,842	215	675	-
Maintenance	1,389	1,438	1,488	1,540	1,594	1,650	1,708	1,768	1,830	1,894

Table 11: Car Parks, Road Structures and Bridges Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Base Case – Rate Peg ($'000)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	320	-	-	-	-	256	2,670	-	1,927	5,496
Backlog - CTA	2,875	-	-	-	607	2,811	5,225	1,039	4,482	8,051
Renewal	3,405	5,862	2,313	2,330	2,171	994	977	7,752	265	272
New/upgrade	8,790	21,123	11,390	10,566	10,858	5,709	5,806	4,653	2,734	2,109
Maintenance	1,389	1,957	2,020	2,084	2,150	2,219	2,122	2,192	2,263	2,337

Table 12: Car Parks, Road Structures and Bridges Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Preferred scenario - SRV ($'000)

Stormwater drainage

Under the preferred rate increase scenario, the stormwater backlog is significantly reduced, falling from $36.8 million in 2026/27 to approximately $15.7 million by 2035/36. This represents a reduction of over 80% compared with the Base Case, where the backlog escalates to around $81.6 million over the same period, placing increasing pressure on network performance. The additional funding provided through increased rates enables stronger drainage capacity, reduces flood risks, and improves overall resilience of the network.

The revised valuation methodology of componentisation treats the agreed level of service as equivalent to the CTS. Once a drainage pipe is relined, its condition rating improves directly from 4 or 5 to 1, restoring the asset to near-new condition. This ensures long-term service outcomes are achieved with greater certainty and supports sustainable backlog management.

Stormwater drainage condition review

Ku-ring-gai Council is responsible for around 12,000 stormwater drainage pipes which are predominantly located under road reserves and run to a length of nearly 300km. Council is also responsible for around 12,100 drainage pits, headwalls or other inlet structures, and a range of open drainage channels. In 2024/25, the gross replacement cost (GRC) of stormwater assets was $517 million.

This stormwater system plays a crucial role in draining rainwater from private and public buildings, streets and open space, particularly during heavy rainfall events.

However, Council's stormwater infrastructure has largely not been renewed since being built when the Ku-ring-gai area was first developed between the early to mid-1900s.

In 2022/23, Council conducted a comprehensive revaluation of its stormwater assets which uncovered that these assets were in a more deteriorated state than had been previously assumed. Examples of deterioration included pipe blockages, joint failure and cracking, and tree root and other foreign object intrusion.

Council followed this revaluation with an external review of stormwater assets, which was undertaken in 2023/24. This review involved the collection of additional CCTV data and an independent assessment of the conditions, useful lives and performing a revaluation of stormwater assets.

This review estimated that 43% of Council's stormwater assets were classified as being in a poor or very poor condition, with many of the assets coming to the end of their useful life and not operating as efficiently as they should.

The review introduced a new optimal renewal methodology, resulting in reduced depreciation costs. The methodology identified that stormwater pipes in certain conditions could be renewed more cost-effectively by adding a new inner lining, a process known as re-lining, eliminating the need for full replacement. This approach significantly lowers renewal costs while maintaining the functionality and longevity of stormwater pipes.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	42,662	46,223	50,079	54,085	58,378	62,786	67,314	71,963	76,739	81,643
Backlog - CTA	42,662	46,223	50,079	54,085	58,378	62,786	67,314	71,963	76,739	81,643
Renewal	2,616	1,412	1,263	1,254	1,107	1,134	1,161	1,189	1,217	1,246
New/upgrade	272	3,008	2,382	1,511	838	858	878	900	921	943
Maintenance	942	975	1,009	1,044	1,081	1,118	1,157	1,198	1,240	1,283

Table 13: Stormwater Drainage Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Base Case – Rate Peg ($'000)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	36,756	34,264	31,921	29,580	27,373	25,125	22,837	20,508	18,137	15,723
Backlog - CTA	36,756	34,264	31,921	29,580	27,373	25,125	22,837	20,508	18,137	15,723
Renewal	8,521	7,466	7,462	7,602	7,607	7,789	7,976	8,168	8,364	8,565
New/upgrade	272	3,008	2,382	1,511	838	858	878	900	921	943
Maintenance	942	975	1,009	1,044	1,081	1,118	1,157	1,198	1,240	1,283

Table 14: Stormwater Drainage Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Preferred scenario - SRV ($'000)

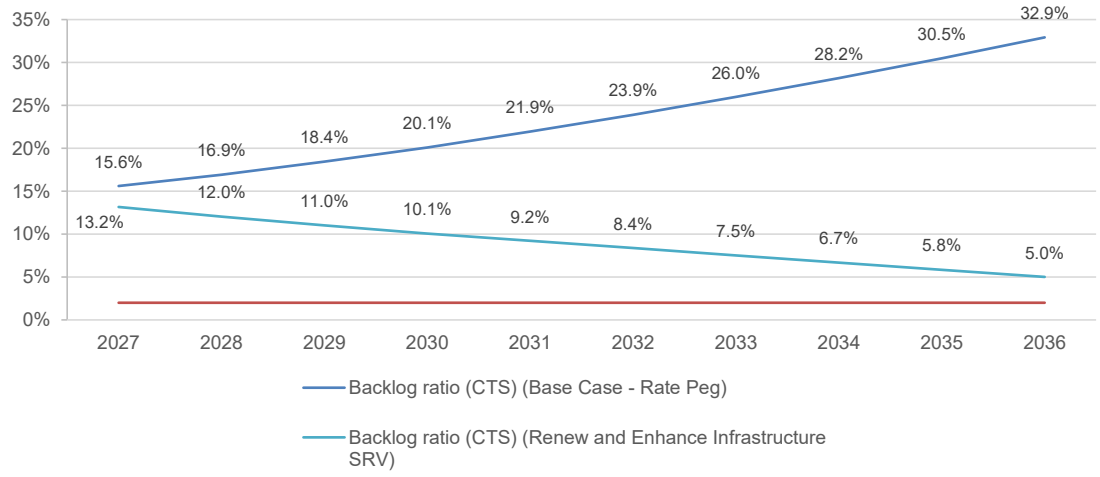

Figure 10: Stormwater Drainage Backlog Ratio – Cost to Satisfactory (CTS)

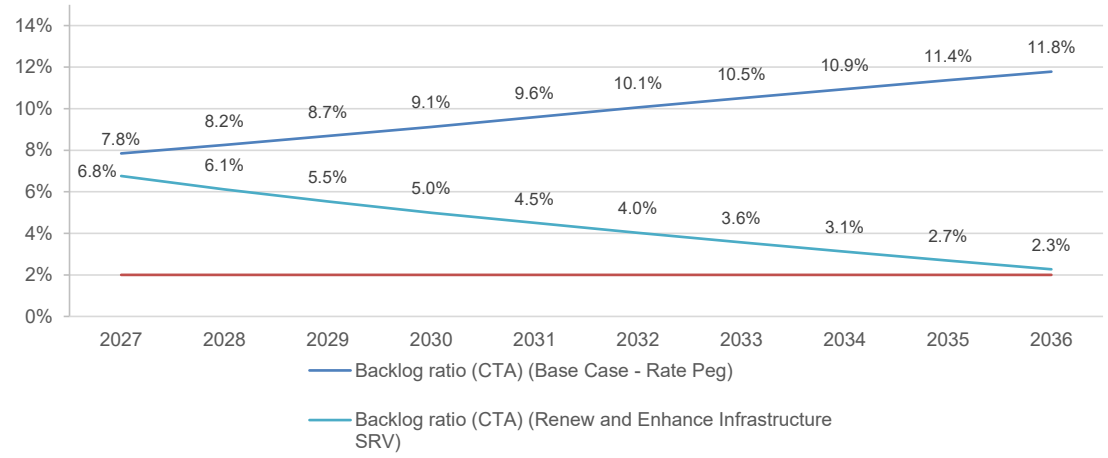

Figure 11: Stormwater Drainage Backlog Ratio - Cost to Agreed Level of Service (CTA)

Recreational facilities, parks and playgrounds

Recreational facilities include sports fields, parks, playgrounds, courts, walking tracks, fire trails and the Ku-ring-gai Sports and Aquatic Centre. These assets play a central role in supporting community wellbeing, recreation, and inclusion, and are consistently identified as a high priority in community consultation.

Under the Base Case, the CTA backlog for recreational facilities increases from around $5 million in 2026/27 to $28.9 million by 2035/36. This reflects the growing demand for high-quality open space and recreation facilities across the LGA, which cannot be met under existing funding.

In contrast, the preferred rate increase option provides the additional resources to reduce the CTA backlog for recreational facilities from around $3 million in 2026/27 to $8 million by 2035/36. The reduction of $20 million compared to the base case ensures assets are maintained closer to community expectations.

Community consultation highlights that 73% of ratepayers are at least somewhat supportive of paying increased rates to improve recreational facilities, particularly parks and sportsgrounds. The investment under the preferred scenario enables Council to respond directly to this feedback, improving service levels, ensuring more assets are maintained in good condition, and aligning outcomes with the community's expressed priorities.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	0	0	0	1,298	3,662	6,772	10,073	13,336	17,463	22,598
Backlog - CTA	5,013	3,562	5,250	7,556	9,920	13,030	16,331	19,594	23,721	28,856
Renewal	6,263	5,952	3,080	2,636	2,765	2,237	2,349	2,717	2,430	1,736
New/upgrade	11,472	7,124	7,240	2,570	3,011	4,127	7,958	8,825	20,096	6,974
Maintenance	8,874	9,185	9,506	9,839	10,183	10,540	10,908	11,290	11,685	12,094

Table 15: Recreational Facilities Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Base Case – Rate Peg ($'000)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,739
Backlog - CTA	3,111	0	0	0	0	951	2,083	3,123	5,083	7,997
Renewal	8,165	7,901	5,076	4,680	4,858	4,380	4,543	4,965	4,732	4,093
New/upgrade	11,472	7,124	7,240	2,570	4,142	4,127	7,958	8,825	25,067	6,974
Maintenance	8,874	9,185	9,506	9,839	10,183	10,540	11,283	11,674	12,078	12,496

Table 16: Recreational Facilities Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projects – Preferred scenario SRV ($'000)

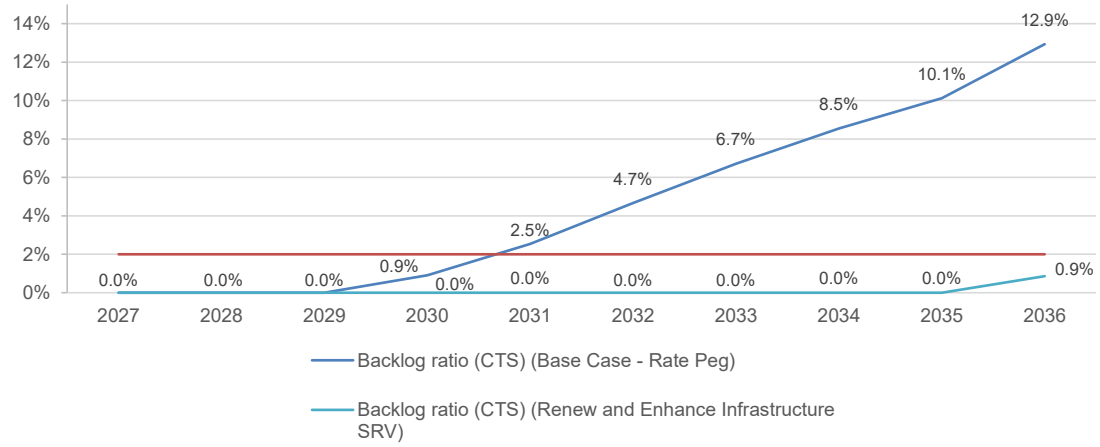

Figure 12: Recreational Facilities Backlog Ratio – Cost to Satisfactory (CTS)

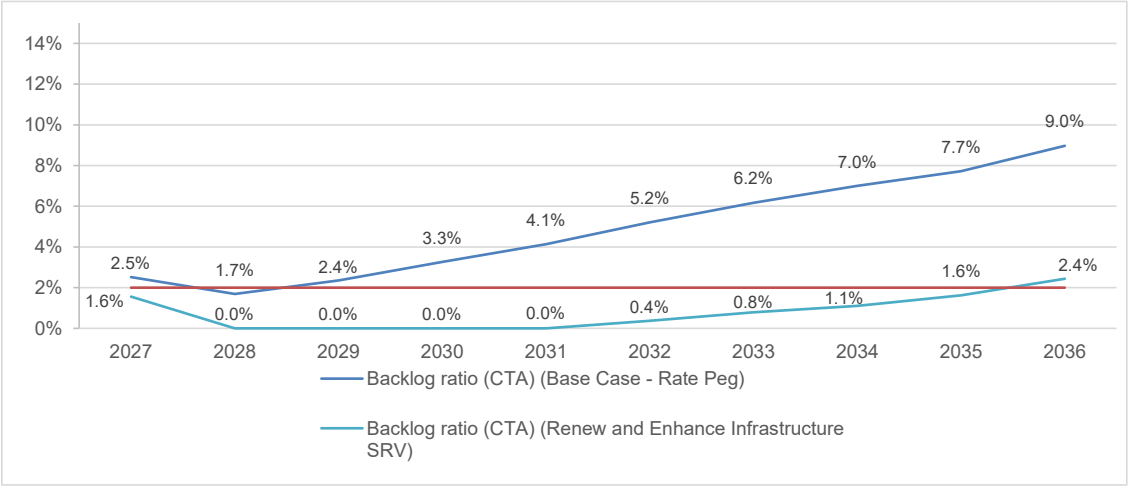

Figure 13: Recreational Facilities Backlog Ratio - Cost to Agreed (CTA) Level of Service

Buildings

Under the Base Case, the backlog grows significantly, rising from $38.0 million in 2026/27 to $77 million by 2035/36 at the satisfactory level, and from $67.0 million to $106 million at the agreed level of service.

In contrast, the preferred rate increase scenario reduces the satisfactory level backlog from $31.3 million to $2.3 million by 2035/36. The agreed service level backlog also declines steadily, falling from $60.3 million in 2026/27 to $31.3 million by 2035/36. This reflects increased renewal funding which enables Council to manage the asset base sustainably and address long-term building deficiencies.

Buildings condition review

Council is responsible for some 300 buildings with a gross replacement cost of $256.66 million, ranging from administration buildings through to bus shelters, amenities blocks, libraries, community halls, childcare centers and car parks.

In response to a Financial Sustainability Review recommendation, Council in 2023/24 engaged independent asset consultants to develop a prioritised capital upgrade program for Council's buildings portfolio and to review the Asset Management Plan (AMP) for its building assets.

This review identified that about 53% of the evaluated buildings needed capital upgrades, with recommended treatment options of either refurbishment or knockdown and rebuild.

These buildings typically require work to address:

- Modern accessibility standards, including through the construction of access ramps, disabled toilets and providing sufficient internal access movement space
- The needs of the rising number of female athletes and users, including the provision of separated changing facilities and toilets
- Significant issues with the building's structure or performance, such as waterproofing failure, poor lighting or degraded internal finishes.

The review resulted in development of a 10-year detailed prioritised program of building upgrade works with estimated costs of around $163.5 million over 10 years to modernise Council buildings, with most buildings requiring refurbishment and some requiring a knockdown.

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	38,040	40,563	43,210	47,657	52,231	56,934	61,770	66,743	71,857	77,116
Backlog - CTA	67,039	69,562	72,209	76,656	81,230	85,933	90,769	95,742	100,856	106,115
Renewal	1,943	2,663	2,768	1,117	1,144	1,171	1,199	1,228	1,258	1,288
New/upgrade	2,810	1,681	5,502	742	759	778	796	815	835	855
Maintenance	5,743	5,944	6,152	6,367	6,590	6,821	7,059	7,306	7,562	7,827

Table 17: Buildings Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Base Case – Rate Peg ($'000)

	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36
Backlog - CTS	31,334	26,982	22,590	19,829	17,021	14,166	11,263	8,310	5,309	2,257
Backlog - CTA	60,333	55,981	51,589	48,828	46,020	43,165	40,262	37,309	34,308	31,256
Renewal	8,649	9,537	9,807	8,325	8,525	8,730	8,939	9,154	9,373	9,598
New/upgrade	2,810	1,681	5,502	742	759	778	796	815	835	855
Maintenance	5,743	5,944	6,152	6,367	6,590	6,821	7,059	7,306	7,562	7,827

Table 18: Buildings Backlog, Capital and Maintenance Projections – Preferred scenario - SRV ($'000)

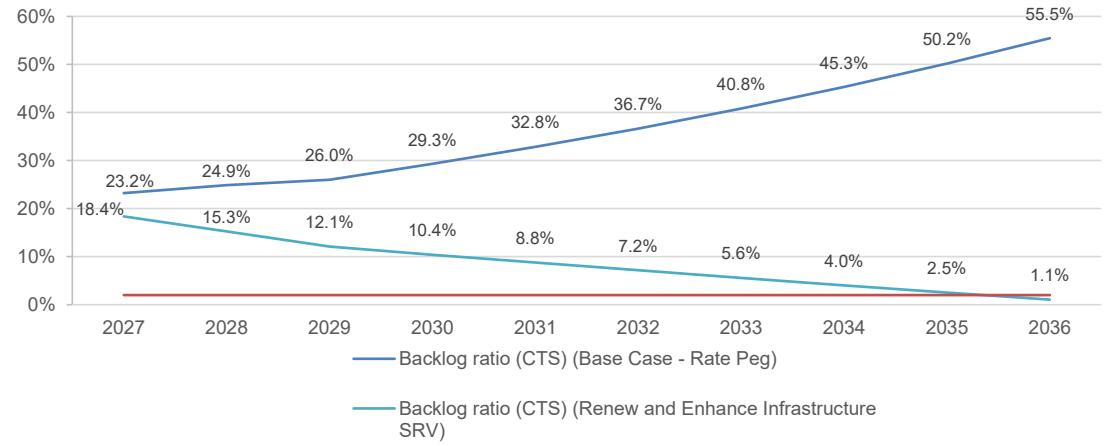

Figure 14: Buildings Backlog Ratio – Cost to Satisfactory (CTS)

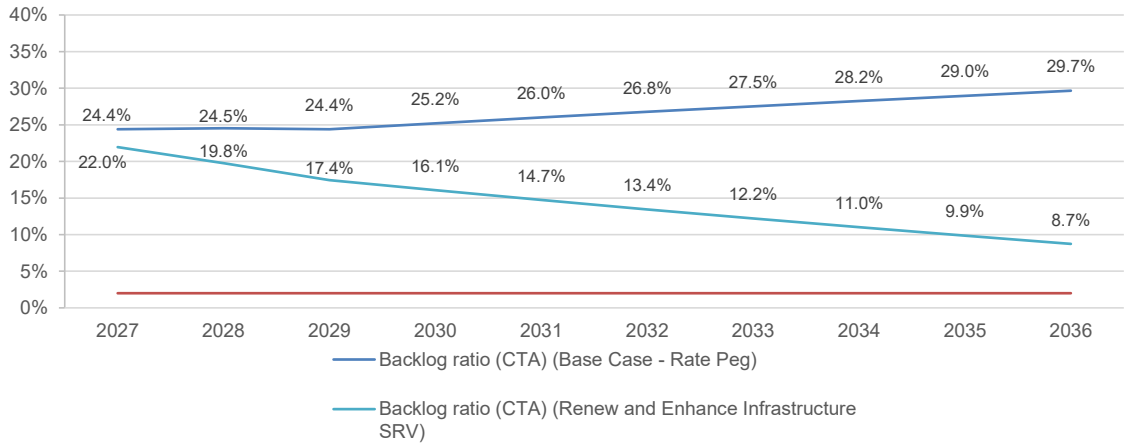

Figure 15: Buildings Backlog Ratio – Cost to Agreed (CTA) Level of Service

Performance evaluation

To ensure the AMS delivers on the outcomes in a transparent and tangible way, a range of specific and measurable goals have been detailed below:

Action ID	Details	Measure	Due Date
1	Keep an up-to-date Assets Register for Parks and Recreational Assets, Traffic and Transport Assets and Buildings Assets	90% of asset network with up-to-date condition assessments per asset class	2027/28
2.	Undertake independent Asset Revaluation of all Asset Classes once every five years	Meet the OLG Benchmarks	2027-2032
3	Re-establish the Asset Management Steering Group	Asset Management Steering Group formally re-established, and meeting schedule implemented	2026/27
4	Develop Asset Management Framework to meet the ISO55000 requirements	Framework adopted by Asset Management Steering Group	2026/27
5	Develop, consult and adopt Levels of Services and review maintenance expenditure for all asset classes	Maintenance expenditure reviewed and benchmarked against asset condition and service levels	2028/29
6	Develop, review and update 10 years Capital Works Program for each class of Assets	10 years program is scoped, costed, and handed over to Project Services for delivery	2027/2028
7	Review the number of Asset Classes and consider the need for Place-Based Assets Plans	Present reports to Asset Management Steering Group, providing options	2028/2029
8.	Meet Core Asset Maturity	Undertake independent Asset Maturity Audit	2026/2027

The Asset Management Strategy proposes the following additional actions to enable the objectives of the Asset Policy and Community Strategic Plan:

	Strategy	Action
1	Long Term Financial Planning.	Regularly update the LTFP
2	Asset Management Plans	Develop and annually review AMPs covering at least 10 years for all major asset classes.
3	Update Long Term Financial Plan to incorporate Asset Management Strategy expenditure projections.	Funding model to provide Council services.
4	Report Council's financial position at Fair Value in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, financial sustainability and performance against strategic objectives in Annual Reports.	Financial sustainability information is available for Council and the community. Revaluation of the infrastructure assets at the appropriate time (as required)
5	Ensure Council decisions on asset service level performance and cost and "whole of life" cost are made from accurate and current information in the asset register.	Improved decision making and greater value for money.
6	Report on Council's resources and operational capability to deliver the services needed by the community in the Annual Report.	Service delivery is matched to available resources and operational capabilities.
7	Ensure responsibilities for asset management are identified.	Responsibility for asset management is defined.
8	Implement an Improvement Plan to realise 'core' maturity for the financial and asset management competencies within 2 years.	Improved financial and asset management capacity within Council.

9	Report to Council on development and implementation of Asset Management Strategy, Asset Management Plans and Long-Term Financial Plans.	Oversight of resource allocation and performance.

The approach to assessing performance in relation to asset planning and measurement will be both quantitative and qualitative. This will be monitored through Council's asset management system, asset revaluations, service improvement reviews and management reviews and alignment of asset management plans to the delivery program and operational plan. Individual asset performance will be measured through conditional rating, and this will be reported through special schedules in Council's financial statements.

Council's IP&R processes allow for performance measures relating to the delivery of infrastructure asset programs, are contained in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan, and are reported on bi-annually and annually to ensure progress and/or achievements are measured and reported.

The Asset Management Policy outlines Council's asset management framework including its integration with the IP&R framework. The Asset Management Steering Group will allow for monitoring of works in progress, reporting and continual improvement of processes, as well as support whole of council responsibility for asset management.

Future services levels will be determined in consultation with the community. Council periodically undertakes community surveys to determine current satisfaction of services and facilities. Future surveys will be tailored to include asset management and to determine the community's expectations for various asset classes and will be used in the development of delivery programs and asset management plans.

Asset Management Plans

Each major asset class is managed through a dedicated Asset Management Plan (AMP). Each AMP identifies the actions and resources required to provide a defined level of service in a cost-effective manner, and provides long-term projections for asset maintenance, rehabilitation, renewal and replacement, including life cycle costs. In accordance with the IP&R framework and best practice asset management principles, the AMPs expand on the high-level Asset Management Strategy and provide further detail on the following:

- current and desired levels of service, informed by community research and expectations, strategic goals and legislative requirements
- current condition and capacity / performance of assets
- asset valuations, financial projections and funding strategies
- demand drivers and forecasts, the impact of changing demand on assets and detailed asset programs to meet future needs
- formal risk assessments (with a focus on critical assets)
- detailed strategies for all phases of the asset lifecycle (e.g. acquisition, operations and maintenance, renewal and replacement and disposal).

The following AMPs are under review:

Road and transport assets

- Covers local roads, kerbs & gutters, bridges, car parks, and other associated traffic and transport infrastructure.
- Contains asset condition, renewal programs, traffic management priorities, and forward works programs.

Footpaths

- Addresses the footpath network including concrete, asphalt, and paver paths.
- Documents network coverage, connectivity gaps and safety risks.
- Includes new and renewal construction programs to improve accessibility around schools, train stations, and business centres.

Stormwater drainage

- Covers pipes, pits, culverts, and other stormwater drainage assets.
- Illustrates network capacity, condition grading, backlog assessments, and priority flood mitigation and renewal works.

Parks and recreational assets

- Covers parks, sportsgrounds, playgrounds and associated recreational facilities area
- Documents asset condition, lifecycle costs, usage demand, and future enhancements to meet recreational needs.

Building assets

- Encompasses community halls, libraries, depots, amenities, and other Council-owned buildings.
- Outlines accessibility upgrades, compliance with safety and sustainability standards, and renewal requirements.
- Assesses service level gaps and prioritises investment in high-use facilities.

Contact us

For assistance or information regarding any of Council's services or facilities please contact us. Business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30 am – 5.00 pm.

In person:
818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

Phone:
02 9424 0000

Email:
krg@krg.nsw.gov.au

Website and online chat:
krg.nsw.gov.au

Post:
Locked Bag 1006, Gordon NSW 2072


Ku-ring-gai Council


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Our Ku-ring-gai:
Working together



Workforce Management Strategy 2026-2030

June 2026

Ku-ring-gai Council

Need help?

This document contains important information. If you do not understand it, please call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 to request the service contact Ku-ring-gai Council on your behalf on T: 02 9424 0000 during business hours, Monday to Friday, 8.30 am - 5.00 pm.

Simplified Chinese

需要帮助吗？

本文件包含重要信息。如果您不理解本文件，请致电翻译口译服务 131 450。 让其代表您致电 9424 0000 联系Ku-ring-gai议会。营业时间：周一至周五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Traditional Chinese

需要幫助嗎？

本檔包含重要資訊。如果您不理解本檔，請致電翻譯口譯服務 131 450。 讓其代表您致電 9424 0000 聯繫Ku-ring-gai議會。營業時間：週一至週五，上午8.30—下午5:00。

Korean

도움이 필요하십니까?

이 문서에는 중요한 정보가 담겨 있습니다. 여러분이 이해할 수 없다면, TIS (번역 및 통역 서비스)의 131 450번으로 전화하십시오. 9424 0000번으로 여러분을 대신하여 전화해서 쿠링가이 카운슬을 연락해 달라고 요청하십시오. 영업 시간: 월요일–금요일, 오전 8시30분–오후 5시.

Persian

آیا به کمک نیاز دارید؟

این مدرک حاوی اطلاعات مهمی است. اگر آنها را نمی فهمید، خواهش می کنیم به خدمات ترجمه نوشتاری و گفتاری (Translating and Interpreting Service) به شماره ۱۳۱ ۴۵۰ تلفن کنید و از آن سرویس بخواهید از جانب شما با شهرداری کورینگای (Ku-ring-gai Council) در ساعات کاری، دوشنبه تا جمعه از ساعت ۸:۳۰ صبح تا ساعت ۵:۰۰ بعد از ظهر با شماره تلفن ۰۲ ۹۴۲۴ ۰۰۰۰ تماس بگیرند.

Japanese

ご質問がありますか？

当文書には重要な情報が記載されています。もし何か不明な点があれば、月曜から金曜の午前8:30から午後5:00までの受付時間内に、まず131 450の通訳翻訳サービスにお電話いただき、通訳を介してKu-ring-gai Councilのサービス担当（電話:02 9424 0000）までお問合せください

Hindi

सहायता चाहिए?

इस दस्तावेज़ में महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी है। यदि यह आपको समझ नहीं आती, तो कृपया अनुवाद और दुभाषिया सेवा को 131 450 पर कॉल करें, और इस सेवा को आपकी ओर से फ़ोन: 02 9424 0000 पर व्यावसायिक घंटों के दौरान, सोमवार से शुक्रवार, सुबह 8.30 से शाम 5.00 बजे तक कू-रिंग-गई काउन्सिल से संपर्क करने के लिए अनुरोध करें।

These languages were chosen as they are the most widely spoken by Ku-ring-gai residents indicated by ABS Census data.

Need assistance with hearing or speaking?

Contact Ku-ring-gai Council using the 24-hour **National Relay Service:**

TTY users: Call 133 677 then dial 02 9424 0000.

Voice Relay users: Call 1300 555 727 then ask for 02 9424 0000.

NRS Chat:
Go to www.accesshub.gov.au/services/nrs-chat and enter 02 9424 0000.

For all other assistance options see www.accesshub.gov.au

Need help to access Council's building?

Disability parking and access are available via a ramp and lift, off Radford Place at the rear of Council's building, at 818 Pacific Highway, Gordon, NSW.

Call 02 9424 0000 Monday to Friday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm if you need further assistance.

KU-RING-GAI COUNCIL

818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

P: 02 9424 0000 | **E:** krg@krg.nsw.gov.au

W: krg.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgment of traditional owners

Ku-ring-gai Council recognises the traditional custodians of the lands and waters, and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging

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Introduction

Ku-ring-gai Council's Workforce Management Strategy outlines our commitment to ensuring Council has both the capacity and capability within its workforce to deliver positive outcomes for the organisation and ultimately the community.

The Workforce Management Strategy together with the Asset Management Strategy and Long Term Financial Plan, provide the resources necessary to achieve Council's Delivery Program and Operational Plan and progress our 10 year Community Strategic Plan. It aligns with and supports our key planning and strategy documents to ensure that we have a capable, skilled, engaged and sustainable workforce to deliver on our commitments.

This strategy meets the Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) requirements where assets, finances and the workforce are planned in an integrated framework. It identifies high level outcomes and strategies and provides a strategic framework to guide our people management strategies over the next four years.

It is anticipated that the local government industry and our workforce will experience moderate changes during the period and as such the Workforce Management Strategy will be reviewed in line with the annual IP&R cycle.

Workforce planning and development

Standards Australia defines workforce planning as a management technique which is used to effectively manage workforce demand and supply.

It is the process used to align the needs of a business with those of its workforce by identifying current and future staffing needs.

Workforce planning focuses on retaining existing staff, as well as attracting new staff, to ensure an organisation has the right number of people, with the right skills in the right jobs at the right time (see diagram 1).

The Workforce Management Strategy details Council's strategic approach to workforce development, whilst the outcomes of our workforce planning are detailed in the Long Term Financial Plan.



Diagram 1: Workforce capability and planning cycle

Organisational context

The external environment

NSW labour market and economy

In early 2025, the unemployment rate for Australia was approximately 4.3%, with NSW also around 4.0%. At April 2025, the Sydney North and West region recorded an unemployment rate of approximately 3.4%. Employment participation in the Sydney North and West region was around 67.4%, compared to the NSW participation rate of approximately 66.7%.

Ku-ring-gai local government area

The latest population estimate for the Ku-ring-gai Council area, as of 30 June 2025, is 128,542 (ERP)[1] representing an annual increase of 0.09%. This compares with a growth rate of 1.35% across Greater Sydney over the same period.

Ku-ring-gai has a vibrant and increasingly diverse population spanning all generations. It is a popular area for families with school aged children attracted to the area for its open spaces, range of sporting facilities, access to schools and health services and close proximity to major employment areas.

Our residents are generally employed in the professional, scientific and technical sectors as well as health care and social services, and financial and insurance services[1].

More than 40 per cent of residents were born overseas, mainly in China, United Kingdom, South Africa, Hong Kong and India. Aside from English, the most commonly spoken languages at home are Mandarin, Cantonese and Korean[1].

We face many challenges in catering for our population growth and meeting the ever changing needs of our diverse community.

Australian local government sector

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) commissioned the *2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey* to gain further insight into the national workforce profile of Australia's local government sector and to determine current and future workforce needs and priorities.

The survey captures rich insights into the Australian local government workforce, its skilling needs, and priorities at a time when Australian communities are undergoing rapid change.

Key findings include:

- Local government is a major national employer with over 190,800 workers in almost 400 occupations. It plays an important role as an anchor organisation and in increasing productivity through utilising endogenous talent and innovation.
- Local governments continue to experience skills shortages in multiple occupations, exacerbated by the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impacts of climate change and the accelerated take-up of technology and digitisation of services.
- Local governments are grappling with significant challenges in relation to recruitment and retention of skilled staff and accessing training opportunities to enhance workforce skills and capability. Employee attrition and an ageing workforce are ongoing and an escalating difficulty.

[1] Australian Bureau of Statistics, Regional Population Growth, Australia (3218.0). Compiled and presented by .id

- Local governments are having difficulties in securing the right quantum and mix of skills to support local service provision which is affecting not only local government's productivity, but also the productivity of host localities and regions.
- Barriers to effective workforce planning and management include a shortage of resources within local government, a lack of skilled workers and the loss of corporate knowledge as employees retire or resign.

Some of these findings are not unique to the local government sector and affect other sectors of the economy, especially in regional areas away from major capital cities.

NSW local government sector

An overview of key insights gathered from NSW Local Councils that participated in the *2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey* is provided below.

As at 30 June 2020, the NSW local government sector employed 48,828 FTE (full time equivalent) staff. The sector is dominated by mid-size local governments of between 100-500 FTEs, which account for 59% of all local governments.

NSW councils are diverse in geographical size, population and cultural mix, rates of growth and functions performed. Many are significant local employers, offering jobs in a wide range of occupations. Yet most councils face similar workforce challenges as they compete for labour drawn from within and outside their local areas.

Within the local government industry there continues to be strong competition for key professional appointments.

Since 2018, engineers, urban and town planners, building surveyors and project managers have remained the top four professional skill shortage occupations. Accountants have emerged as the fifth most common professional skill shortage. Labourers, supervisors and team leaders, and tradespersons are the most common shortages among trade occupations. Waste, water and sewerage operators is an emerging skills shortage area. Several occupational skill shortages are becoming critical, including computing and ICT professionals, engineers, urban and town planners, building surveyors, and mechanical tradespersons.

The current key drivers of skills shortages included inability to compete with market remuneration particularly in the mining industry, a lack of suitably qualified applicants, regional or rural location, construction boom in the Sydney metropolitan area, real estate shortages, housing affordability, local governments brand identity and demand for flexible working arrangements.

The hardest to fill occupations included engineers, followed by building surveyors and town planning. In 2021-22, local governments also experienced recruitment challenges for nurses, plumbers, water network operators, road safety officers, mechanics, asset managers, ICT staff for data management and technology project managers, accountants, and human resources professionals.

Skills gaps were identified across several occupations ranging from engineers to arborists, librarians, civil designers, professional, corporate and finance areas. NSW local governments identified the following new or additional skills that were required to mitigate these critical skills gaps: a combination of skilling initiatives, tertiary or trade qualifications, and on the job experience. Some local governments also specified the need for soft skills, such as emotional intelligence, people management, ideation (design thinking), reasoning and problem solving.

Key drivers of critical skills gaps by occupational area included a range of factors, for example, complex market competitiveness and remuneration, limited talent pools, legislative changes and/or

requirements, insurance costs, challenges in recruiting for regulatory roles, and a lack of regional housing availability and/or affordability. Many of these factors are beyond local government's influence or control.

Many participating NSW councils indicated that vacancies, skills shortages, skills gaps, or training needs have impacted or delayed project delivery.

Local governments typically used a variety of strategies to address skills gaps and shortages, including providing opportunities to act up and/or across other roles, providing informal on the job training, targeted training, coaching/mentoring, secondments or exchanges with other workplaces, and service/resource sharing with other councils.

The most successful methods for filling vacancies included advertising, social media, word of mouth and personal networks of staff, taking on more trainees or apprentices, trialling people through work experience or practicum placements, resource sharing across the council, and redesigning job roles. Contingent workers and graduate employment pipelines were less successful methods for filling skills shortages.

Factors impacting future skilling needs included: ageing workforce, major council or external infrastructure projects, increasing levels of governance and compliance, technological change, changes in government funding levels, growth in the local government area and climate change.

In terms of the future workforce, NSW councils identified flexible and targeted training and development as the most common approaches to meeting future skills needs. They also identified a range of resources and/or assistance that would help them to meet future skills needs including:

- Funding for a range of supports including fee-free and onsite training, to support employment growth in environmental and digital roles, and to support local governments in offering more competitive remuneration
- Workforce planning, such as more detailed forecasting and developing an employee retention program
- Greater access to trainers, particularly in regional areas, which would reduce training costs
- Facilitating pathways for international students and skilled migrants
- Incentivising skilled retirees to re-enter the workforce, and
- Supporting more local decision making between local governments and training providers.

Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey 2025

In 2025 the Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) partnered with Local Government Associations (LGAs) and Public Skills Australia (PSA) to undertake a Local Government Skills Audit to identify vocational skills gaps across Australian local governments.

As part of the audit, every NSW council and county council was asked to complete the Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey 2025. The survey aims to gather information from participating Councils in relation to; headcount, demographics, length of service, trainees, cadetships and apprenticeships, retention data/issues and occupation specific data.

Previous audits in 2018 and 2022 provided the evidence which supported the NSW Government’s decision to invest an additional $252 million to fund the wages of 1,300 NSW local government trainees, apprentices and cadets under the Fresh Start for Local Government Program.

The 2025 survey aims to ensure that comprehensive evidence-based strategic workforce policy decisions can be made and implemented.

Once the findings and outcomes of the Local Government Skills Audit are finalised, they will inform Council's future Workforce Management Strategies.

The Internal Environment

Organisational structure

At Ku-ring-gai Council services are delivered to the community via five departments together with the General Managers unit (Civic).

Each discrete service is provided by one of the twenty business units that operate across these departments.

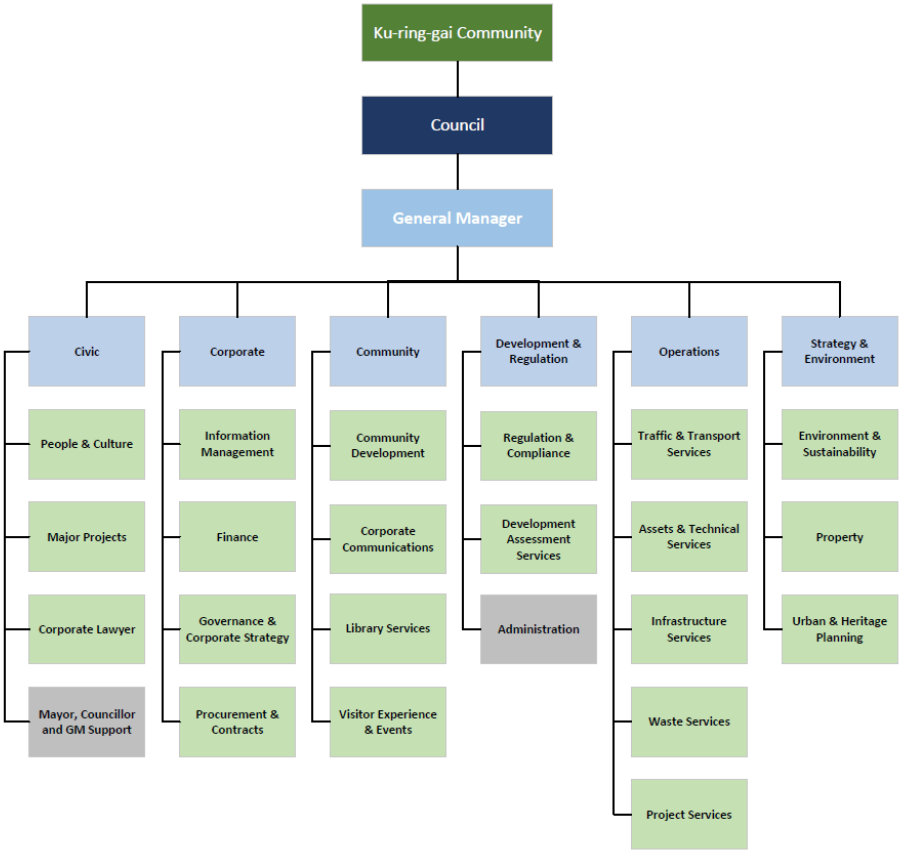

Diagram 2: Ku-ring-gai Council organisational chart

Corporate values

At Ku-ring-gai Council we recognise the importance of having a set of shared common values that everyone has helped establish to leverage a stronger culture for our organisation and help lead us to a more positive outlook on our environment, the people we work with, and the work we produce.

Our values are Do What Is Right, Show Respect, Own Our Actions and Strive for Excellence.

		We Will...	We Won't...
Do what is right	• We act with integrity in everything that we do and say • We make transparent, ethical and consistent decisions that support the vision of Council	• Act with honesty and transparency • Be fair and unbiased • Be trustworthy and sincere	• Be dishonest, corrupt and/or deceptive • Take the soft option and avoid hard conversations • Serve individual interests above those of Council
Show respect	• We are considerate towards others ensuring fairness, dignity and equality • We practice and encourage transparent communication	• Be open and have honest interactions • Treat people fairly and equally • Be open to all points of view	• Disregard the views of others • Disrespect others through gossip and innuendo • Bully, harass and/or discriminate
Own your actions	• We are accountable for our decisions • We take responsibility for the outcomes of our choices, behaviours and actions	• Be responsive, available and inclusive • Be receptive to constructive feedback • Hold ourselves and others accountable	• Hide mistakes and shift blame • Fail to meet our commitments • Be white-anting and /or undermine colleagues or decisions
Strive for excellence	• We work together as a team to achieve our full potential • We have the insight and passion to lead Council into the future	• Have a 'can do' attitude • Make courageous decisions • Encourage new ideas	• Be closed-off to new ideas • Be complacent, lazy and/or negative • Settle for the status quo

These values are critical in driving our organisation forward in the right direction, building our culture and energising our people.

In 2025, we continue to recognise behavioural excellence as a key component of our Rewards and Recognition Program. We celebrate staff who consistently demonstrate excellence in behaviour aligned with our corporate values through our e-badge nomination system and the annual Staff Excellence Awards ceremony. These initiatives actively encourage staff to nominate and recognise their peers, fostering a culture of appreciation and shared accountability.

Culture

Employee engagement

Over the last few years, we have continued to demonstrate our resilience, tenacity, and adaptability. Our combined efforts have undoubtedly helped drive the achievement of many key milestones and the continued delivery of high-quality services to our community.

As we continue to adjust to changing environments, there are more opportunities for us to work towards building a better and more robust workplace cultivated by strong performance and high staff engagement.

In July 2023, Council adopted the Gender Equality Strategy 2023-2027 with the primary objective to advance gender equality within Council's workforce. The overarching goal of the strategy is to foster a workplace that is diverse, inclusive, and welcoming to all employees, ensuring equal treatment irrespective of gender.

The strategy establishes a comprehensive framework to promote gender equality, encompassing five key objectives:

1. Increasing representation of women in leadership positions.
2. Promoting gender equality by eliminating gender-based discrimination and promoting equal access to employment, training, and career development opportunities, regardless of gender.
3. Enhancing employee well-being by promoting work-life balance and support for women's career advancement through flexible work arrangements, parental leave, higher duties and equal pay for work of equal value.

4. Improving data collection and analysis to identify gender inequalities and monitor progress towards gender equality.
5. Improving organisational performance by ensuring that all employees have an equal opportunity to contribute their skills, knowledge and expertise.

In early 2024 Council implemented the 2024-2027 Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Plan (the Plan) which follows on from the 2020-2023 plan and continues to address the legislative framework established to ensure Council takes appropriate action to eliminate discrimination and promote equal opportunity for persons in designated groups in relation to employment matters.

The Plan includes four key strategies:

1. Building awareness of EEO Management Principles
2. Policies, procedures, plans and programs align with EEO management principles
3. Collect, review and report on EEO data, and
4. Promote gender diversity in leadership.

The Plan focuses on a range of contemporary EEO and diversity initiatives, including matters related to gender equality, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and the LGBTQ+ community.

In July 2024, Council completed the biennial Employee Opinion Survey (EOS), achieving a strong participation rate of 85 per cent. The survey was designed to assess employee engagement—an essential component of organisational culture that reflects our collective commitment to Council—and to measure our progress in addressing key focus areas including performance, engagement, workforce sustainability, diversity and inclusion, reward and recognition, innovation, and psychosocial hazards. The insights gained from the survey provide a critical evidence base to further strengthen and enhance Council's performance in these areas.

Following the survey, Council developed a comprehensive, organisation-wide EOS Action Plan aimed at improving employee engagement and organisational performance. The Action Plan outlines a range of targeted initiatives across four priority areas identified through survey feedback.

The four priority areas are outlined below:

<u>Employee Benefits</u>

- Communicate and consult with key stakeholders on existing employee benefits
- Benchmark and investigate additional benefit opportunities
- Publicise, promote, and implement new and enhanced benefits

<u>Recruitment</u>

- Survey Hiring Managers and review the online recruitment and application process
- Develop an action plan to promote careers in local government
- Review and refresh recruitment and promotional materials that showcase what it is like to work at KRG

<u>Technology</u>

- Develop a communication strategy to improve staff awareness of available technology
- Conduct a staff survey and undertake a deeper analysis of technology needs

- Develop and implement a targeted staff training program

Facilities

- 818 Pacific Highway: Review and upgrade kitchenettes and bathrooms, refine the office layout masterplan, and develop a GMD business case for future workplace options
- Gordon Library: Complete lift replacement
- Upgrade the forecourt area to address drainage improvements

To support ongoing engagement and transparency, Council will continue to share key organisation-wide updates through the monthly *360 View* platform. This initiative has demonstrably strengthened communication, enhanced engagement, and encouraged meaningful dialogue between staff and the leadership team.

Early careers program

The Early Careers Program has been designed to support Council's workforce requirements and empower talented individuals just starting or completing their qualifications. The program will address labour shortages, offer new career pathways, and strengthen succession planning across our organisation.

Council has developed a comprehensive Early Careers Program Policy and Procedure to act as a framework for creating and managing entry-level positions that will support our future workforce.

The program is made up of four main streams:

1. Apprentices: Apprentices are engaged in a trade-based training program for a period of up to 4 years (five years for relevant electrical apprenticeships) full-time relevant to the training contract duration.
2. Trainees: Trainees are engaged in a training program for a period of up to three years full-time relevant to the training contract duration.
3. Undergraduates: Undergraduates are engaged in their penultimate or final year of an undergraduate degree for a period of up to four years, depending on the duration of the course.
4. Graduates: Participants must have completed an undergraduate degree within the last 12 months and are engaged for a period of up to 24 months.

Council was successful in obtaining grant funding for 21 positions which consists of 5 Apprentice positions, 5 Trainee positions and 11 Undergraduate (Cadet) positions. These positions are varied across business areas including Infrastructure Services, Traffic and Transport, Community Development, People & Culture, Development Assessment, Visitor Services & Events, Information Management, Finance, Governance, Procurement, and Environment & Sustainability.

We are currently exploring state funding opportunities which will support some of the costs associated with these positions and enable a higher uptake across the various service areas.

Work/life balance

Council recognises the need to create and support a healthy work/life balance for our employees.

Initiatives such as the Transition to Retirement Scheme and Self-funded Leave Program together with our flexible working arrangements are key in fostering this approach and continue to remain a popular choice among staff.

In 2024 we introduced the Novated Leasing Policy as well as the Fitness Passport Program which built upon the options for flexibility available to staff and improved Council's overall Employee Value Proposition (EVP). The Novated Leasing Policy offers staff the ability to reduce their taxable income by entering into an agreement to lease a vehicle for personal use as part of a salary sacrificing arrangement. The Fitness Passport Program offers staff and their family unparalleled access to more than 890 gyms and pools all over NSW, for as little as $16.50 per week for an individual membership.

Equal employment opportunity (EEO)

The purpose of Ku-ring-gai Council's Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) Management Plan (The Plan) is to promote diversity and respect. It contains a statement of objectives, actions and target dates that have been established to ensure achievement of Council's overall strategy for equal employment in the workplace.

Council is committed to ensuring all people are treated equally and are not disadvantaged by prejudices or bias.

The current Plan (2024-2027) and set of objectives has been developed to ensure Council continues to advance in proactively eliminating discrimination and promoting equal opportunity. Key strategies include:

- Building awareness of EEO Management Principles
- Ensure ongoing alignment of policies, procedures, plans and programs with EEO Management Principles
- Improved collection, review and reporting of EEO data, and
- Promoting gender diversity in leadership.

The Plan also supports the Gender Diversity Strategy 2023-2030 with key actions including publishing news stories highlighting women in non-traditional and leaderships roles, reviewing the current development opportunities and programs aimed at supporting the succession of women into leadership roles, and expanding the benefits available to staff to foster additional inclusive employment conditions through Council's Total Reward and Recognition Program.

Safe working environment

Council remains strongly committed to providing and maintaining a safe, healthy and supportive working environment for all employees, contractors and volunteers. This commitment is underpinned by continuous improvement of Council's Work Health and Safety (WHS) framework, proactive risk management practices, and ongoing consultation with staff and stakeholders.

To support best practice and legislative compliance, Council monitors its WHS Management System closely to ensure alignment with the Work Health and Safety Act and Regulations, relevant Australian Standards, codes of practice and recognised industry guidance. Performance is monitored through tailored WHS indicators, dashboards and assurance activities, including internal and external audits.

<u>Key achievements in 2025</u>

During 2025, Council progressed a broad range of initiatives aimed at strengthening safety governance, improving risk maturity and embedding WHS as a shared organisational responsibility. Key activities included:

- Enhancing WHS performance monitoring through continued refinement of reporting indicators and dashboards to support data-driven decision making.
- Progressing a comprehensive program of staff wellbeing initiatives, including flu vaccinations, skin cancer screenings, audiometric testing and ongoing access to support programs such as the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), wellbeing reimbursements, Fitness Passport, transition to retirement options and flexible work arrangements.
- Reviewing and updating WHS policies, procedures and controlled documents to maintain legislative compliance and reflect contemporary best practice.
- Reviewing the Emergency Control Organisation and updating site-based Emergency Management Plans, supported by Fire Warden training, evacuation drills and emergency preparedness activities.
- Delivering a structured communications program, including a five-week targeted campaign, WHS newsletters and e-newsletters to increase awareness of risk management obligations and encourage active staff participation.
- Delivering a range of WHS and risk-focused training programs, including:
    - Due Diligence and Psychosocial Awareness workshops for General Managers, Directors and Business Unit Managers;
    - Enterprise Risk Leader training in partnership with StateCover; and
    - Organisation-wide risk awareness training to strengthen capability across all levels.
- Completing an external WHS audit and progressing actions identified through the WHS Management System audit and StateCover Self-Audit Action Plan, particularly in relation to psychosocial hazards and hazardous manual tasks.
- Promoting a positive risk culture in accordance with the established ERM Framework, where hazards and risks are proactively identified, reported and managed.
- Continuing to review and test Council's Business Continuity Plan, including conducting a business continuity exercise involving the Crisis Management Team (CMT), Incident Management Team (IMT) and alternate staff.
- Providing ongoing support to business units in maintaining first aid arrangements, approving designated first aiders and assessing Work From Home (WFH) arrangements to ensure employee safety.
- Strengthening collaboration with external partners including StateCover, StateWide Mutual and JLT to improve loss prevention, insurance outcomes and risk mitigation strategies.
- Developing a monthly toolbox talk schedule to support ongoing consultation, engagement and awareness of safety practices across the organisation.
- Exploring digital WHS and incident management systems to improve reporting efficiency and data integration.

Forward program and future directions (2026)

In 2026, Council will continue to build on these foundations, with a strong focus on system maturity, psychosocial risk management and integration across WHS, ERM and business continuity. Planned initiatives include:

- Engaging an external specialist to assist with the development and implementation of a contemporary, fit-for-purpose WHS Management System.
- Progressing implementation of actions arising from the WHS Management System internal and external audit reports, supported by a detailed gap analysis and management action plan.
- Extending ERM and WHS leadership training to supervisors, coordinators and team leaders in partnership with StateCover, to strengthen frontline risk ownership and compliance capability.
- Reviewing and updating high-risk operational documentation, including Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), to ensure currency and staff engagement with safety controls.
- Implementing Business Continuity Sub-Plans for critical operational areas and conducting a business continuity exercise focused on alternate employees and extended work groups.
- Continuing to advance psychosocial risk management through leadership and staff training, including accidental counsellor sessions, fatigue and burnout prevention strategies.
- Enhancing Council-wide safety engagement through regular WHS newsletters and coordinated campaigns such as Safe Work Month and Skin Cancer Awareness Week.
- Exploring an integrated online WHS system to automate incident reporting and improve integration with ERM, workers' compensation and public liability functions.
- Continuing to review and update WHS strategies, policies and plans to reflect legislative change, emerging risks and organisational priorities.
- Maintaining eligibility for StateCover safety and wellbeing incentives through ongoing self-audit, corrective action tracking and continuous improvement.
- Supporting organisational capability through the recruitment and stabilisation of WHS advisory resources.

Workforce demographics

Council employees work across several locations within the Ku-ring-gai area and in a diverse range of occupations. Most staff (79.04%) commute from outside of the local government area (LGA) with only 20.96% of staff living locally.

The following workforce demographics are provided as at 30 June 2025.

Employment type

Council employed full and part time employees across 446 permanent and temporary full and part time positions with 89% of these positions being full time and providing significant ongoing employment opportunities for local residents. In addition to this, Council utilised 106 casual positions representing 19% of the total workforce headcount (including casuals) of 552 (see diagram 3).

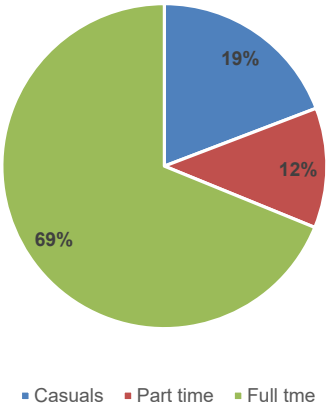

Diagram 3: Ku-ring-gai Council Workforce total headcount by employment type

Departments meet their service delivery requirements by employing a mixture of labour to support operational imperatives and fluctuating resource requirements (see diagram 4).

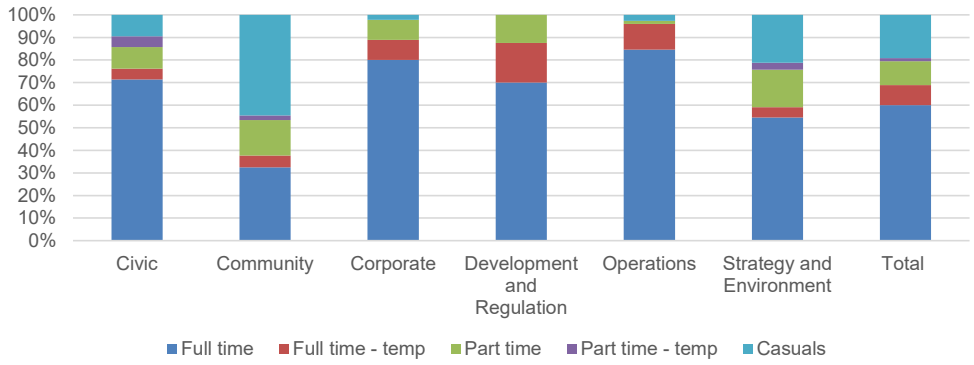

Diagram 4: Percentage workforce by employment type and department

Council also engages non-permanent staff, including casuals and labour hire staff in a range of seasonal and vacation care roles.

Gender

Council is an equal opportunity employer and is committed to ensuring gender equality in employment.

Employee profile snapshot	
Number employees (FT and PT)	446
Median age range (years)	43 – 52 years
Turnover rate	11%
Percentage of women (FT and PT)	48%
Percentage of men (FT and PT)	52%
% women in Band 6 and above	45%
% men in Band 6 and above	55%

Diagram 5: Employee profile snapshot

The current full time and part time workforce gender balance is split approximately 48:52 women to men (see diagram 5), with the disparity appearing to result from the high percentage of outdoor operational roles (24% of the workforce) which are traditionally undertaken by men. When including the casual workforce, the gender balance becomes 53:47 women to men (see diagram 6).

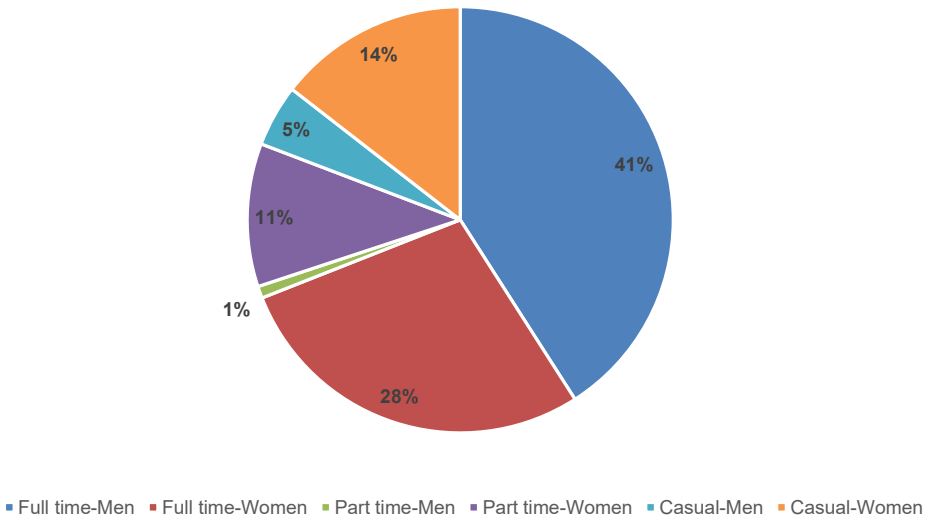

Diagram 6: Workforce by employment type and gender (including casuals)

Men and women are proportionally represented in all age demographics (see diagram 7).

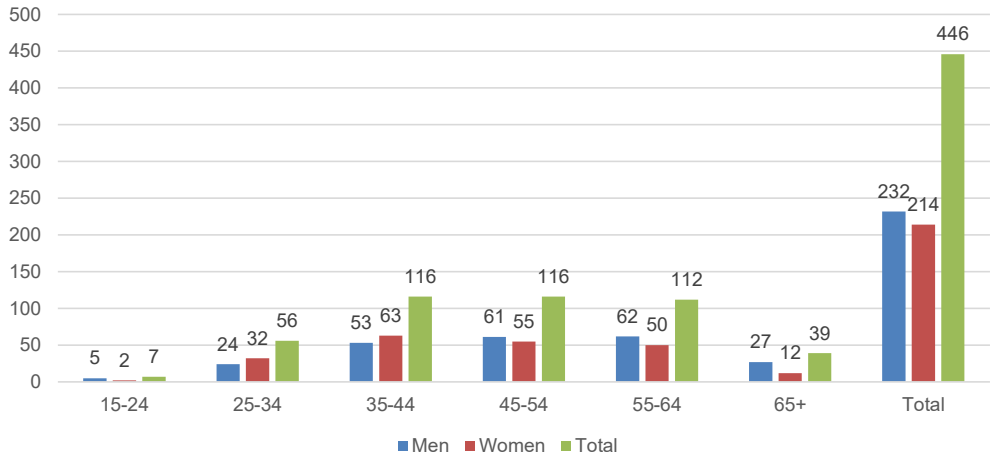

Diagram 7: Workforce by age and gender (excluding casuals)

Whilst women continue to be slightly under-represented in higher level and senior roles (categorised as roles sized at band 6 or higher) there are various initiatives in place to drive improvement in this area.

More recently, there was a slight decrease in the percentage of men in senior roles at 55% (down from 57% in 2024) and a slight increase in the percentage of women in senior roles at 45% (up from 43% in 2024) (see diagram 8).

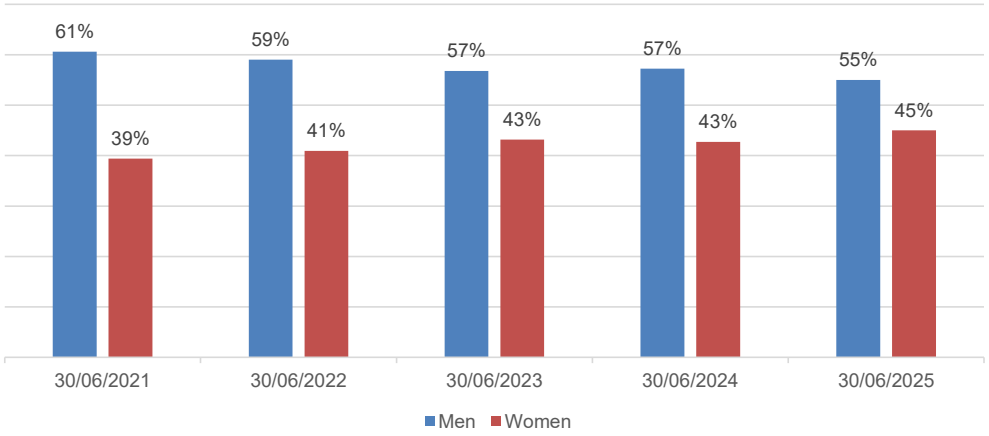

Diagram 8: Percentage of employees in senior roles (Band 6 and above) by gender (excluding casuals)

Age

Overall, 60% of Council's non casual workforce is aged 45 years or over with an average and median age of 47. There are 15% of employees aged under 35 and 34% of employees aged over 55 (see diagrams 9 and 11).

When the casual workforce is included in this analysis there are 56% of the total workforce aged 45 years and over and both the average and median age decrease to 43 which is primarily influenced

by employees in our Community Department where the majority of casuals are employed. There are 19% of employees aged under 35 and 36% of employees aged over 55 (see diagram 10).

Both sets of figures vary across each department which may be a result of several variables, most notably the nature of the work performed (see diagram 11).

In comparison, the median age of NSW public sector non-casual employees has stayed at 43 years (since 2022), after remaining at 44 years since 2018. This was mainly due to efforts to diversify the workforce and effective retention strategies. Consistent with all years since 2016, the median age of women in the sector was one year less than for men (43 for men and 42 for women). The median age of the NSW public sector non-casual workforce remained higher than the median age of the NSW working population.

In the NSW public sector workforce, 66.9% of employees were in the 35 to 64 age group in 2023, compared to 56% of the NSW working population. In addition, fewer NSW public sector employees were aged under 35 or over 65. Those aged under 35 accounted for 28.5% of public sector employees, compared to 37% of the entire NSW workforce. Those aged 65 and over accounted for 6.3% of public sector employees compared to 8.5% in Council.

While Council was broadly comparable in employment percentages across the 35-to-54-year age brackets, Council employs significantly more people in the 55-to-64-year age group than both the NSW Public Sector and the wider NSW employed persons group.

Council's age profile provides an indication of the number of employees likely to retire in the next five to ten years, which will inform the development of strategies for attracting younger workers, (e.g. graduate recruitment and career path development) and retaining older workers (e.g. flexible work options, reducing physical demands). Job redesign and technological innovation will also assist in ensuring the ongoing delivery of services to the community within the constraints of an ageing workforce.

Council continues to monitor and devise strategies to meet the challenges of an ageing workforce. Initial indications are that we remain an employer of choice for many staff and Council continues to offer opportunities for continued employment for all age groups.

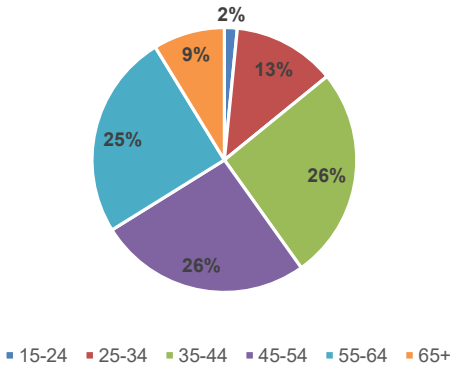

Diagram 9: Percentage of workforce by age (excluding casuals) – (rounding applied).

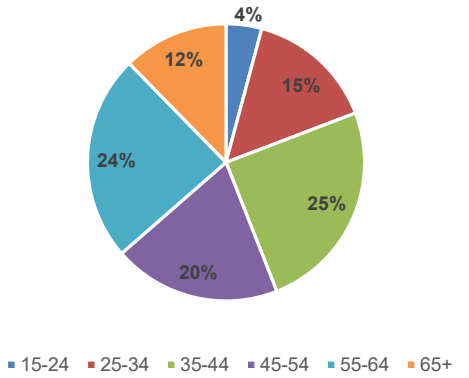

Diagram 10: Percentage of workforce by age (including casuals)

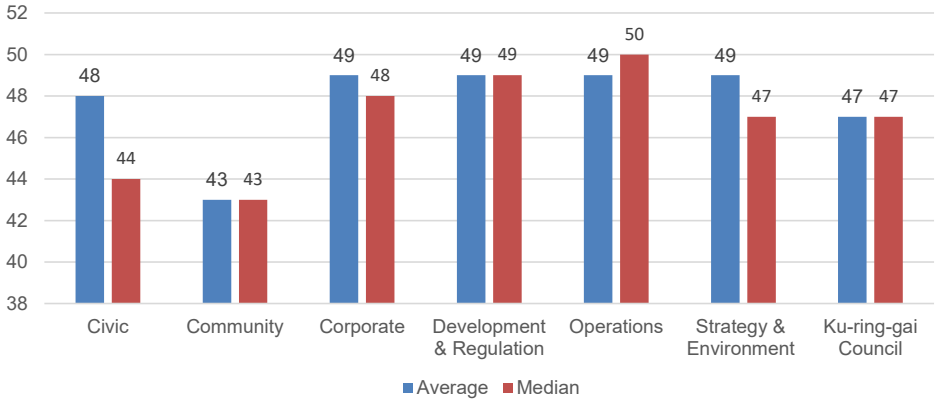

Diagram 11: Average and median age by department (excluding casuals)

Length of service

Council's turnover rate is 11% per annum. 51.1% of staff have tenure of between one and five years with 42.60% having from six to twenty-five years of service. Council is typically a stable employer and length of tenure can reflect the constant and ongoing requirement for employment in a particular area (see diagrams 12 and 13).

Turnover rates across the last five-year period are within Council's targets and reflect the ability of Council to renew and refresh its corporate skills and knowledge while retaining its historic skills and knowledge base.

A higher turnover rate in 2020/21 reflected the continued impact of the pandemic. The continued higher turnover rate in 2022/23 reflected a correction and normalising of the turnover rate across the two-year period of the pandemic. With the uncertainty in the marketplace, resignations significantly increased in the financial year 2023 as the marketplace adapted and economic volatility increased but has since shown decline with employees now seeking employment security and organisations focused more on managing costs and optimising their existing workforce rather than aggressively pursuing new hires.

The workforce reflects a mix of new and old knowledge and the smooth transition of ideas and practices as Council continues with ongoing organisational renewal.

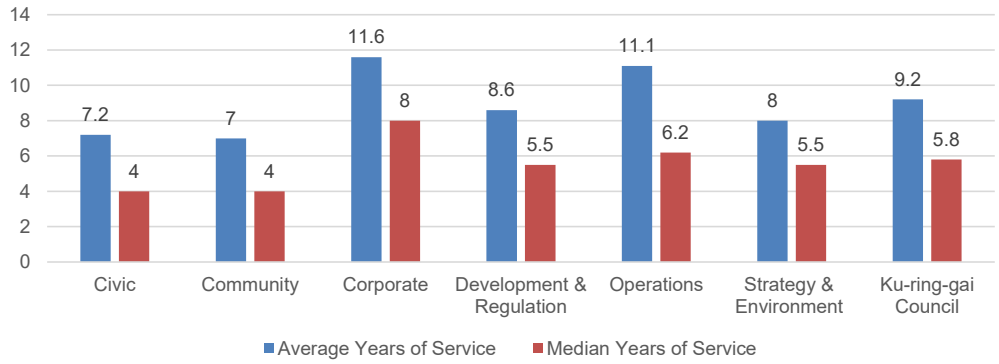

Diagram 12: Average and median years of service by department (excluding casuals)

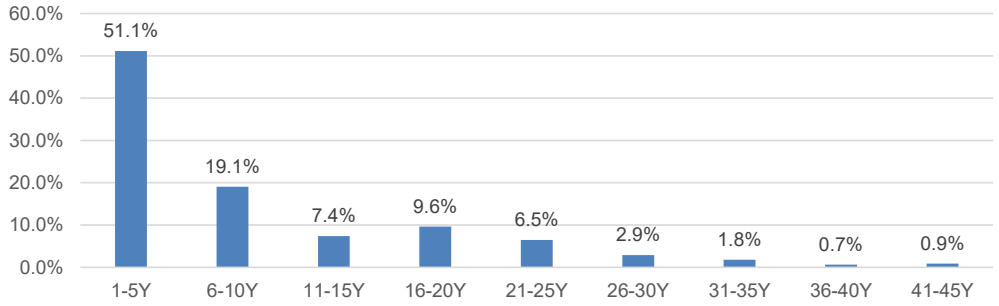

Diagram 13: Percentage of employees by years of service (excluding casuals)

Influences

In developing an effective Workforce Management Strategy, it is crucial to identify and understand current and future internal and external factors that may have an impact on the workforce.

The 'influences' identified below will be monitored as part of the annual review of this strategy to ensure our response to workforce planning remains effective.

External

- Local Government (State) Award
- Current and future labour market
- Current and future economic environment e.g federal and state funded grants, inflation etc.
- Operational and strategic workings of the Local Government environment
- Local Government reform
- The demographics within the Local Government Area
- Legislation and regulatory requirements
- 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey
- Technological developments e.g. Artificial Intelligence, cyber security
- Office of Local Government Guidelines – Internal Audit and Risk Management
- Community expectations
- Special Rate Variation (SRV)
- NSW Housing Policy

Internal

- Community Strategic Plan, Delivery Program and Operational Plans
- Resourcing Strategy
- Budget
- Housing and Transport Oriented Development Growth
- Major Projects portfolio
- Equal Employment Opportunity Management Plan
- Ageing Workforce Strategy
- Gender Equality Strategy
- Succession Planning Strategy
- WHS Management System
- Enterprise Risk Management System
- Internal Audit Plan
- Corporate Sustainability Action Plan
- Employee Opinion Surveys
- Staff accommodation arrangements
- Workforce metrics
- Leave liability
- Service Improvement Program
- General strategy, policy and process development
- Workplace change
- Executive turnover

Key risks and opportunities

Ku-ring-gai Council is facing several challenges, both now and into the future. These are predominantly related to the nature of Local Government, the diversity of our organisation and expectations of the community.

Many of these challenges will have an impact on this Strategy with the current key issues identified below:

1. Ageing workforce – As identified by an analysis of Council's current workforce approximately one half of our staff are aged 45 years with more than 40% indicating their intention to leave Council within the next 5-year period. The biggest risk to Council with this ageing workforce is associated with the underutilisation or loss of knowledge critical to organisational performance. Knowledge loss impairs performance and results, and achievement of plans and objectives. It is important that we are vigilant in addressing issues associated with our ageing workforce to minimise the impact on our business and operational imperatives.

2. Leadership – A previous Employee Opinion Survey identified, among other areas, leadership as an opportunity for improvement particularly regarding communication, consistency in decision making and accountability. Whether it be a matter of perception or reality, to achieve and maintain an engaged workforce it is imperative that appropriate strategies are implemented to further develop our leaders and alleviate these concerns.

3. Skill shortages – The ageing workforce continues to expand, especially in areas that are already significantly impacted. Existing areas of skills shortages and tight labour supply in jobs such as engineering, urban and town planners, building surveyors, project managers, labourers, supervisors and team leaders, and tradespeople are likely to become even more constricted. In addition, the international border closures and tightening of immigration has seen significant skill shortages and slowing of labour growth across various industries. Talent has become increasingly challenging to attract and retain as its demand continues to stretch, and the opportunities available in the current market remain high.

4. Multigenerational workforce – Council's workforce is currently made up of five distinct and unique generations requiring a thorough understanding of intergenerational differences to ensure effective staff attraction, retention and management whilst being mindful that generational workgroup cohorts create the culture of an organisation.

5. Workforce sustainability – A highly skilled, sustainable and diverse workforce is critical to the delivery of Council services. The current and future limitations on Council's financial resources together with issues surrounding ageing assets and infrastructure create a significant challenge with the development and maintenance of our workforce to ensure that the needs of the community continue to be met. As recruitment and retention becomes more competitive in areas vital to our business, Council needs to ensure it is primarily positioned in the employment market. This requires innovating in key areas to bring the right people into the business and keep critical talent. As the labour market tightens, we need a greater focus on how we value, lead and develop the workforce.

6. Continuous improvement – Increasing community expectations and the complexity of community needs result in an added emphasis on strategy and management of resources. Council's workforce faces increasing demands to deliver results and the need to make sound decisions based on guiding priorities.

7. Career development – Council needs to be considered as a career partner to attract a younger cohort of the marketplace who are looking to develop their career skills across a wider range of employers to develop their career skills portfolio across a wider range of organisations.

8. Location – While a large number of positions can work from home the majority of staff continue to attend the workplace on a daily basis. With Council's major workplaces close to both public and private transport hubs and therefore being highly accessible to many potential employees, the locations themselves often offer adequate but basic amenities.

9. Employer of choice – In order to remain market competitive in aspects related to employment practices and benefits, Council must continue to monitor through research and leveraging existing business relations to raise awareness and ensure improvement in our position as an Employer of Choice.

10. NSW Housing Strategy – Additional resources, skills, and capability will be required to meet the needs required to effectively deliver Councils approved plans under the NSW Government Housing Strategy.

11. Artificial Intelligence - Artificial Intelligence (AI) is expected to significantly impact Council's workforce and service delivery over the next five years and beyond. AI will improve efficiency by automating routine tasks, optimising operational activities, and supporting predictive maintenance, allowing staff to focus on higher-value work. AI tools will also enhance data-driven decision-making and improve customer service and community engagement.

Successful adoption will require investment in workforce capability, infrastructure and ethical governance to ensure responsible use. AI will support service effectiveness, workforce development and the growing needs of the community.

12. Psychosocial risk and workforce wellbeing

Council is facing increasing psychosocial workplace risks due to rising workloads, complex roles, organisational change, community pressures, hybrid work, and exposure to difficult interactions. If unmanaged, these risks can negatively affect employee wellbeing, productivity, engagement and retention, and lead to higher workers compensation costs, creating both people and financial risks—especially amid an ageing workforce, skills shortages and growing service demands. Recent legislative and regulatory changes require a more proactive and systematic approach to managing psychological hazards. To respond, Council must strengthen leadership capability, early intervention, consultation and supportive systems, and embed psychosocial risk management within its Work Health and Safety and Enterprise Risk Management frameworks to maintain a resilient and capable workforce.

Our future workforce

The Ku-ring-gai local government area has a growing residential population which provides Council with the opportunity to offer employment to a greater number of locally based residents together with job seekers in the broader Sydney metropolitan area.

Council seeks to provide employment that offers flexibility and values work/life balance in exchange for retention and development of high potential employees to support its service delivery to the community.

Our long term objective is be recognised as an employer of choice and to focus on developing Council's ability to foster and maintain a productive, flexible and adaptable workforce. Ongoing and effective management will ensure that Council remains capable of maintaining a sustainable workforce.

In support of this objective the four key focus areas reflected in this strategy are: Workforce planning, attraction and retention, learning and development and organisational development.

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
OBJECTIVE 1: INCREASE OUR WORKFORCE PLANNING CAPABILITY		
Maximise workforce sustainability through effective workforce planning	Review and monitor criteria developed to identify critical positions based on current and future needs	Ongoing
	Monitor and update the register of critical positions, skills and qualifications	Ongoing
	Monitor turnover of critical positions and create customised retention and attraction strategies as required	Ongoing
	Monitor turnover of critical positions to identify and address current/emerging skill gaps	Ongoing
	Work with departments and business units to forecast and/or realign staffing requirements in consideration of: - the outcomes of business/service reviews including those completed for Community Development and Compliance & Regulation. - the Special Rate Variation (if approved) which will require the delivery of an uplifted capital works program and identification of capacity and capability requirements particularly in the areas of project management, asset management and contract / procurement management. - Housing and Transport Oriented Development (TOD) growth and the projected impacts on future service demands, rates income and required workforce growth.	Ongoing
Enable effective identification of key resourcing issues	Continue to monitor, analyse and report workforce demographics to the executive team on a quarterly basis	Ongoing
	Continue to review existing business processes to improve the capture and reporting of workforce metrics	Ongoing

using workforce metrics	Continue to develop strategies to address workforce sustainability issues as required	Ongoing

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
OBJECTIVE 2: ATTRACT AND RETAIN THE RIGHT PEOPLE		
Appropriately respond to the impacts of an ageing workforce	Engage with the leadership team and staff to review Council's Ageing Workforce Strategy	Ongoing
	Continue to implement the Ageing Workforce Strategy action plan in accordance with planned timeframes	Ongoing
	Monitor and report progress on a quarterly basis	Ongoing
Address staff attraction issues	Identify 'hard to fill' positions based on occupational groups and job families	Ongoing
	Develop, implement, and monitor targeted staff attraction programs to address significant workforce issues (where required)	Ongoing
	Undertake a periodic industry-based review of remuneration and benefits and recommend adjustments where required	Ongoing
	Continue to subscribe to at least two Local Government Remuneration surveys	Ongoing
	Further improve our Employee Value Proposition	Ongoing
	Review and refine materials/content related to the promotion of Ku-ring-gai Council as a workplace	Ongoing
	Participate in career related events with higher education institutions to build relationships and promote Council as an employer of choice	Ongoing
	Continually review and streamline recruitment processes	Ongoing
	Review and identify enhancements to the recruitment platform	Ongoing
	Continue to provide options for flexible work arrangements that enable mutually beneficial arrangements that meet business, team, employee and community service needs	Ongoing
	Promote local government careers	Ongoing
Address staff retention issues	Continue to identify and monitor areas of high turnover	Ongoing
	Develop, implement and monitor targeted staff retention programs to address significant workforce issues (where required)	Ongoing
	Continue to implement and monitor the Rewards & Recognition program	Ongoing
	Monitor the Succession Planning Strategy	Ongoing
	Continue to engage with staff in undertaking the annual review of the Performance Appraisal System	Ongoing
	Develop, implement, and monitor an Employee Engagement Strategy	2026

	Continually review and evaluate workplace policies to ensure Council is a fair workplace whose policies are modern, reasonable, and easy to understand	Ongoing
	Continue to provide flexible work arrangements that enable mutually beneficial arrangements that meet business, team, employee and community service needs	Ongoing

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
OBJECTIVE 3: LEVERAGE THE CAPABILITY OF OUR WORKFORCE		
Quantify and develop employee capabilities	Undertake a gap analysis of staff qualifications and licences against position requirements	2026 - 2027
	Update Council's training programs and plans to address identified gaps	Ongoing
Maximise leadership capabilities at all levels of the organisation	Continue to roll out the planned suite of leadership programs at all levels across the organisation	Ongoing
	Maintain internal accreditation to support ongoing delivery of the leadership development program to new staff, and refresher sessions for existing staff	Ongoing
	Identify and enhance mechanisms for measuring leadership effectiveness and success	Ongoing
	Develop, implement, and monitor targeted leadership programs to support and promote women in leadership and aspiring leaders	Ongoing
	Promote participation in and leadership of cross functional projects by emerging and developing leaders	Ongoing
Optimise the on-boarding of new starters	Continue to undertake an annual review of the current employee induction program and implement required changes	Ongoing
	Continue to undertake an annual review of the online induction program and implement required changes	Ongoing
	Continually review and develop on-boarding processes and programs	Ongoing
Promote consistent and effective staff supervision	Provide training for managers and supervisors in performance management and coaching	2026
	Provide training for managers and supervisors on intergenerational staff management	2026
	Engage with managers and supervisors to identify other areas of upskilling required and develop relevant training programs	Ongoing
Expand our capacity for e-learning	Continue to review and develop e-learning resources	Ongoing
	Continue to engage with managers in relation to their e-learning requirements and develop programs as required	Ongoing
	Continue to regularly communicate with staff regarding e-learning resources and opportunities	Ongoing
Improve accessibility to and awareness of learning and development opportunities	Review the training application process and implement required changes	Ongoing
	Regularly communicate with staff regarding learning and development opportunities	Ongoing

Create succession pathways	Investigate opportunities to offer traineeships, apprenticeships, and graduate programs	Ongoing
	Partner with local educational institutions to develop formal work experience programs	2026
	Monitor the Succession Planning Strategy	Ongoing
	Continue to investigate opportunities for resource sharing across departments to enhance career pathways for staff	Ongoing
	Identify and enhance the use of job rotation programs in targeted workplaces	Ongoing
	Investigate the development of a formal mentoring program to assist in the transfer of knowledge skills and behaviours across the organisation	2027
	Review the higher duties policy to account for situations where additional duties are performed within the same salary band	2026
Enhance our knowledge management capabilities	Create a process for identifying subject matter experts	2027
	Investigate the development of a formal mentoring program to assist in the transfer of knowledge skills and behaviours across the organisation	2027
Improve staff awareness and capability to enhance organisational risk maturity and resilience	Continue to develop best practice risk management foundations and methodologies that reflect business priorities and allow for ongoing development	Ongoing
	Continue to improve Council's resilience by increasing risk awareness via ongoing training and capability activities under a well-established risk management framework	Ongoing
	Develop an integrated risk management system so staff are equipped and empowered to manage business risks in line with organisational and departmental objectives	2026 - 2027

STRATEGY	ACTIONS	TIMEFRAME
OBJECTIVE 4: CONTINUE OUR FOCUS ON ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT		
Continually enhance our organisational culture	Undertake an Employee Opinion Survey on a biennial basis	Next survey due in 2026
	Communicate the results of each survey to staff	2026 - 2027
	Engage with the leadership team to develop Organisational Action Plans to address the feedback received in each Employee Opinion Survey	2026 – 2027
	Engage with directors, managers, and staff to develop Departmental Action Plans to address the feedback received in each Employee Opinion Survey	2026 – 2027
	Engage with managers and staff to develop Business Unit Action Plans to address the feedback received in each Employee Opinion Survey	2026 – 2027
	Continue to integrate Council's Vision and Values into the recruitment and selection process	Ongoing
	Continue to design, develop, and implement programs that reinforce Council's values	Ongoing
Celebrate and support the growth of diversity within our workforce	Continue to implement Council's Gender Equality Strategy	Ongoing
	Continue to implement Council's EEO Management Plan	Ongoing
	Continue to design, develop and implement programs and initiatives that promote diversity and inclusiveness	Ongoing
	Communicate with staff in relation to the generational differences	Ongoing
Promote staff wellbeing	Continually review the Wellbeing Program and implement changes as required	Ongoing
	Continually review flexible working arrangements policies and practices and implement changes as required	Ongoing
	Continually review the Employee Assistance Provider arrangements and implement changes as required	Ongoing
	Design and implement a Mental Health First Aid Program	2026
	Continue to investigate cost effective options to provide additional services to staff that enhance their overall wellbeing	Ongoing
	Continue to review and improve the Work Health Safety Management System and injury management processes	Ongoing
Embrace appropriate technology to enhance efficiency,	Continue to utilise recruitment, onboarding, e-learning, and performance modules within our talent management systems	Ongoing
	Transition our payroll system from Ci to CiA and facilitate implementation of Employee Self Service	2025 - 2026

effectiveness, and productivity	Develop a customised training plan to address gaps in staff knowledge and skills with respect to the use of technology	2026
Improve workplace facilities	Review staff accommodation arrangements and implement improvements as required	Ongoing
Continually improve health and safety performance in line with our commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace	Develop an integrated risk management system to automate reporting of WHS events that interact with Council's enterprise risk management framework, worker's compensation, and public liability portfolios	2026 - 2027
	Review and refine Council's WHS Committee structure and WHS consultation arrangements	2026
	Develop and implement the psychosocial hazard and risk mitigation program	2026
	Undertake a comprehensive review of the WHS Management System	2026 - 2028
Continue to promote employee benefits and enhance the Total Rewards & Recognition Program	Continue to communicate and consult with key stakeholders on existing benefits	2025 and ongoing
	Benchmark and investigate other benefits	2026
	Publicise, promote, and implement new benefits	2026

Monitoring and review

The completion of action items contained in Workforce Management Strategy will be closely monitored and progress reports will be provided to the Executive Leadership Team via the quarterly Integrated Planning & Reporting process.

The Workforce Management Strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Contact us

For assistance or information regarding any of Council's services or facilities please contact us. Business hours are Monday to Friday, 8.30 am – 5.00 pm.

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Ku-ring-gai Council

Asset Management Policy

Version Number 6

Adopted: XX XXXXXXXX XX

Effective: XX XXXXXXXX XXXX

Asset Management Policy

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Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

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Controlled Document Number:	77	**TRIM Record No:**	2025/298410
Controlled Document Type:	Policy		
Controlled Document Name:	Asset Management Policy		
Version Number:	6		
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Review Period: **Max < 4 years**	3 years	**Next Review Date:**	XXXXXX
Document Status:	Draft		
Approval Type:	Draft		
Version Start Date:	XXXXXXX	**Version End Date:**	XXXXXXXXX

Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation	NSW Local Government Act 1993	Provides the legal framework for an effective, efficient, environmentally responsible and open system of local government in NSW. To regulate the relationships between the people and bodies comprising the system, and to encourage and assist the effective participation of local communities in the affairs of local government. Includes the preparation of strategic plans and a long-term financial plan supported by Asset Management Plans for sustainable service delivery.
Related Documents	Community Strategic Plan Workforce Management Strategy Long Term Financial Plan Delivery Program and Operational Plan Asset Management Strategy Fleet Management Policy Asset Management Plans Asset Management Framework	The policy integrates with Council's Integrated Planning and Reporting documents. The Asset Management Policy guides the asset management strategy, plans and procedures.
Other References	Office of Local Government's Integrated Planning and Reporting Guidelines and Handbook Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting Australian Accounting Standards IPWEA International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) 2015 International Standard – Asset Management – Asset Management System - Requirements: ISO 55001:2024	The policy was developed in accordance with the Integrated, Planning and Reporting Guidelines and Handbook for Local Government in NSW (September 2021). The accounting standards and code define how our assets are accounted for. The development of the Policy considered the IPWEA IIMM manual and Infrastructure Australia Strategic Policies & Plans.

	AASB116 Property, Plant and Equipment AASB13 Fair Value Measurement	

Version History

Version Number	Version Start Date	Version End Date	Author	Details and Comments
1	04/02/2009	26/08/2014	Deborah Silva	Original
2	26/08/2014	26/06/2018	Vanessa Young	First review
3	27/06/2018	30/06/2025	Parissa Ghanem	Policy revised in line with Integrated Planning & Reporting processes.
4	19/07/2025	July 2029	Gurpreet Grewal and Peter Lichaa	Policy revised in line with Asset Management Strategy and Integrated Planning Guidelines.
5	17/12/2025	December 2028	Senior Civil Assets Engineer and Manager Assets & Technical Services	The policy has been revised to address Asset Maturity Audits and Internal Audits.
6	01//07/2026	XXXXX	Meghan Andrew, Gurpreet Grewal & Mursaleen Shah	The policy has been revised to reference Asset Management Framework

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Asset Management Policy

Background

The community vision in Ku-ring-gai Council's Community Strategy Plan is:

> *For a thriving and connected community where we balance growth and change with the protection of our natural environment and heritage and work together to ensure a vibrant and inclusive future.*

One of the outcomes in the Community Strategic Plan is that "infrastructure and assets support community need". This Policy aims to support the delivery of this vision and realisation of this outcome.

Purpose

This Policy sets Ku-ring-gai Council's vision, values, intentions and direction for asset management.

It sets out the principles by which the organisation intends to apply asset management to achieve the goals set with the community under our Community Strategic Plan.

Objective

In line with the Community Strategic Plan, the objective of this Policy is to help ensure that:

> *All residents have access to modern and accessible sport, recreational and community facilities that support active lifestyles. The area is connected by a high-quality road and footpath network that supports active transport alternatives. Public transport connects our neighbourhoods and access to Greater Sydney.*

To ensure Council achieves the above objective, Council commits to the following actions:

- Strategically plan, manage and fund public infrastructure and assets to meet the needs of the community, defined levels of service and intergenerational equity.
- Provide, upgrade and maintain open space, recreation and sport facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.
- Provide, upgrade and maintain community buildings and facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.
- Provide, upgrade and maintain Ku-ring-gai's local road and footpath network, traffic facilities and other road infrastructure.
- Work with the NSW Government and partners to improve local integrated transport connections, public transport and the regional road network.

Scope

This policy applies to the following Council asset classes[1]:

- Roads and transport assets (including bridges, footpaths, traffic facilities, kerb and guttering and carparks);
- Stormwater drainage (including stormwater pits, headwalls, open channels and pipes)
- Recreational facilities (including bins, parks, playgrounds, sports fields and open space)
- Buildings (including land, community and commercial buildings)
- Plant and fleet (including passenger vehicles and operational plant)
- Information technology (including hardware, software and digital equipment).

[1] Note that Council is developing an Asset Plan for plant and fleet (including passenger vehicles and operational plant). Council may also develop Asset Plans for IT and other infrastructure in the future.

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Integrated planning and reporting

The Asset Management Policy was developed to meet the requirements of the Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) Guidelines for Local Government in NSW. The guidelines require Council and the community to develop an overarching long term strategic plan for Ku-ring-gai. Council is also required to detail key activities that it will undertake during its term to progress the strategic plan including the services, projects and actions that Council will deliver each year and how they will be resourced. The guidelines also require Council to undertake regular monitoring and reporting on its delivery and performance.

The Asset Management Policy, along with the Asset Management Strategy and Framework provide the detailed, evidence-based plans and governance arrangements for managing Council's assets consistent with the requirements of the IP&R guidelines.

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Responsibilities

The following key roles and responsibilities are identified in the management of this policy:

Council (Elected Body)

- Providing stewardship for assets owned and/or controlled by Council.
- Adopting the Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Strategy (AMS) and monitoring outcomes through regular IP&R reporting.
- Considering the impact of financial and service level decisions on Council's assets
- Authorising resources for asset management activities in the Delivery Program and Operational Plan (DP&OP).
- Determining new asset provision and maintenance activities in the DP&OP.

General Manager

- Ensuring implementation of asset management practices and procedures including reporting on the status and effectiveness of asset management within the Council.
- Allocating resources to implement the AMS, Asset Management Plans (AMPs) and relevant programs, projects and actions in the Operational Plan.

Directors

- Developing and implementing maintenance and capital works programs in accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting documents
- Ensuring compliance with Levels of Service (LoS), budget management and risk frameworks.
- Embedding asset management in business processes.
- Identifying and managing lifecycle risks.

Staff

- Ensuring that individual asset management responsibilities are identified in relevant staff position descriptions.
- Managing infrastructure assets in consideration of long-term sustainability
- Ensuring that actions identified in the Asset Management Strategy are completed within timeframes
- Applying asset management practices in day-to-day operations.
- Capturing, maintaining and reporting asset information into the asset registers within the Asset Management Information System (AMIS)

Asset Management Steering Group

The Asset Management Steering Group (AMSG) provides advice to Council on the development and implementation of the asset management framework, promotes whole-of-Council decision making and promotes whole-of-life costing of infrastructure assets. This includes:

- Providing advice on asset management as well as awareness and education on asset management principles and requirements
- providing recommendations regarding the capital works program, maintenance requirements and allocation of funds
- Reviewing the Asset Management Policy, Asset Management Strategy (AMS) and Asset Management Plans
- Providing advice on aligning the Asset Management Framework, Asset Policy and Asset Management Strategy with the Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP) and Community Strategic Plan
- Monitoring the implementation of the Asset Management Policy, AMS and AMPs

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- Developing and reviewing relevant policies, processes and practices to ensure assets are managed effectively
- Operating within an agreed Terms of Reference.

The Asset Management Steering Group will oversee the implementation and promotion of the asset management decision-making and reporting ~~framework~~ as outlined below.

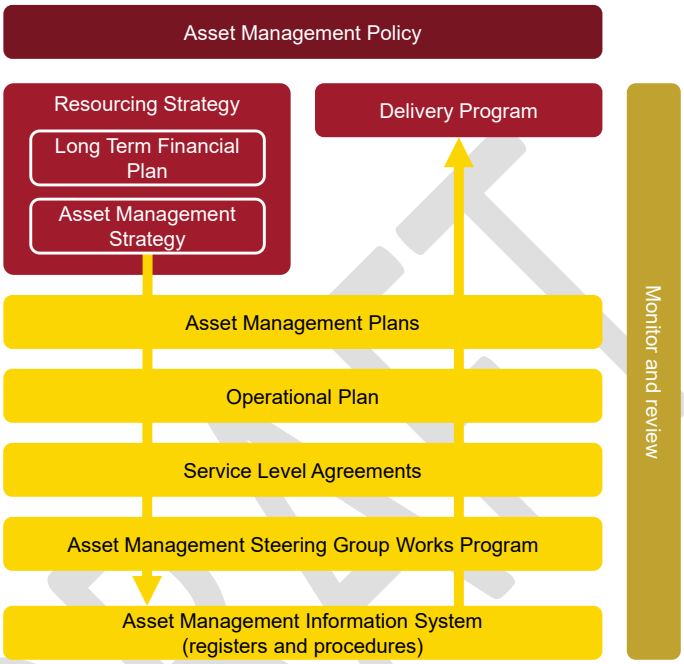

Figure 1: Asset management decision-making and reporting diagram

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Policy Statement

Asset Management Strategy

Council's AMS is intended to deliver on Council's Asset Management Policy. The AMS adopts a whole-of-Council and a whole-of-life approach to asset management.

Whole-of-Council approach to asset management

To achieve asset management best practices, industry standards and guidelines have been adopted with a requirement to ensure the assets are planned, created, operated, inspected, renewed and disposed of in accordance with Council's service delivery priorities.

This requires a whole-of-Council approach and commitment to strategic asset management for infrastructure (fixed) assets as well as information technology, security, plant, fleet and environmental (green) assets.

Whole-of-life cost when acquiring assets

Whole of life cost will be the basis of decision-making by Council during the acquisition of new assets. Council specifically will consider maintenance and renewal budgets when making decisions about new assets and related services.

Council's assets will be utilised to their optimum potential to maximise usage and economic performance. An inspection regime, and condition-rating will be used to ensure agreed service levels, intervention methods, and renewal priorities can be determined across all asset classes.

Asset Management Framework

The organisation will deliver the asset management outcomes of its Community Strategic Plan through the adoption of an Asset Management Framework. This framework will be aligned with ISO 55000. This framework will be independently audited to ensure this alignment.

This framework will address the entire asset lifecycle, encompassing **planning, acquisition, operation**, maintenance, and eventual **retirement** or disposal, thereby ensuring a structured, consistent, and sustainable approach to asset management.

This framework consists of the following elements:

Leadership provides commitment to manage assets in accordance with the **Asset Management Policy** (this document). This commitment from the leadership is provided in this policy. Additionally, this Policy also defines the leadership and allocates responsibilities within Ku-ring-gai Council with respect to Asset Management.

Planning provides for the development of the AMS and AMPs for key asset classes and actions necessary to realise Outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan. Council's AMS and AMPs cover a minimum timeframe of ten (10) years. Each project bid for a new or substantially new asset is tested against Community Strategic Plan outcomes and Asset Management Plans by the Project Management Office (PMO) and referred to the AMSG for endorsement. Additionally, the ongoing asset renewal program and related changes to the Level of Service are tested against the Asset Management Framework and referred to the AMSG for endorsement. The assessment also includes estimating public value benefit, alignment with CSP, Asset Risk assessment and Whole of Asset Life consideration taking into account the entire Asset Life Cycle.

Support provides for necessary resources, qualifications and communication to enable decisions based on life cycle management of assets. The support includes:

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- TechOne - for asset register and related data such as condition assessments, financials etc.
- Council's website – key records are publicly available i.e. Asset Management Strategy
- SMEC & GeoCortex – geographic information system (GIS) used to monitor assets
- NAMS+ - an online toolkit for effective asset management planning
- InfoCouncil – Council and GMD minutes affecting assets are communicated to stakeholders
- HP Contents Manager – Document control, including legal and regulatory compliance.

Operation is guided by Council's asset management decision-making and reporting diagram which provides a process for decision-making related to Council assets. The overall criteria and strategic context are detailed in the Asset Management Policy and Asset Management Strategy. The Strategy links to Asset Management Plans. Council uses the International Infrastructure Management Manual (IIMM) for roll out of the Asset Management Framework. The adequacy and suitability of the framework is independently reviewed with recommended changes reported for approval and implementation to the Leadership.

Performance evaluation is achieved through monitoring of delivery and recorded in HP Contents Manager. Additionally, performance is measured through asset revaluations, community surveys, service reviews, management reviews of the framework, quarterly budget review, annual financial statements, annual IP&R reporting and end of term reporting. Monitoring through IP&R is achieved by aligning AMPs to the DP&OP and monitoring expenditure and delivery of works funded through the DP&OP. Asset performance is measured through condition rating and reported annually through the Special Schedule Report on Infrastructure Assets in the annual Financial Statements. Delivery performance for projects within the DP&OP is measured through the Project Steering Group. This group will monitor Works in Progress (WIP) and refer proposed future funding and/or deferral to future financial years to the Asset Steering Committee for consideration.

Condition assessments are performed regularly, and useful lives are updated in Council's asset register. The condition rating methodology considers risk. Valuation and expenditure on infrastructure, property, plant and equipment is a key audit issue and risk (as identified in the annual engagement plan) for external auditors and is subject to extensive testing.

Policy implementation

Council's assets will be managed in the most cost-effective manner, driven by defined service levels through the Delivery Program (2025-2029) and performance standards outlined in the Performance evaluation. This will require ongoing assessment of the following key issues:

- Customer and community expectations
- Strategic and corporate goals
- Long term financial model
- Legislative requirements
- Corporate and Asset Risk

This should be achieved through the implementation of the Asset Management Framework.

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Definitions

Term	Definition
Asset	An item owned, controlled, or managed by Council that has economic value and enables services to be delivered. Assets are recognised when it is probable that future benefits will be obtained, and the cost or value can be reliably measured. Non-current assets are those expected to provide services for more than 12 months.
Asset life cycle	The sequence of stages in an asset's existence, from initial planning and acquisition, through use, maintenance and renewal to disposal. Used to determine depreciation and renewal planning.
Asset Management	The coordinated process of planning, acquiring, operating, maintaining, renewing and disposing of assets so that service delivery objectives are achieved in a cost-effective and sustainable way (aligned with ISO 55000 and Code of Accounting Practice).
Asset Management Information System (AMIS)	The integrated system (software, data and processes) used to record, store and manage asset data for accounting, valuation, condition and decision-making purposes. Supports statutory reporting (asset register) and long-term financial planning. Council uses TechOne as AMIS.
Asset Management Plan (AMP)	A long-term plan (10+ years) for a specific class of assets that identifies service standards, projected demand, life cycle management, risks, renewal forecasts and financial requirements (Code of Accounting Practice, OPWEA IIMM).
Asset Management Policy	A formal statement adopted by Council outlining the principles, responsibilities and objectives for managing assets consistently with statutory accounting requirements and community outcomes.
Asset Management Strategy	A medium to long-term strategy demonstrating how asset management objectives and practices will be implemented to achieve the goals of the Community Strategic Plan. The Asset Management Strategy is a component of the Resourcing Strategy.
Asset register	The Corporate listing of Council's assets that records acquisition date, original cost, accumulated depreciation, revalued amount, condition, and useful life, in accordance with AASB 116 and the Code of Accounting Practice. Council use**s** TechOne software as Asset Register.
Infrastructure asset	A physical, non-current asset that provides essential community services, usually forming part of a network system (e.g. roads, drainage, bridges, footpaths). Recognised as non-current assets with useful lives typically greater than 12 months.
Level of service (LoS)	The defined quality, quantity and reliability of a service or activity against which performance can be measured. The measurable standard of service provided by an asset, defined in terms of quality, quantity, reliability, responsiveness, environmental impact and cost. Used for asset valuation, depreciation, and renewal forecasts. Level of Service is generally provided in Asset Management Plans and measured through Quarterly, Annual, **and** Council's end of term report.
Asset Life	Period when asset is created to asset end of life. These asset life records are included in Council's Asset Register contained in TechOne.
Life cycle management	Applying asset management over stages of an asset during its life. Life cycle is managed through Council's Asset Management Plans.

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Management Systems	Set of interacting elements of Ku Ring Gai Council to establish Policies, and Processes to achieve Outcomes contained within the Community Strategic Plan.
Critical assets	Asset having potential to significantly impact the achievement of the Outcomes of the Community Strategic Plan. These assets are identified in Council's Asset Management Strategy.
Whole-of-life cost	The total cost of an asset over its useful life, including acquisition, operation, maintenance, renewal and disposal. Recognised in financial models to ensure sustainable funding. Council uses Whole of Life Cost when making decisions about Acquiring, Operating and Retiring Assets.
Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP)	A statutory 10-year plan that projects Council's financial position, including the funding of assets, liabilities, and service delivery as part of the Integrated Planning & Reporting (IP&R) framework.
Delivery Program and Operational Plan	Council's statutory plans under the NSW Integrated Planning and Reporting (IP&R) framework. The Delivery Program is a four-year plan setting medium-term priorities, while the Operational Plan is the one-year plan that details the annual projects, budgets and activities to deliver those priorities, including asset operation, maintenance and renewal.
Resourcing Strategy	The long-term strategy (minimum 10 years) consisting of the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP), Asset Management Strategy (AMS) including Asset Management Plans and Workforce Management Strategy (WMS) (NSW IP&R framework).
Risk Management	The coordinated activities to direct and control an organisation with regard to risk. Council use Enterprise Risk Management consistent with ISO 31000 and the Code of Accounting Practice when making decisions.
Useful life of an asset	The period over which an asset is expected to provide service or economic benefit. Useful life is estimated at acquisition/revaluation and forms the basis of depreciation (AASB 116).
Stakeholder	Interested party, for this document, it is internal teams with Council, Councillors, other tiers of government and the community. Personal or organisation that can affect, be affected by, or perceived itself to be affected by a decision of activity.
Leadership	General Manager and Directors (GMD) along with elected Council
Sustainability	State of an Asset System, including environmental, social and economic aspects, in which the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generation to meet their own needs.
Framework	Structure of processes and specification designed to support the accomplishment of specific task such as Decision-Making Framework in Asset Management
Performance	Measurable result as reported through annual financial statements, condition rating, IPNR annual and end of term reporting against specified criteria.

DRAFT

MAYOR AND COUNCILLOR FEES - 2026/27 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REMUNERATION TRIBUNAL DETERMINATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To determine the mayoral and councillor fees for the 2026/27 financial year.
BACKGROUND:	Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act) requires that the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determine the minimum and maximum amount of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors of NSW Councils annually.
COMMENTS:	The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal has released its annual review of the minimum and maximum fees that apply to mayors and councillors for 2026/27 [Attachment A1]. The Tribunal has determined that Ku-ring-gai Council remains in the "Metropolitan Medium" category and has determined a 3.7% per annum increase in the fees applicable to each category from 1 July 2026.
RECOMMENDATION:	That effective 1 July 2026: A. The annual councillor fee be set at maximum $30,640; and B. The annual mayoral fee be set at $81,380, in addition to the councillor fee.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To determine the mayoral and councillor fees for the 2026/27 financial year.

BACKGROUND

The *Local Government Act 1993* requires the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal to report to the Minister for Local Government each year on its determination of categories of councils and the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors.

Section 241 of the Act provides that the Tribunal determine the maximum and minimum amount of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors of councils for each of the categories determined under section 239.

COMMENTS

The Tribunal has released its annual review of the minimum and maximum fees that apply to mayors and councillors for 2026/27 [see Attachment A1].

The Tribunal considered a range of factors in determining the amount to increase minimum and maximum fees payable to councillors and mayors. This included economic data, NSW Public Sector increases and Local Government State Award increases. On this occasion the Tribunal has determined that a 3.7% increase will apply to the minimum and maximum fees applicable to existing categories.

Ku-ring-gai Council remains in the "Metropolitan Medium" category. The minimum and maximum fees for the Ku-ring-gai Council Mayor and councillors have been determined as follows:

Category	Councillor Annual Fee		Mayor Additional Fee	
	Minimum	Maximum	Minimum	Maximum
Metropolitan Medium	$16,420	$30,640	$34,870	$81,380

The conduct of the 2027 Annual Review

The Tribunal has announced that it will commence its 2027 Annual Determination review earlier than usual to allow for a comprehensive overhaul of the existing council categories, criteria and mayoral/councillor fee structures. To facilitate this, the Tribunal is planning to implement a two-stage consultation process:

- Councils will be invited to submit feedback on how the category and criteria structure should be amended, and what the maximum and minimum fees should be (including adjustments for cost-of-living increases).
- Once the new framework is established, submissions will be sought regarding which specific category individual Councils should be placed into under the revised structure.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Leadership and Service Excellence

Community Strategic Plan Long Term Objective	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Task
L1: Provide strong and ethical civic leadership to ensure good governance and build and maintain trust and confidence within the community.	L1.2: Council's governance framework supports probity, transparency, compliance with legislative requirements and a culture of ethical conduct and informed decision-making.	L1.2.5Review and update Council's policy and procedures for the conduct of Council meetings, public forums and committees in line with Office of Local Government requirements.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The Determination of the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal is made in accordance with sections 239 and 241 of the Act. Under section 248 of the Act, Council must either fix an annual fee in accordance with the appropriate determination of the Remuneration Tribunal, or pay the appropriate minimum fee determined by the Remuneration Tribunal.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

Should Council decide not to accept the annual fee payable to the Mayor and Councillors there is some risk that Council is unable to attract quality candidates at local government elections because of low remuneration levels.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Council's budget for 2026/27 accounts for an increase to councillor fees.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Nil.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Nil.

SUMMARY

The Local Government Remuneration Tribunal determines the minimum and maximum amount of fees to be paid to mayors and councillors. The Tribunal has released its annual review of the minimum and maximum fees that apply to mayors and councillors for 2026/27 [see Attachment A1]. The proposed maximum fees for Ku-ring-gai Council are $30,640 per Councillor and an additional $81,380 for the Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION:

That effective 1 July 2026:

A. The annual councillor fee be set at $30,640; and

B. The annual mayoral fee be set at $81,380, in addition to the councillor fee.

Raj Singh
Governance Team Leader

Christopher M Jones
Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy

Attachments: A1⇩ LGRT-2026-Annual-Determination 2026/153938

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal

Annual Determination

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

23 April 2026

NSW GOVERNMENT

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Executive Summary

Functions of the Tribunal

1. Section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* (**the Act**) requires the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (**the Tribunal**), by 1 May each year, to determine for each of the categories of Councils determined under s 239, the maximum and minimum fees to be paid to Mayors and Councillors in the following year. As well as those of Chairpersons and members of County Councils: s 400. The Tribunal may also amend a determination it has made for fees to be paid to the appointed Chairperson and appointed Councillors of a council designated as a Rural and Remote Council: c 12(c), sch 11.

2. Section 239(1) of the Act requires the Tribunal to determine the categories of Councils and mayoral offices at least once every three years. It must then also place each Council and mayoral office into one of those categories. There are presently 135 Councils in the State, including County Councils, which are allocated into 15 different categories, with Central Darling Council being the subject of a 2025 Special Determination.

3. The Tribunal must also report its determination to the Minister within seven days: s 244. The Tribunal's Annual Determination takes effect from 1 July each year.

4. All of the Tribunal's functions must be undertaken in accordance with the purposes of the Act, specified in s 7 to be:

   (a) to provide the legal framework for the system of local government for New South Wales,

   (b) to set out the responsibilities and powers of Councils, Councillors and other persons and bodies that constitute the system of local government,

Executive Summary

(c) to provide for governing bodies of Councils that are democratically elected, or for certain rural and remote Councils, part elected and part appointed,

(d) to facilitate engagement with the local community by Councils, Councillors and other persons and bodies that constitute the system of local government,

(e) to provide for a system of local government that is accountable to the community and that is sustainable, flexible and effective.

Fees

5. For reasons explained below, the Tribunal has determined that from 1 July 2026 there must be a **3.7%** increase in the current minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category of Council, as well in the fees of the appointed Chairperson and appointed Councillors of Central Darling Shire Council. That reflecting increases in the cost of living.
Relevant indicators since the 2025 adjustment, including:

- Consumer Price Index for the 12 months to February 2026 of 3.7%;
- Wage Price Index for the 12 months to December 2025 of 3.4%;
- Full-time average weekly ordinary time earnings for the 12 months to November 2025;
- NSW Public Sector Salaries increases for FY 2025/26 of 3%;
- Local Government State Award increases for FY 2025/26 of 3%;
- IPART Rate Peg Base Cost Change for FY 2025/26 of 3.6%;
- The 2025 Public Service Senior Executive remuneration determinations of the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal; and
- The 2025 State Members of Parliament Basic Salary remuneration determination of the Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal.

Executive Summary

6. The Tribunal has also taken note of the current war in the Middle East, which is likely having an adverse impact on the cost of living. But takes the view that its effects and their potential impact on fee adjustment, cannot reliably be determined at this point.

7. What was advanced in submissions included that not only should there be a cost of living increase in 2026. But that there should be a much more significant increase in fees, to reflect that current fees no longer adequately reflect the challenging work which Mayors and Councillors must undertake in their important elected offices. With the result that fees should be increased to reflect those determined by the Tribunal for the Chairperson and appointed Councillors of the Central Darling Council in its 2025 Special Determination. As well as the remuneration and allowances paid to Mayors and Councillors in Queensland and Victoria.

8. The Tribunal accepts that it has the discretion to determine that fees should justly be increased, by more than a cost of living adjustment, as was urged. That permitting its consideration of the adequacy of current fees, given the work which Mayors and Councillors are elected to perform and how that has changed over time.

9. That is because while s 242A of the Act requires the Tribunal to give effect to the same policies on increases in remuneration as those that the Industrial Relations Commission is required to give effect to under s 146C of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (NSW) when making or varying awards or orders relating to the conditions of employment of public sector employees. That section has now been repealed, that removing the prior fetter on the Tribunal's discretion to adjust fees in the way urged on this review.

10. The Tribunal also accepts that a greater increase than that which it has determined, may be warranted. But has concluded that the amount of any such increase requires further consideration in light of changes which have taken place over time. Not merely in the amount of the fees fixed by past Determinations, but also in the work Mayors and Councillors have to perform in their elected offices.

Executive Summary

11. Understandably, some submissions sought to draw comparisons with the fees fixed by the 2025 Special Determination for the appointed Councillors and Chairperson for the Central Darling Shire Council and those fixed for other Mayors, as well as with payments made to Councillors and Mayors in other States.

12. When such comparisons are drawn, consideration can not only be given to the amount of such fees and remuneration. It must also be given to matters such as the nature of the appointments, the work required and the hours and nature of the work performed as a result. As well as to how that compares to what is required of Mayors and Councillors of Local and County Councils in this State and the fees which they receive, as a result. That also requiring an understanding of the applicable statutory schemes and the reasons for the past fixation of the fees and remuneration relied on.

13. The Tribunal was provided with little information or submissions about such matters and so is unable to come to conclusions about whether increases based on the comparisons sought to be drawn, can be entertained.

14. Other submissions about desirable fee adjustment depend on the NSW Parliament amending the Act, to provide for Mayors and Councillors to receive remuneration or salary, rather than a fee for office.

15. Even if such comparisons are presently available to be made, the differences in the statutory regimes, which were not addressed, as well as similarities and differences in the work being compared, would have to be considered. Conclusions about such matters cannot rest merely on opinions advanced in submissions.

Categories

16. In its 2026 Annual Review, as it has done in past three yearly reviews, the Tribunal undertook a s 239 determination, having invited and received submissions about proposed changes. As a result, it has concluded that it is necessary to rectify a criteria anomaly identified in the Regional Strategic category established by the 2023 Annual Determination,

Executive Summary

as well as adjusting the population criteria for the Major Strategic Area category, from 300,000 to 200,000.

17. The Tribunal also identified that Dungog Shire Council has met the population threshold and Councillor to population ratio criteria for Rural Large and will, as a result, be placed in the Rural Large category.

18. The Tribunal also concluded that in 2026 there should be no other change to the present categories, which will thus continue to be:

Metropolitan	Non-Metropolitan	County Councils
Principal CBD	Major Regional City	Water
Major CBD	Major Strategic Area	Other
Metropolitan Major	Regional Strategic Area	
Metropolitan Large	Regional Centre	
Metropolitan Medium	Regional Rural	
Metropolitan Small	Rural Large	
	Rural	

2027 Annual Review

19. For reasons explained further below, in the 2027 Annual Review the Tribunal will invite further submissions from every Council, Local Government NSW and the Minister, about the current categories, criteria and fee structure and whether they remain fit for their statutory purpose. That will provide an opportunity for reliable information and submissions to be provided about claimed changes and available comparisons.

20. The Tribunal will then give further consideration to the current structure of the categories by reference to which it must fix minimum and maximum fees. That consideration may also have an impact on further fee adjustment in 2027, given that the submissions advanced on this review have raised the question of whether the current system of

Executive Summary

categories and the criteria by which Councils are allocated to them, remain fit for their purpose.

21. The new structure and criteria will reflect the requirements of the Act, as will the new criteria adopted and Councils' allocation to the revised categories. The Tribunal will also determine which criteria individual Councils satisfy, which they will have an opportunity to address, having been invited to provide the Tribunal with the relevant, reliable information.

Section 1 – Introduction

Methodology

22. The Tribunal's inquiries are regulated by s 243 of the Act, which permit it to make such inquiry as it thinks necessary, before making a determination.

23. Section 248 requires Councils to pay Councillors fees which are fixed by reference to the minimum and maximum fees determined by the Tribunal. Section 239 also requires the Tribunal, at least once every 3 years, to determine categories for Councils and mayoral office and to place Councils into those categories.

24. The Tribunal's 2026 Annual Review commenced in October 2025 with the assistance of its Secretariat, when all Councils and the Association were invited to provide submissions about fees and categorisation. Its invitation asked that submissions be endorsed by Councils. All submissions received from Councils were endorsed. The Tribunal also received a submission from some individual Councillors and the Association.

25. Some twenty-five submissions were received from Councils, only some of which addressed fee increases. In its submissions the Association addressed proposed fee increases, as well as problems with the Determination flowing from the operation of the Act, proposed alterations to Council categories and the criteria by which they are allocated.

26. The Tribunal later met with representatives of 19 Councils, seven Councillors and the Association, who addressed written submissions and, in some cases, provided further data to support the submissions advanced. Not all of that provided was sourced from publicly available sources such as the Australian Bureau of Statistics and its reliability was thus not able to be assessed.

27. The Tribunal also had regard to the other information referred to in this report.

Section 1 – Introduction

Summary of submissions

28. Most of the submissions received focused on the inadequacies of the fees and the statutory system which requires them to be fixed as they are. Issues raised including that:

- The remuneration which the fees generate being grossly inadequate, not adequately compensating for the skills, knowledge and responsibilities the Act requires Councillors and Mayors in urban, regional and rural contexts to have and exercise;
- There has been significant, increasing complexity in the work which has to be undertaken, as well as an increase in the time it requires, without a change in remuneration to compensate for these changes;
- That including as the result of changes to the Code of Meeting Practice which Councils have to observe, which has resulted in increased expenses having to be born, for which there is no compensation;
- There is a need for a Deputy Mayor fee to be implemented, to reflect what this role now requires;
- That the current fee structure and meeting requirements act as a barrier to desirable skilled representation in local government, as well as to desirable diversity in that representation;
- It has also driven the loss of able and experienced representatives;
- The existing differences in fees received by Councillors and Mayors in Metropolitan Councils, by comparison to those received by those in Regional and Rural Councils, did not reflect the similarities in their roles and responsibilities. Nor the additional responsibilities which have to be undertaken in Regional and Rural Councils;
- The Determination drives politicisation of Councils, by requiring them to set their own fees within the minimum and maximum set by the Tribunal, which also put them into an undesirable position of conflict: ss 239 and 248; and

Section 1 – Introduction

- Fees were out of step with those which are paid to Board members and those who accept appointments to advisory committees, with which comparisons were also sought to be drawn, but no concrete information was provided about.

29. On this review the Tribunal was urged to undertake a similar assessment of fees to that undertaken in 1995 and not to limit its consideration of what fee increase a cost of living adjustment would warrant. It was also urged to also consider the range of factors it has taken into account in the past, in determining what a cost of living adjustment should be.

30. Various submissions also urged the desirability of various other proposed legislative changes. For example:

- Introducing a new model of remuneration for Mayors and Councillors to replace the current fee based structure;
- Removing the Tribunal's obligations to fix maximum and minimum fees for Mayors and Councillors;
- Introducing a separate fixed fee for the Deputy Mayor position;
- Deputy Mayors receiving mayoral fees while acting as Mayor, but Mayors still continuing to be paid their Mayoral fees;
- Indexed pro rata remuneration; and
- Recognition that the work of Mayors and Councillors involves a full time job. As to which, it must be noted, no information provided to the Tribunal established this to be the case.

31. These matters are not within the Tribunal's control, but they will be drawn to the attention of the Minister.

Section 1 – Introduction

32. The Tribunal accepting the importance of the various views raised by Councils, Councillors and the Association and as a result, will draw them to the attention of the Minister. But that it has power to act on some of them on this review, has not been established, given the current statutory scheme.

33. The Tribunal also notes that consideration of future expected developments when Councils are categorised was also urged by some submissions. While others expressed satisfaction with the Council's current categorisation, as the basis for fixing its fees, while not addressing whether it still satisfied the applicable criteria. This will have to be revisited in the 2027 Annual Review.

34. If further submissions are then advanced, which provide a basis for different conclusions being arrived at about any of the above matters, they will of course be considered by the Tribunal. And if the Act is amended in response to what has been urged, the Tribunal will then undertake whatever statutory tasks it is given.

Section 2 2025 Determinations

2025 Annual Determination

35. In 2025, the Tribunal received sixteen written submissions, which included two requests for re-categorisation. As a result, it reviewed population and other data relating to those Councils, to ensure categorisation was consistent with the applicable criteria.

36. The Tribunal found that the then current allocation of the Councils remained appropriate, with the exception of Mid Coast Council. As a result of it meeting the population benchmark, it was re-categorised from Regional Centre to Regional Strategic Area: 2025 Annual Determination report at [58]-[59].

37. The Tribunal also determined that the minimum and maximum fees applicable to each category would increase by 3% from 1 July 2025.

2025 Special Determination

38. The Tribunal also made a Special Determination in 2025, following the introduction of the *Local Government Amendment (Rural and Remote Councils) Act 2024* and the *Local Government (General) Amendment (Rural and Remote Councils) Regulation 2025*. Having on 6 June 2025 received a direction from the Minister for Local Government under s 242 of the Act, to determine the maximum and minimum fees for Appointed Councillors and the Chairperson for Central Darling Shire Council.

39. The effect of the legislation was to insert Schedule 11 into the Act, cl 3 permitting a Council to be designated as a Rural and Remote Council by regulation, as the Central Darling Shire Council was, when the Minister recommended that it met criteria specified by the regulation: cl 3(2). The Regulations now provide that a Council may be designated as a

Rural and Remote Council if, at the time of designation, its area has a population of 5,000 persons or fewer as recorded in data series 1410.0–Data by Region published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics: r 413F.

40. Central Darling Shire Council is designated as a Rural and Remote Council for 10 years: r 413G. With the result that it must have six Councillors, one elected from each ward, as well as three appointed by the Minister r 413G(3).

41. The Minister must also appoint an appointed Councillor as chairperson of the Council: cl 10(1) sch 11. The Tribunal's determinations under s 241 do not apply to appointed Councillors: cl 12(2)(a) sch 11. But it must determine their maximum and minimum fees and may at any time amend such a determination: cl 12(2)(b) and (c) sch 11.

42. In its Special Determination the Tribunal determined a minimum fee of $13,830 and a maximum of $13,930 for appointed Councillors and a minimum of $72,080 and a maximum of $72,180 for the appointed Chairperson.

43. This Determination was relied on in this review to advance the Association's submissions that the functions of the appointed chairperson of Central Darling Shire Council are substantially the same as those of Mayors of other Rural Councils. With the result that their fees should be increased to similar amounts. That was supported by submissions advanced by some Councils.

Section 3 –

2026 Review

The relevant history

44. The submissions advanced require not only a consideration of the current fees and what the statutory scheme provides for, but also of the history by which they have been arrived at. As well as the impact of changes which have occurred.

45. The history was not addressed by the submissions advanced.

46. Relevantly, it includes that in 1994 the Tribunal undertook wide ranging consultations to establish what was then involved in the roles and functions of elected representatives of local government, conducting public hearings to obtain a representative cross section across the State.

47. It then examined matters such as Councillors' backgrounds and experience; community activities engaged in before and after election; time spent on meetings as well as preparation time; Council's functions and the issues and problems they had to deal with. As well as remuneration levels and ratios between Councillors and Mayors. The Tribunal having received submissions from 66 Councils, 7 County Councils, associations and the public: at page 3 – 5 of the 1994 Determination.

48. The functions of Councils and the roles of their elected officials under the Act were explained, with contrasts drawn with the predecessor 1919 legislation. Under which members of Councils "*were regarded in effect, as performing honorary community roles, with some provision for recompense for prescribed incurred expenses"*: at 11 of the 1995 Determination.

49. Existing fees were then found not to adequately recompense those elected for the performance of their duties at regular Council meetings, special community and committee meetings, communication with the community and representing Council at functions: at 11

Section 3 – 2026 Review

of the 1995 Determination. That requiring lengthy periods to be spent on Council business and associated interviewing, reading and preparation: at 12 of the 1995 Determination.

50. The Tribunal had regard to all such activities in setting fees under the 1993 Act, at a time when they were performed in addition to Mayors and Councillor's normal occupations: at 12 of the 1995 Determination. It then being the common experience that the substantial majority of Councillors and Mayors were involved in some other employment or engagement, either full-time or part-time.

51. The fees then fixed were based on an assumption that Councillors would also be recompensed for expenditure reasonably incurred in relation to their Council duties. That being a matter of discretion for each Council, according to the particular circumstances of that Council. That allowing them to determine the extent of any absorption of expenses in fees: at 16 of the 1995 Determination.

52. The minimum fees were determined on the basis that Councillors and Mayors were *"performing a community service in addition to their normal occupations"*: at 16 of the 1995 Determination. The usual practice being "*to programme the attendance of councillors and mayors outside normal business hours for meetings and other activities to accommodate their other time commitments. Their duties not requiring continuous attendance during the course of each working day."*: at 16 – 17 of the 1995 Determination.

53. And that *"The duties performed as mayor attract an additional fee for extra delegated duties and functions actually performed":* at 17 of the 1995 Determination. It was further explained at 19 of the 1995 Determination:

"The minimum fees determined provide the statutory minimum payment for councillors and mayors. They are based on an assessment of the average council in each category. As with any averaging, the fees may be generous for some councils but modest for others. The maximum fees provide the necessary ambit of discretion to enable each council to

Section 3 – 2026 Review

assess its performance compared with other councils in its category. Such discretion enables each council to determine whether its performance as a whole compared with the other councils justifies a payment in excess of the minimum to its councillors and/or mayor. It is conceivable that because of significant delegations by a council to the mayor, this situation may warrant a fee greater than the minimum for the mayor, but not for councillors. The reverse situation could also apply."

54. What was then being evaluated by the Tribunal being *"the knowledge, skills and community interests of councillors and mayors"*: at 19 of the 1995 Annual Determination.

55. This Determination also explained, in detail, how the categories were then arrived at. With various distinctions drawn between Metropolitan and Non-metropolitan Councils, with consideration of matters such as their size, population, assets and expenditure, amongst other factors. Consideration also then being given to the unique position of the Council of the City of Sydney.

56. It also explained how this related to the fees determined, given the relevant history. Which included a change from the original position under the 1919 Act, that Local Government elected officials had traditionally been seen as civic minded citizens providing a voluntary service to the community, being born in mind. As well as what had been recognised when the *Local Government (Payment of Fees) Amendment Act 1993* (NSW) was introduced. It recognising payment of a fee for attending to Council business, i.e., meetings, inspections, etc, which did not involve the payment of salaries: at 64-66 of the 1995 Annual Determination.

57. Consideration was also given to the statutory roles and responsibilities of Councils in other States and overseas, as well as of comparisons then sought to be drawn with members of Parliament.

Section 3 – 2026 Review

58. It was not then accepted that local government representation had progressed to the status of an independent career. Even though some elected officers chose to spend their time, full time, on Council duties: at 69-70 of the 1995 Determination.

59. It was also explained that the minimum and maximum fee range fixed required Councils to each evaluate the functions and responsibilities which were actually performed by their Councillors: at 76 of the 1995 Determination.

60. After 1995, over time the fees fixed by the Determination have been increased by the Tribunal, to reflect changes it made to the categories of Councils which the Act required it to review regularly, in order to fix appropriate maximum and minimum fees.

61. In 2017 the Tribunal noted that what the Act required was "a categorisation model in which Councils with the largest number of features in common can be grouped together for remuneration purposes. This is not straightforward, as each Council has challenges and issues which are unique": at [16].

62. It then found that while the then existing criteria continued to provide an equitable and transparent model by which to differentiate Councils for the purposes of determining remuneration, there was some scope to refine the criteria to address a number of anomalies and to better reflect the composition of Councils after amalgamations: at [18] – [19] 2017 Annual Report.

63. It also sought to improve consistency and transparency in the allocation of Councils into categories, with the result that a number were either recategorised into an existing category, or a new category: at [19].

64. Fees were determined for the new categories, having regard to relativities between the existing groups: [54].

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65. Fees were later increased to reflect not only cost of living increases, but also changes which the Tribunal made to Council categories and the applicable criteria. But for a time, the Tribunal's powers to increase fees were frozen and at other times available fee increases were capped, as the result of steps taken by Governments.

66. These changes to its discretions were explained in the Tribunal's various Annual Determinations. They help explain the complaints received on this review about the current fees, which it must be accepted, as a result, do not reflect all increases in the cost of living over time.

67. On the Association's approach, this has resulted in fees which no longer accurately reflect what the Tribunal first assessed, independently, in 1995.

68. In 2020 the Tribunal considered recategorisation proposals it received in 2019, about which it sought and received submissions: at [13]-[19] 2020 Annual Report. Then creating the new category of Regional Centre; renaming Regional City to Major Regional City and also adopting some changed criteria. As well as reordering the Regional Strategic Area criteria, considering that it warranted further differentiation.

69. It also altered the criteria for Metropolitan Medium and Metropolitan Large categories, with resulting changes for other categories: at [23]-[30]. In some cases, additional criteria being significant enough to warrant some Councils' categorisation into a group with a higher population: at [30]. Fees were set to reflect resulting activities: at [69].

70. In 2023 the Tribunal sought to improve consistency of the criteria and also adopted nonresident population criteria for some categories, with resulting reclassification of some Councils: at [23]-[25] 2023 Annual Report. As well as creating two new categories, Rural Large and Metropolitan Major, to bridge identified gaps: [26]-[36].

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2026 Annual Review process - Fees

71. As explained, this year's submissions pursued various concerns about the current fees. They not being considered to adequately compensate for the skills and knowledge Councillors and Mayors are required to exercise, or the time they have to spend in performing the duties of their offices, given considerable changes over time. In considerable part this having been driven by population increases and changes introduced by Governments.

72. The view repeatedly urged being that current fees result in a considerable barrier to desirable diversity in representation in local government, as well as problems in attracting and retaining suitably qualified people to stand for and remain in office, when elected.

73. The Tribunal accepts that there are such problems, given the information and submissions it has received.

74. There were various submissions that an increase was necessary, given the increased cost of living. But few submissions addressed the quantum of the increase. Narrabri Council urging a 10% increase and Lake Macquarie a 3-4% increase. Another that fees should be doubled. Other submissions urging that Mayoral fees be increased substantially to reflect the 2025 Special Determination. The Association and some Councils also seeking increases which resulted in fees similar to the remuneration paid in Queensland and Victoria.

75. The City of Sydney Council did not seek such increase in the fees payable to the Lord Mayor, but urged very substantial increases for Councillors. Some Councillors also providing, late, further information which the Tribunal did not have the opportunity to give adequate consideration to, given all they have raised and the time frame in which this review must be completed.

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76. Some submissions also urged an increase in fees of rural and regional Councillors and Mayors, to assist in addressing low candidature numbers.

77. The Association also urged that a significant increase in fees was needed to:

"1. Ensure that Councillors and Mayors in New South Wales do not continue to experience fee erosion flowing from the former NSW Public Sector Wages Policy;

2.Reflect the current economic climate in New South Wales and adjust fees according to recent and relevant economic data; and

3. Recognise the increasing demands and time commitment required of elected local government representatives."

78. The Association noting that the repeal of s 146C of the *Industrial Relations Act 1996* (NSW) had the result that the Tribunal is no longer constrained by a cap when awarding fee increases. And urging that the Tribunal accept that current fees were manifestly inadequate, not properly reflecting as they needed to, the current responsibilities and role of elected Council officials. That preventing Councils' financial stability and also deterring quality candidates, of all backgrounds, pursuing civic office, which was not in the public interest.

79. It also submitting that fees should now be assessed on the basis that the work of elected officials was valued at more than 8 hours per week, at the rate of the national minimum wage. It also advanced economic and wage data to support these arguments

80. The submissions thus drew comparisons with:

- The salary paid to members of parliament under the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989* (NSW);

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- Remuneration which Mayors and Councillors of Queensland Councils are paid under the *Local Government Act 2009* (QLD) and the *Local Government Regulation 2012* (QLD); and
- Allowances which Victorian Mayors and Councillors receive, fixed by the Victorian Independent Remuneration Tribunal under s 39 of the *Local Government Act 2020* (VIC).

81. Specific examples were also relied on. Including, for example, that Councillors in Townsville are paid a maximum remuneration of $135,123, while those in Liverpool are paid a maximum fee of only $34,820. While in the case of Mayors the comparison was $225,206 to $136,290.

82. The difficulty with such comparisons is that the other legislative schemes relied on, do not provide for a fee based structure of the kind for with the Act provides for NSW Mayors and Councillors.

83. Parliamentarians in this State, for example, receive a basic salary and an electoral allowance payable as compensation in respect of all incidents of the performance of their parliamentary duties (other than those compensated or reimbursed by other additional entitlements): s 4 and 10(2B) of the *Parliamentary Remuneration Act 1989* (NSW).

84. Still, some submissions relied on an observation in the 2024 Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal Annual Report, where I, in my capacity as Parliamentary Remuneration Tribunal, said at [28] that:

"Not only should Members of Parliament be fairly remunerated for their important and challenging work, within the State's means, but it must also be remembered that such remuneration and the other conditions and entitlements provided by the Determination play a real role in attracting people of high intellect, integrity and vigour to stand for election to the Parliament. People who have the necessary skills to perform such work well and who

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are prepared to devote their time to serving the public interest, rather than only their own interests. Appropriate salary and conditions also help to ensure that such people are also prepared to continue seeking re-election in order to continue performing the important work of their offices."

85. The view urged being that those observations also apply to NSW Councillors and Mayors, given the valuable, time consuming and challenging work which their roles now require them to perform.

86. While the Tribunal was not provided with information which would provide a basis for the acceptance of these opinions, support for them can be found in s 232 of the Act, which explains the important roles which Councillors play. As well as in s 233A, which specifies the oath of office which they must take after election. By which they promise to undertake the duties of their office in the best interests of the people of their Council area and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out their functions, powers, authorities and discretions.

87. Despite this and no matter how earnestly held, it is not presently apparent how these views can be acted on by the Tribunal, given the current legislative scheme. All of them seeming to depend on the Parliament amending this State's Act, to provide for Mayors and Councillors to receive remuneration or salary, rather than a fee for office.

88. As has been explained in past Annual Determinations, that is not a matter within the Tribunal's control.

89. The 20 May 1993 Second Reading speech to the Act explains how its terms were arrived at. As the result of a lengthy bipartisan reform process, following enquiry into changes required to be made to the then frequently amended predecessor 1919 legislation: Hansard p 2414. The Tribunal's 1994 Determination explains the process by which it

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initially fixed fees and the subsequent Annual Determinations, how they have been increased over time.

90. Tribunal Determinations have thus explained that Mayors and Councillors are paid a fee for the services which they volunteer to provide when they are elected, not a salary. Section 241 still obliges the Tribunal to fix such a fee. It follows that it does not have the power to determine that they should be paid a salary, or remuneration.

91. Little Information was provided on this review to support the submissions which urged the view that the current statutory fee model is no longer appropriate. The significantly increased and more responsible work which it is widely considered now falls to Councils

to perform and what that requires of its Mayor and Councillors, helps explain why it is also widely considered that legislative change is now desirable.

92. Such information is relevant to the determination of an increase in fees. But the Tribunal has no power to act on the view that the current statutory fee based model no longer remains appropriate. Nor to determine that a remuneration based model such as that contained in the Queensland and Victorian legislation should be adopted in this State. Nor what such remuneration should be.

Conclusions about general fee increase in 2026

93. The Tribunal has considered all it has received, together with the other matters referred to in this report, having been assisted by its two assessors: s 236. Meeting with them to consider their views about the submissions the Tribunal received and the exercise of its functions on this review.

94. The result is the Tribunal's conclusions that:

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- All fees should be adjusted from 1 July 2026 by **3.7%** to reflect changes in the cost of living, in the expectation that there will be further increases in those costs, driven by the consequences of the war in the Middle East, which is already having adverse impacts on the entire Australian community;
- To make no other adjustments to fees on this review, but to invite the submissions further explained below, in the 2027 Annual Review. The Tribunal accepting that changes have occurred which ought to be reflected in the fees fixed by the Determination. But also considering that further information and consideration is required, before conclusions can be arrived at about how those changes can be fairly reflected by a further fee adjustment.

95. The Tribunal thus accepts that it is time to undertake a review of the kind the Association proposed, but has concluded that it cannot be undertaken in this review. That explaining the process which the Tribunal proposes to undertake in 2027, explained in section 4.

The same fee structure for all Mayors and Councillors

96. Remuneration for a Mayor or Councillor not being based on geographical location was also urged by submissions advanced. A number contending that the role of a Mayor and Councillor was fundamentally the same, requiring the same skills, knowledge, experience and responsibilities regardless of location. With the result that the fees of Regional and Rural Mayors should be increased to that of their Metropolitan colleagues.

97. These submissions cannot be accepted. The Act requiring the Tribunal to fix appropriate categories of Council, having regard to specified criteria. The Determination's history and criteria helping to explain differences recognised by the categories. Which the Tribunal must reflect in the minimum and maximum fees fixed for each category.

98. These submissions did not pay necessary regard to these statutory requirements, which are not for the Tribunal to ignore or abandon.

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99. The Act does not permit the Tribunal to fix the same fees for all Mayors and Councillors, irrespective of their category. If it were to be found that the fees for Mayors and Councillors of different categories ought to be completely the same, that would necessarily reflect that those Councils ought to fall within the same category.

Fees for Deputy Mayors

100. The Act also does not permit the Tribunal to fix a separate fee for Deputy Mayors. Despite which the issue of a distinct fee within the Determination for the role of Deputy Mayor was once again pressed, as it has been on past reviews. That being supported on this review

by reports of Mayors being unable to perform the functions of their offices, which had to be taken on by Deputy Mayors, without receiving any resulting additional fees.

101. One submission was that Deputy Mayors undertake significant responsibilities, which the Act fails to adequately recognise or remunerate. Another that a Deputy Mayor must also step in to represent the Mayor when unavailable, chairs committees and plays a pivotal role in decision making and advocacy.

102. The submissions thus urged that the fee structure recognise the additional workload and responsibility that comes with the role of Deputy Mayor.

103. The issue of fees for the role of Deputy Mayor was explained in the 2024 Annual Determination at [53]-[55] and in the 2025 Annual Determination at [62]- [65]. What was there explained was not addressed in the submissions.

104. Section 249 (5) still permits a Council to "pay the Deputy Mayor (if there is one) a fee determined by the Council for such time as the Deputy Mayor acts in the office of the Mayor. The amount of the fee so paid must be deducted from the Mayor's annual fee." That requires a decision of Council and cannot be dictated by either the Mayor or a Deputy.

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105. The submissions advanced reveal that some Councils have chosen not to exercise this power. With the result that the Deputy Mayor who took on functions the Mayor was unable to perform for a period, received no additional fees to reflect the increased duties taken on. That is an available outcome under the Act and remains a matter for each Council to determine. It is not within the control of Mayors.

106. Still, there having been no change to the Act which would permit the Tribunal to determine a distinct fee for the position of Deputy Mayor, must result in the submissions advanced being rejected. It will, however, draw the issues raised to the Minister's attention.

Setting of Fees by Councils

107. Concerns regarding the setting of minimum and maximum fees by Councils, still required by s 241, was also again raised by some submissions. A number calling on the Tribunal to set only one mandatory fee for each category. Another suggesting that the Tribunal could increase the minimum fees to the same amount as the maximum fee level. Another, advocating repeal of s 241 of the Act.

108. Such change was urged because it was considered that this would result in desirable equality of fees and remove the potential for politicisation of fee setting, and potential conflicts of interest. That also enhancing relationships with the community.

109. In the same way as the Court of Appeal recently explained in *Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW) v President of the Legislative Council of New South Wales* [2026] NSWCA 20 [57], the Tribunal is satisfied that it cannot do indirectly, what the Act does not permit it to do directly.

110. It follows that these submissions must also be rejected. But this issue will also be drawn to the Minister's attention.

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111. In the 2027 Annual Review, submissions will be invited about the appropriate range between the minimum and maximum fees for the categories then determined.

2026 Annual Review process – category review

112. In determining Council categories, the Tribunal is required to have regard to the matters specified in s 240 of the Act, namely:

- The size of areas;
- The physical terrain of areas;
- The population of areas and the distribution of the population;
- The nature and volume of business dealt with by each Council;
- The nature and extent of the development of areas;
- The diversity of communities served;
- The regional, national and international significance of the Council;
- Such matters as the Remuneration Tribunal considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government; and
- Such other matters as may be prescribed by the regulations.

113. The categories of County Councils also require regard be paid to the functions of County Councils: s 240(2). They are specified in s 394 of the Act to be any one or more of the functions of a Council under the Act or any other Act, in accordance with a proclamation made for the purpose of Part 5 of the Act.

114. The Tribunal last reviewed the categories of Councils and mayoral offices in 2023. The current categories in 2026 attracting the increased minimum and maximum fees earlier explained. With the result that some of them continue to overlap considerably, others being but little different and some not readily able to be reconciled.

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115. This helps explain why the Tribunal has concluded that limited change is warranted on this review, without the more extensive review of categories, criteria and resulting appropriate fees which will be undertaken in 2027. In order to ensure that the statutory intent is achieved by the Determination. On that review all Councils will be asked to provide reliable, comparable and publicly available data, on which the Tribunal's decisions can then fairly be made.

116. The purpose of the categories and the specified criteria is to enable the Tribunal to annually determine the maximum and minimum amounts of fees to be paid to Mayors and Councillors in each of the categories it determines: s 239.

117. They having no other statutory purpose, it is difficult to see the reason for a number of current categories attracting overlapping fees; there being limited differences between the fees attracted by other categories, while fees for the Chairperson of the Darling Shire Council are very substantially higher than those paid to very many Mayors.

118. This and the submissions advanced also raise the question of whether the categories and criteria provided by the 2023 Annual Determination, adjusted in the limited way explained by this Determination, adequately reflect the requirements of the Act. As well as whether they continue to remain appropriate and fit for purpose or require further review.

119. The matters specified in s 240(1) driving the need to take into account relevant statistical and demographical data, such as that sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Office of the Local Government and Planning NSW, to which regard has been paid in the past. As well as to data provided by Councils about their particular areas and operations, which also have to be taken into account.

120. One of the difficulties on this review was that the Tribunal had no up to date data about the position of the majority of Councils, which would enable it to determine whether the current category and criteria continue to be fit for purpose, given the requirements of s 240. As

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well as whether the categories into which Councils are currently placed, remain appropriate.

121. The history of the categories established by past Determinations began in 1994, when there were more Councils in existence and fees were fixed having regard to past history. In 1995, 5 categories were established, with three special categories then also continuing, S1 – Sydney City Council, S2 Newcastle and Wollongong City Councils and S3 – County Councils.

122. In the Tribunal's ongoing 3 yearly reviews since then, categories have been altered, merged and increased for various reasons, including to reflect Council mergers. A new model being adopted in 2017 when the number of Councils was reduced to 128. That

having established 5 Metropolitan categories and 4 Non Metropolitan categories. In 2020 criteria for some categories were altered, two new categories created and one renamed.

123. In 2023 a further two new categories were created, three Councils which met the criteria thresholds for existing categories were reclassified and criteria consistency improved by the inclusion of the non-resident population, for a number of categories. A consideration permitted by s 240(1), which enables the Tribunal to have regard to such matters as it considers relevant to the provision of efficient and effective local government. The County Council categories remaining unchanged.

124. Submissions advanced in 2026:

- Sought the creation of 2 new categories;
- Proposed recategorisation of 7 Councils - Parramatta, Lake Macquarie, Murray River, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Randwick, Shellharbour and Willoughby Councils;
- Sought that one category revert to a previous name;

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- questioned the suitability of current criteria; and
- Urged the Tribunal to take into account other matters which Council now consider to be relevant to the determination of categories and their categorisation. Visitor numbers, being the best example.

125. If accepted, these submissions require consideration of how these aims could properly be reflected in the category criteria, which the submissions did not address.

126. It also appears that there may, in 2026, be further Council demergers, which will also necessitate consideration of the categories and Council allocations, in order that appropriate fees are fixed for their Councillors and Mayors in 2027.

127. This all helped drive the Tribunal's conclusion that further change is required to current categories and criteria. But that the submissions and information it has received on this review, did not enable final views to be formed about what those changes should justly be. That will be revisited in the 2027 Annual Review.

Correction of an identified anomaly

128. The current category allocations and criteria appear in the 2025 Annual Determination at Section 5 and Appendix 1 respectively.

129. One required change which has been identified results from an anomaly. The criteria for the category Regional Strategic contains the following sentence:

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

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130. This is incorrect. There currently being 5 Councils classified as Regional Strategic: Lake Macquarie, Maitland, Mid-Coast, Shoalhaven, and Tweed. As a result, this erroneous statement has been removed from Appendix 1 of the 2026 Annual Determination.

Proposed renaming of "Principal CBD" as the "Principal City"

131. This change in name was urged in order to revert to a prior category name, the Council submitting that this would properly recognise its regional, national and international significance, which extended beyond the Sydney CBD. As well as reflecting significant increases in the roles and responsibilities of its Councillors, in Australia's only global city and to ensure that fees they receive appropriately reflect their responsibilities.

132. The submission explained alterations, over time, to the area which the Council covers. It now having eight distinct economic precincts, as the result of the area added to the City in

2004: the Harbour, City North, Pyrmont, City South, Eastern Creative, Tech Centre West, Entertainment and Recreation and Southern Enterprise. That having had an impact on representation and other matters relied on to advance a proposed significant increase in Councillors' fees.

133. It was in 2017 that the name change from Principal City to Principal CBD was introduced as part of a restructure which reflected the evolving shape of local government in the State. That retaining the Council of the City of Sydney in its own category, while recognising the emergence of the second CBD in Sydney at Parramatta.

134. The Tribunal can see no disadvantage from the proposed name change. But is still not persuaded that it should now be adopted, without consideration being given to such a change within the wider review proposed for 2027.

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135. No change having been proposed to either the criteria which apply to this category, or to the Major CBD category into which only the Council of the City of Parramatta falls. It recognising Parramatta to be the secondary CBD, which some submissions urged was no longer appropriate.

Proposed reclassification of City of Parramatta Council from Major CBD to Principal CBD

136. Council sought to be recategorised from the Major CBD to Principal CBD category, to better reflect its size, rate of growth, economic influence, operational budget and strategic and geographical importance.

137. Council also submitting that it plays a leading role in Greater Sydney's advancement. With factors relied on including:

- 30% of Australia's top 500 companies have offices located in Paramatta;
- The city is accessible to 2.3 million people within 45 minutes, by car or public transport;
- Creative and cultural institutions such as Riverside Theatre, Olympic Park and the upcoming Powerhouse Paramatta museum are located there;
- As is a large Health and research precinct which includes six (6) universities and Westmead Hospital;
- The Engineering and Innovation Hub, as well as Western Sydney Startup Hub also being located within the LGA; and
- It having the second largest economy, which generates a gross regional product of $32.88 billion, and 33,000 businesses with over 202,000 jobs.

138. What was advanced did not accord with submissions advanced by some other Councils.

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139. The Tribunal is not persuaded that the City of Parramatta Council is incorrectly categorised or satisfies the criteria of Principal CBD, which reflect the unique position of the Council of the City of Sydney. Nor did it advance any changed criteria which would fairly capture both its position and that of the Council of the City of Sydney. That the two can fairly be equated, has also not been established.

140. The Determination has long recognised the distinct role which the Council of the City of Sydney plays, with the result the higher fees its Mayor and Councillors receive, which is reflected in the current criteria:

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

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

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

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141. The submission and data advanced did not establish that Parramatta satisfies these criteria. Nor a basis for the conclusion that its Mayor and Councillors should receive the same fees as those received by the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Sydney.

142. The criteria which apply to its category, Major CBD, being:

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

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

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

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

143. The assumptions reflected in these criteria were challenged by other Councils as no longer being correct. Blacktown Council relying, for example, on data which showed that its

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residential population in 2024 was considerably greater than that of Parramatta, 274,956 to 438, 843. As was its total population, including workers not residing within its area.

144. The data received helped drive the conclusion that the current criteria may no longer be fit for purpose. And that further consideration needs to be given to what appropriate categories now are and what criteria should apply to them.

145. But the reclassification proposed on this review, cannot be accepted.

Proposed new Metropolitan Major – High Growth Category

146. Blacktown City Council sought the creation of a new category, Metropolitan Major – High Growth, for which it did not advance either criteria, or proposed fees.

147. It is now classified as a Metropolitan Major Council, together with Canterbury Bankstown. They having both last been assessed as falling below the Major CBD category, into which only the City of Parramatta falls. The current criteria for the Metropolitan Major category are:

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

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

Other features may include:

- *total operating revenue exceeding $300M per annum*

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- *the provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities*
- *significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors*
- *high population growth.*

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

148. Blacktown contended that the proposed new category would recognise larger, more complex Councils which exceed the criteria of Metropolitan Major. It being relevant that it would continue to outstrip Parramatta in various respects, given its current and expected ongoing growth. This new category thus facilitating fair and appropriate adjustments to the remuneration payable to Mayors and Councillors.

149. The Council relying on data such as population, budget and asset growth, as well as 'transformational' projects and ongoing developments which had driven further change and challenges for it and its officers, reflective of its strategic planning and economic sphere of influence. It claiming now to be the fourth largest economy in NSW, with significant plans for further growth to 2041.

150. It also relied on comparisons which it sought to draw with Canterbury-Bankstown, from which it said it is now differentiated by a range of factors, which it is not necessary to explain.

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151. What was not advanced was either proposed criteria for the new category sought, nor fees which might fairly attach to it. The Council placing reliance on what parliamentarians are paid in NSW, a reliance which I have explained is not available under the current statutory scheme.

152. The difficulty with what was proposed is also revealed by the limited difference between the maximum and minimum fees for the existing categories, which reflects an assessment that the work involved cannot be significantly differentiated.

153. Nor can it be accepted that it is appropriate for criteria to be based on anticipated growth in population, infrastructure, assets or budgets, as this and some other submissions urged. That is not embraced by s 240 of the Act. Nor can anticipated developments be accepted to be a reliable basis on which decisions can fairly be made about categories or criteria, depending as they do on assumptions.

154. The basis of what is anticipated at a particular point in time being unlikely to be able to be established by independent, reliable and publicly available data, which will allow relevant comparisons to be drawn. And the adoption of such criteria giving rise to the difficulties which will result, if what is anticipated, does not come to pass.

155. It may also not be overlooked that when the submissions were received, Major CBD Mayoral fees ranged from $44,840 to $126,320, while those in Metropolitan Major Councils ranged from $44,840 to $114,300. This helps explain why the view has to be taken that there is little purpose to be served by the adoption of the proposed new category, which would sit between the existing categories.

156. Particularly without identification of criteria which reflect its true differentiation from the existing categories. That such differentiation does not exist, is reflected in the current small differences in fees for the existing categories.

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157. The result is that the Tribunal has not been persuaded that the proposed new category can be established.

158. If in the 2027 review the establishment of new categories is pursued, the Tribunal should be provided with a proposal which addresses not only the name of the proposed category, but also appropriate criteria, together with the maximum and minimum fees which are proposed. They will have to have appropriate relationships with other categories, which will also have to be explained by the submission.

159. As will the consequences of their adoption for other Councils which may be affected. Such Councils will also have to be given an opportunity to be heard, before the Tribunal comes to any conclusions about proposed new categories. That will be achieved by service of the proposed change on other affected Councils.

Metropolitan Major

160. No Council sought any alteration to the criteria or recategorisation to this category.

Metropolitan Large

161. Both Randwick and Willoughby Councils sought to be recategorised as Metropolitan Large Councils, currently being categorised as Metropolitan Medium. Despite neither satisfying the population threshold, although Randwick does satisfy the revenue criteria. Their total populations as at 1 July 2025 being, 176,656 and 133,052 respectively, including nonresident workers.

162. Randwick City Council sought to be reclassified from Metropolitan Medium to Metropolitan relying on:

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- Population estimates as at 1 July of 201,000, comprising of 156,000 residents and 45,000 non- resident working population;
- A high population growth that regularly exceeds the Sydney average;
- An operating revenue of $221 million;
- A Gross Regional Product of $10.55 billion for the year ending June 2024;
- The provision of reginal services, including major education, health, sporting, recreation and cultural facilities; and
- Significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors.

163. Willoughby City Council contending that it exceeded the functions of a typical Metropolitan Medium Council, relying on:

- A population as at 30 June 2024 of 79,634 with a growth rate of 5.47% between 2022 and 2024;
- A forecast for continued population growth due to the planned construction of additional dwellings, the likely impact being an increase of 15,000 to 20,000 people in coming years;
- A high daily visitation rate driven by the employment and commercial hub of Chatswood with opal data showing in excess of 50,000 entries and exits per day at Chatswood station;
- Total revenue of $187.9 million for the 2025/2026 financial year;
- A Gross Regional Product of $13.11 billion for the year ending June 2024; and
- The provision of regional services in health, education, culture, transport and two (2) large retail precincts.

164. The current criteria are:

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

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

Other features may include:

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

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

165. It follows that the recategorisation sought by Randwick and Willoughby Councils cannot be accepted, given the current population requirements.

166. The data also suggested that the Inner West Council may no longer satisfy the applicable criteria, it having been reclassified in 2020 from Metropolitan Medium, but having in 2024 non-resident workers of only 43,100 and a residential population of 193,125. In the 2027 review this Council will thus be invited to establish which criteria it then satisfies.

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167. The data also shows that Campbelltown Council has a total population over the threshold for the Metropolitan Large category, but that it does not satisfy the non-resident working population criteria and so it also cannot be reclassified.

Metropolitan Medium

168. No changes were sought to the criteria, which are:

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

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

Other features may include:

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

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

169. Canada Bay, a Metropolitan Small Council, does satisfy the revenue criteria and has a total population of over 100,000, but it does not satisfy the non-resident working population criteria and so also cannot be recategorised.

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Proposed new Metropolitan Small – Fast Growing category

170. Burwood Council, categorised as a Metropolitan Small Council**,** proposed the creation of this new category, in which it sought to be included. It proposing that it be 'aligned' to the Metropolitan Medium category, to recognise its scope, scale and strategic importance, given the challenges of rapid population growth and increasing service demands it faced. 171. The criteria for the Metropolitan Small Council are:

> *Councils categorised as Metropolitan Small will typically have a residential population less than 100,000.*
>
> *Other features which distinguish them from other Metropolitan Councils include:*
>
> • *total operating revenue less than $150M per annum.*
>
> *While these Councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan Large and Metropolitan Medium Councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of Council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium Councils.*

172. Burwood Council pointed to the criteria for Metropolitan Major, Large and Medium categories, which were considered to have regard to population growth, economic influence and impact of services, as well as considerations such as strategic importance. While Metropolitan Small criteria were confined to population size and operating revenue. It contending that its inclusion in the proposed new category was warranted due to:

- Its recognition by the NSW Government as a designated strategic centre;
- Increased complexity in planning, service delivery, and intergovernmental coordination;

- A population that is expected to double in the next 10 years due to major developments in the town centre and in close proximity to the new metro station; and
- Its economic growth and influence across Greater Sydney, specifically its night time economic initiatives.

173. The Tribunal has not concluded that the creation of this proposed new category is warranted, given the existing criteria and the resulting fees which the current categories attract.

174. Given the existing overlap in the fees of the Metropolitan Small and Medium categories and how their criteria are structured, the Tribunal is not persuaded that an intervening category is needed.

175. These submissions did help shed light on the inherent difficulties of the existing fee structures. Which has to be considered in light of the overlaps and small differences in the fee ranges between the differing categories. But that still precludes the adoption of this proposed new category.

Metropolitan Small

176. No change to the criteria was proposed. They are:

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

Other features which distinguish them from other Metropolitan Councils include:

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

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

Major Regional City

177. This category applies to Newcastle and Wollongong, and no change was sought to the criteria, which are:

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

- *are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas*
- *typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development.*
- *provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation, sporting and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region*
- *have significant transport and freight infrastructure servicing international markets, the capital city and regional areas*
- *have significant natural and man-made assets to support diverse economic activity, trade and future investment*
- *typically contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the Council.*

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The proposed change to the Major Strategic Area criteria

178. Lake Macquarie Council proposed a change to the criteria of this category, which would result in its reclassification from Regional Strategic Area to the Major Strategic Area category. By reducing the population threshold from 300,000 to 200,000. That proposal not impacting any other Council.

179. The submissions it advanced were one of the few which directed required attention to matters which have to be considered by the Tribunal, when considering change to categories and criteria. Including the relevant history, the consequences of changes earlier made, relevant comparisons between positions of Councils in the affected category and the consequences of the proposed further change.

180. The current criteria for the two categories are:

Major Strategic Area

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

- *health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community*
- *a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres*
- *total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum*
- *significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention*

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- *a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.*

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

Regional Strategic Area

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

- *health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community*
- *a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres*
- *total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum*
- *significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention*
- *a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.*

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

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181. In 2023 the Tribunal determined that the population criteria threshold for the Regional Strategic Area had to be adjusted from 200,000 down to 100,000, that resulting in Lake Macquarie Council no longer being the only Council in this category. Council reiterated its views, urged in 2024 and 2025, that this change had distorted the distinction between the Major Strategic Area and Regional Strategic Area categories, given the other Councils which now also fell into the Regional Strategic category.

182. The Council's population statistics in 2024 were of 221,859 residents, plus a non-resident working population of 23,769, totalling 246,095. It drew a comparison with that of the Central Coast Council, which has 354,803 residents, plus a non-resident working population of 11,043, totalling 365,846. While of the four other Councils categorised as Regional Strategic Areas, the greatest total population was Shoalhaven, which has 115,435.

183. The Council also relied on it having similar gross regional product to Wollongong Council, a Major Regional City. As well as more than double that of the other Councils now in the Regional Strategic category. Its case that the population threshold for Major Strategic Area should be revised from 300,000 down to 200,000 also being supported by:

- Its population, now making it the second largest Non-metropolitan Council after Central Coast with proximity to Sydney and tourist numbers similar to that Council;
- Its density of some 338/sqm, being considerably more than Maitland at 245, Tweed and 76 and Shoalhaven only 24, while Central Coast was 211 and even Wollongong 324;
- Its predicted population growth to 2046, with resulting ongoing building demand;
- The impact of major NSW Government projects within its LGA, including the Low and Mid-rise Housing reform announced in February 2025;
- The Renewable energy zone and Transport Oriented Development Program;

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- An annual economic output of $30.03 billion, (approximately 20% of the Hunter economy);
- 14,768 active businesses;
- A Gross Regional Product of $17.39 billion;
- A tourism industry that sees 1.65 million tourists per year; and
- University, shopping, airport and art facilities, as well as Australia's largest power station.

184. The Council thus urged acceptance that its output and scale of operations were now significantly greater than that of other Councils in its category and more akin to Central Coast Council, with the result that the population threshold for the Major Strategic Area category should be reviewed.

185. The Tribunal has concluded that the Council's submissions should be accepted. The 2023 changes having had unintended consequences, which ought now to be addressed, rather than awaiting the 2027 further review.

186. The submissions which this Council and some others made, also drew attention to the considerable impact of significant daily visitor numbers, not taken into account by the criteria. This is a matter which should be addressed in the 2027 Annual Review, so that the Tribunal can consider whether and how that might sensibly be reflected in category criteria.

Regional Strategic Area

187. No change to the criteria was proposed.

188. Port Macquarie-Hastings and Shellharbour sought to be recategorised as Regional Strategic Areas, but neither satisfy the population criteria. Having populations in 2024

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respectively of only 92,772 and 89,967 respectively, including non-resident workers. They both still satisfying the criteria for their current category, Regional Centre, which are:

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

Other features may include:

- *a large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment*
- *health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community*
- *a full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres*
- *total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum • the highest rates of population growth in regional NSW*
- *significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention*
- *a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.*

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

189. Port Macquarie-Hastings Council contended that it met the criteria for Regional Strategic Area, relying on:

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- An expectation that Council did exceed the population threshold when non-resident working population was included;
- A projected total operating revenue of $276 million in 2025/26;
- Gross Regional Product of $13.287 million;
- An economic output this is underpinned by healthcare, retail, construction, education and training, tourism, professional and technical services;
- Tier 1 regional health services that services a catchment area beyond their LGA boundary;
- Four (4) tertiary education institutions;
- The Council operated Port Macquarie regional airport that services Sydney, Brisbane and Lord Howe Island and a total of 5,013 flights annually;
- A tourism industry that attracts over 1.7 million visitors per annum and contributing $540 million to the economy; and
- Regional commercial and cultural services that include a performing arts theatre, an art gallery, courthouse and major hospitality, entertainment and conference venues.

190. Shellharbour City Council's proposal relied on:

- A residential and non-residential working population in 2024 of approximately 90,000, with expectations that the residential population will hit 100,000 by 2035;
- An annual population growth rate in excess of 1.8%;
- An expected operating revenue of $262 million in 2025/26;
- A Council owned and operated regional airport;
- A Council owned marina;
- A Tertiary training campus; and

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- Construction of the new Shellharbour Hospital which will deliver improved health facilities for the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District.

191. The criteria do not encompass categories being allocated on the basis of anticipated growth in population and revenues and so the recategorisations sought must be refused.

192. It also appears that Armidale Council does not meet the population threshold, but in earlier reviews the Tribunal concluded that it should remain in this category, for specified reasons. In the 2027 Annual Review it will be invited to make a submission about its appropriate categorisation, given the criteria which it then satisfies.

Regional Centre

193. No change to the criteria was proposed. They are:

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

Other features may include:

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

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- *the highest rates of population growth in regional NSW*
- *significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention*
- *a proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.*

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

Regional Rural

194. Broken Hill Council also no longer satisfies the criteria of this category, which it submitted it should maintain, its population in 2024 only being 17,839. In the 2027 Annual Review it

will be invited to address its appropriate categorisation, to ensure that it is then placed into the appropriate category, given the criteria which it then satisfies.

195. The applicable criteria for this category being:

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

Other features may include:

- *a large urban population existing alongside a traditional farming sector, and are surrounded by smaller towns and villages*
- *health services, tertiary education services and regional airports which service a regional community*

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- *a broad range of industries including agricultural, educational, health, professional, government and retail services*

- *large visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and events.*

196. Murray River Council sought to be recategorised as Regional Rural, it being currently classified as Rural Large, despite not satisfying the population criteria, its population in 2025 still only totalling 16,042. It relied on large visitor numbers to support its submissions, which had increased over time, as well as other changes. Referring to matters such as:

- An annual population growth rate of 8-11% in the main centre of Moama, with predicted population numbers reaching over 18,000 by 2046;
- A growing tourism, accommodation and food industry that supports 14.1% of the employment figures in their LGA;
- Tourist visitation growing on average by 10% per annum, with the average number of visitors in 2023 and 2024 of 481,595; and
- Significant growth in education, training, health and retail service employment categories.

197. Despite this, the Tribunal has concluded that this submission cannot be accepted. Population is an important aspect of the categorisation system which cannot routinely be overlooked when Councils are categorised. The Act not contemplating subjective categorisation.

Rural Large

198. No changes were proposed to the criteria, which are:

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

Other features may include:

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

199. The Tribunal has identified that Dungog Shire Council now has a residential population greater than 10,000 and a Councillor to resident ratio greater than 1 to 1,200. As a result, Dungog Shire Council will be classified as a Rural Large Council in the 2026 Annual Determination.

Rural

200. No changes were proposed to these criteria, which are limited to “Councils categorised as Rural will typically have a residential population less than 10,000”.

201. Although Glenn Innes Severn Council observed that this review provided an opportunity to “recalibrate the remuneration and categorisation system to ensure its contemporary, fair, capable of supporting the expectation and responsibilities placed on elected representatives.”

County Councils

202. A summary of County Council functions produced by the Tribunal Secretariat is:

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Castlereagh Macquarie County Council

A local government authority for weed management control in the Walgett, Coonamble, Waren, Gilgandra and Warrumbungle Shire Council areas.

Central Tablelands Water

Central Tablelands Water is the trading name adopted by Central Tablelands County Council, a water supply authority constituted under NSW Local Government Legislation.

Central Tablelands County Council was first proclaimed in 1944. The county area embraces the Shires of Blayney, Cabonne and Weddin. Bulk water is also supplied to Cowra Shire Council to service rural consumers and the villages of Woodstock and Gooloogong.

Goldenfields Water

It is responsible for water supply functions within the local government areas of Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Temora, and parts of Cootamundra-Gundagai, Hilltops and Narrandera.

It also supplies water in bulk to Hilltops and Cootamundra-Gundagai Councils, which distribute the water directly to residents in parts of their local government area.

Approximately 11, 974 properties are connected directly to its drinking water supply network in Bland, Coolamon, Junee, Temora and parts of Cootamundra-Gundagai and Narrandera.

The facilities it owns and operate include:

- *34 water pumping stations (including river extraction and Jugiong Water Treatment Plant Pumping Station)*

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- *72 water supply reservoir sites with approximately 115 reservoirs*
- *Eight bores*
- *Six re-chlorination stations*
- *2100 km of water mains*

Western Sydney Weeds Authority (formerly Hawkesbury River County Council)

Western Sydney Weeds Authority (formally Hawkesbury River County Council) is a special purpose Council, its goal being to administer the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW) throughout our Council areas of Blacktown, Hawkesbury, Penrith and the Hills Shire. That involving weed management, detection of new incursions and containment of high-risk plant species that impact on biodiversity, agriculture, and property.

Riverina Water County Council

It is responsible for the provision of safe, reliable water at the lowest sustainable cost. over an area of approximately 15,400 square kilometres with a population of more than 77,000 people.

Rous County Council

Its experts and advisors supply the Northern Rivers with water, weed biosecurity, and rural flood mitigation. It sources, stores, treats and supplies water to the Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley Councils, which on-sell water to their communities.

Protecting the region's biodiversity by managing and eradicating high-risk weed species. Working closely with communities and Councils in Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Kyogle and Tweed Shire regions.

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And also managing the rural flood mitigation for the Richmond River floodplain. Including monitoring and managing an 80km network of levees, 750 floodgates, and 180km of drains to reduce inundation and divert flood waters.

Upper Hunter County Council

It is the registered trading name of Upper Hunter County Council a single purpose Council which is a Local Control Authority for invasive plants under the NSW Biosecurity Act, 2015 (NSW).

Its present area of operation is the local government areas of Upper Hunter, Muswellbrook and Singleton located at the northern end of the Hunter Valley, New South Wales.

It provides weed management systems utilizing technology to prevent, contain or reduce the biosecurity risk of invasive plants to the environment, economy and community within the area of operation of the County Council.

Upper Macquarie County Council

It is a local control authority for the Biosecurity Act 2015. Two Councillors are delegated from each of four constituent Councils to form an eight Member Central Tablelands Weeds Authority Council. Its core function being to detect priority weeds and actively encourage landholders to correctly manage the identified priority weed in accordance with the Central Tablelands Local Lands Services Strategic Weed Management Plan.

It carries out its functions across Bathurst Regional Council, City of Lithgow Council, Blayney Shire Council and Oberon Council.

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County Councils – Water

203. No change was proposed for the criteria, which are "County Councils that provide water and/or sewerage functions with a joint approach in planning and installing large water reticulation and sewerage systems."

204. The current list of these Councils is accurate.

County Councils – Other

205. No change was proposed for the criteria which are "*County Councils that administer, control and eradicate declared noxious weeds as a specified Local Control Authority under the Biosecurity Act 2015 (NSW)*."

206. Two County Councils – Other have been removed from the 2026 Annual Determination, being the Central Murray and the New England Tableland County Councils. The New England Tableland County Council was dissolved on 16 June 2025, by the *Local Government (Dissolution of New England County Council) Proclamation 2025*. The Central Murray County Council was dissolved on 1 July 2019, by a proclamation made under s 397 of the *Local Government Act*, as noted in NSW Government Gazette No 652205 of 27 June 2019.

207. The result is that only four Councils now fall into this classification.

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Structure and fee considerations

208. In the 2026 Annual Review, it has come to light that:

- There has been considerable change which has affected the work of those elected or appointed to Council offices, in part driven by Government decisions which have affected Councils over time. Including in the case of Metropolitan Councils those explained in the Governments draft 2026 Sydney Plan and in the case of Nonmetropolitan Councils, by various regional plans;
- They and submissions advanced raise for consideration whether the current number of categories remain necessary. Reliance having been placed on Victoria, for example, where there are only 4 categories;
- The current criteria, first fixed in 2017 and amended since then in various Annual Determinations, do not accord entirely with the requirements of s 240, which specifies the matters by which the Tribunal **must** determine the categories of Councils and Mayors;
- Some of the current criteria could better assist transparent classification of Councils into categories;
- There has not for some time been an overall assessment of whether Councils continue to satisfy the criteria of the categories into which they have been placed over time;
- Changes in the fee structure, over time, have resulted in a considerable overlap between the maximum and minimum fees payable in various categories, which may no longer be appropriate, given submissions advanced;
- Some light on which was also shed by the conclusions arrived at in the 2025 Special Determination, in relation to the Central Darling Shire Council, on which reliance has been placed.

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209. The results are best explained by the following snapshot of the current categories, fees, overlaps and ratios. It having to be understood that Mayors and Chairpersons are paid both the Councillor fee, as well as the separate fee fixed for their offices. This also helps explain the Tribunal's decision to undertake the further review in 2027.

Table 1 – Table of Councillor and Mayoral fees, by Council categories

	Mayoral/Chairperson Additional Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Councillor Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Ratio (Mayor: Councillor)	
Category	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**	**Min**	**Max**
Principal CBD	$193,650	$254,810	$31,640	$46,420	6.1:1	5.5:1
Central Darling Shire Council - Appointed Chairperson	$72,080	$72,180	$13,830	$13,930	5.2:1	5.2:1
Major CBD	$44,840	$126,320	$21,120	$39,100	2.1:1	3.2:1
Metropolitan Major	$44,840	$114,300	$21,120	$36,970	2.1:1	3.1:1
Major Regional City	$44,840	$114,300	$21,120	$36,690	2.1:1	3.1:1
Major Strategic Area	$44,840	$114,300	$21,120	$36,690	2.1:1	3.1:1

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Metropolitan Large	$44,840	$101,470	$21,120	$34,820	2.1:1	2.9:1

	Mayoral/Chairperson Additional Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Councillor Fees (Effective 1 July 2025)		Ratio (Mayor: Councillor)	
Regional Strategic Area	$44,840	$101,470	$21,120	$34,820	2.1:1	2.9:1
Metropolitan Medium	$33,630	$78,480	$15,830	$29,550	2.1:1	2.7:1
Regional Centre	$32,940	$68,800	$15,830	$27,860	2.1:1	2.5:1
Regional Rural	$22,420	$50,680	$10,530	$23,220	2.1:1	2.2:1
Metropolitan Small	$22,420	$50,650	$10,530	$23,220	2.1:1	2.2:1
Rural Large	$16,820	$40,530	$10,530	$18,890	1.6:1	2.1:1
Rural	$11,210	$30,390	$10,530	$13,930	1.1:1	2.2:1

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Water	$4,490	$19,080	$2,090	$11,620	2.1:1	1.6:1
Other	$4,490	$12,670	$2,090	$6,930	2.1:1	1.8:1

The conduct of the 2027 Annual Review

210. In 2027, the Tribunal intends to commence its review earlier than usual, in order to accommodate the detailed review of the Determination's categories which it has concluded it is necessary to pursue. Together with a consideration of appropriate criteria which reflect the requirements of s 240 of the Act. In order to facilitate the adoption of fees appropriate for the revised structure, also having regard to demonstrated change over time, as well as current responsibilities of Mayors and Councillors.

211. That will also require a review of the category into which each Council should then be placed, which s 239 of the Act requires must be undertaken at least once every three years.

212. Submissions will thus be invited in a two stage process.

213. The first, to determine how the Determination should be amended to achieve the category and criteria structure which the Act envisages, as well as the appropriate maximum and minimum fees. That, it must be observed, will not necessarily result in the current number of categories being retained.

214. In the second stage submissions about Councils' placement into the new structure will be sought.

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215. The Tribunal will then ask Councils to provide reliable data to support their submissions about which category they fall into. Addressing each of the applicable criteria adopted, as well as relevant comparisons which they seek to draw with other Councils.

216. Categorisation having to be as transparent and fair as possible, the Tribunal intends to rest its decisions on reliable data such as that available from ABS statistics and budgets which Councils adopt year to year. The Tribunal will thus invite those who make submissions to provide reliable data and information, on which its decisions can be made. Not merely the expression of unsupported opinions.

217. As it has in the past, the Tribunal will thus also ask Councils, when inviting submissions, to confirm that the information and submissions advanced have been endorsed by a Council vote.

218. It will thus invite submissions and information which will enable it to examine and determine whether the current categories and criteria remain fit for purpose. Given the requirements of the Act, the data on which the Tribunal's decisions must be based and the problems to which this report has drawn attention, which it will seek to address.

219. If it is considered that categories require adjustment, submissions should address what form the new categories and criteria should take, to reflect the statutory purpose of the categories of Councils and mayoral offices and their role in the fair determination of fees. As well as addressing proposed criteria which adhere to the requirements of s 240(1) of the Act, which will help the Tribunal to determine the maximum and minimum fees appropriate for the new structure, which should thus also be addressed.

220. At the first stage of this process, Councils will be asked to serve proposals which will affect other Councils, on all affected Councils, so that they may have a fair opportunity to address such proposals in their submissions.

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221. What is proposed in order to adjust fees to reflect cost of living increases should also be identified at the first stage. As well as the final fees proposed. The submissions should also address changes relied on to warrant their adoption. With reliable information which supports the claimed changes, also being provided.

222. An example of potential revised criteria for the current Metropolitan Major category, which has regard to all of the requirements of s 240 of the Act, as well as to matters which the Tribunal has in the past identified to be relevant to the determination of the category into which Councils follows.

223. What the Tribunal envisages in the 2027 review including the adoption of a structure which, if dollar figures are specified, may have to be adjusted over time, in order to reflect changes over time. As may specified population sizes.

224. A revised category for Metropolitan Major Councils, if it is retained, which has regard to the s 240 requirements, could thus provide:

Metropolitan Major

Councils categorised Metropolitan Major;

(1) must have a minimum residential population, or a combined residential and nonresident working population (of at least 50,000), which exceeds 400,000.

(2) will typically serve:

(a) a dense population occupying a built up physical terrain;

(b) a widely diverse community

(c) an area at least as large as those of Metropolitan Large Councils of ?,

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(d) industrial, commercial and residential development which is both at least as significant and as extensive as that of Metropolitan Large Councils, with established development corridors;

(3) will also have:

(a) to manage a significant volume of business, consistent with its assets and budgets, which is at least as significant and varied as that of Metropolitan Large Councils;

(b) operating revenue exceeding, for example, $394,617,030 per annum, that being $300 million adjusted by December CPI since December 2016;

(c) a sphere of economic influence and significance beyond the Council area, nationally as well as regionally, reflective of their service of:

(i) natural and/or developed attractions within the Council area, including sport, recreational and cultural facilities, which daily attracts significant tourism and/or visitors from outside the Council area; and

(ii) major health, education and other facilities which support the greater Sydney population; and

(d) a continuing high rate of population growth and development for which the Council is planning, evidenced by ?.

225. After submissions have been received in the second stage, the Tribunal will make its 2027 Annual Determination, which will include the new categories, criteria and increased fees the Tribunal has determined will take effect from 1 July 2027. As well as identifying the category into which each Council will then be placed.

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Local Government Remuneration Tribunal



The Hon Acting Justice M Schmidt

Dated: 23 April 2026

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 1 – Allocation of Councils into each of the categories as per section 239 of the Act effective 1 July 2026

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Principal City (1)

- Sydney

Major CBD (1)

- Parramatta

Metropolitan Major (2)

- Blacktown
- Canterbury-Bankstown

Metropolitan Large (10)

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

Metropolitan Medium (8)

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

Metropolitan Small (8)

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

Section 5 – Determinations

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Major Regional City (2)

- Newcastle
- Wollongong

Major Strategic Area (2)

- Central Coast
- Lake Macquarie

Regional Strategic Area (4)

- Maitland
- Mid-Coast
- Shoalhaven
- Tweed

Regional Centre (22)

- Albury
- Armidale
- Ballina
- Bathurst
- Blue Mountains
- Byron
- Cessnock
- Clarence Valley
- Coffs Harbour
- Dubbo
- Eurobodella
- Hawkesbury
- Lismore
- Orange
- Port Macquarie-Hastings
- Port Stephens
- Queanbeyan-Palerang
- Shellharbour
- Tamworth
- Wagga Wagga
- Wingecarribee
- Wollondilly

Regional Rural (14)

Section 5 – Determinations

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

Rural Large (17)

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

Rural (37)

Section 5 – Determinations

- Balranald
- Berrigan
- Bland
- Blayney
- Bogan
- Bourke
- Brewarrina
- Carrathool
- Central Darling*
- Cobar
- Coolamon
- Coonamble
- Edward River
- Forbes
- Gilgandra
- Glen Innes Severn
- Gwydir
- Hay
- Junee
- Kyogle
- Lachlan
- Liverpool Plains
- Lockhart
- Murrumbidgee
- Narrandera
- Narromine
- Oberon
- Temora
- Tenterfield
- Upper Lachlan
- Uralla
- Walcha
- Walgett
- Warren
- Warrumbungle
- Weddin
- Wentworth

***** Designated as a Rural and Remote Council by the *Local Government (General) Regulations 2021*

County Councils

Water (4)

- Central Tablelands
- Goldenfields Water
- Riverina Water
- Rous

Other (4)

- Castlereagh-Macquarie
- Upper Hunter
- Upper Macquarie
- Western Sydney Weeds Authority (formerly Hawkesbury River)

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 2 - Fees for Councillors and Mayors as per section 241 of the Act effective from 1 July 2026

The annual fees to be paid in each of the categories to Councillors, Mayors, Members, and Chairpersons of County Councils effective on and from 1 July 2026 as per section 241 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

Table 1: Fees for General Purpose and County Councils

General Purpose Councils – Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal City	32,810	48,140
Major CBD	21,900	40,550
Metropolitan Major	21,900	38,340
Metropolitan Large	21,900	36,110
Metropolitan Medium	16,420	30,640
Metropolitan Small	10,920	24,080

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Principal City	200,820	264,240
Major CBD	46,500	130,990
Metropolitan Major	46,500	118,530
Metropolitan Large	46,500	105,220
Metropolitan Medium	34,870	81,380
Metropolitan Small	23,250	52,520

Section 5 – Determinations

General Purpose Councils - Non-Metropolitan

Councillor/Member Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	21,900	38,050
Major Strategic Area	21,900	38,050
Regional Strategic Area	21,900	36,110
Regional Centre	16,420	28,890
Regional Rural	10,920	24,080
Rural Large	10,920	19,590
Rural	10,920	14,450

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Major Regional City	46,500	118,530
Major Strategic Area	46,500	118,530
Regional Strategic Area	46,500	105,220
Regional Centre	34,160	71,350
Regional Rural	23,250	52,560
Rural Large	17,440	42,030
Rural	11,620	31,510

County Councils

Councillor/Member Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	2,170	12,050
Other	2,170	7,190

Section 5 – Determinations

Mayor/Chairperson Additional Fee* ($) effective 1 July 2026

Category	Minimum	Maximum
Water	4,660	19,790
Other	4,660	13,140

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

Section 5 – Determinations

Determination No. 3 - Fees for appointed Councillors and Chairperson as per clause 12(c), Schedule 11 of the Act effective from 1 July 2026

Councils designated as 'rural and remote Councils'

The annual fees to be paid to appointed Councillors and the Chairperson of councils designated as a rural and remote Council on and from 1 July 2026, as per clause 12(c), schedule 11 of the *Local Government Act 1993* are determined as follows:

Table 2: Fees for appointed Councillors and Chairpersons of rural and remote Councils

Appointed Councillor Annual Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026

Council	Minimum	Maximum
Central Darling Shire Council	14,340	14,450

Appointed Chairperson Additional Fee ($) effective 1 July 2026**

Council	Minimum	Maximum
Central Darling Shire Council	74,750	74,850

**This fee must be paid in addition to the fee paid to the Chairperson as an appointed Councillor (s.249(2)).

Local Government Remuneration Tribunal



The Hon Acting Justice M Schmidt

Dated: 23 April 2026

Appendices

Appendix 1 Criteria that apply to categories

Principal CBD

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

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

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

Major CBD

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

Appendices

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

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

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

Metropolitan Major

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

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

Other features may include:

- Total operating revenue exceeding $300M per annum

Appendices

- The provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities • Significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- High population growth.

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

Metropolitan Large

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

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

Other features may include:

- Total operating revenue exceeding $200M per annum

- The provision of significant regional services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities • Significant industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- High population growth.

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

Appendices

Metropolitan Medium

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

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

Other features may include:

- Total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum
- Services to greater Sydney including, but not limited to, major education, health, retail, sports, other recreation and cultural facilities
- Industrial, commercial and residential centres and development corridors
- High population growth.

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

Metropolitan Small

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

Other features which distinguish them from other Metropolitan Councils include:

- Total operating revenue less than $150M per annum.

While these Councils may include some of the facilities and characteristics of both Metropolitan

Appendices

Large and Metropolitan Medium Councils the overall sphere of economic influence, the scale of Council operations and the extent of regional servicing would be below that of Metropolitan Medium Councils.

Major Regional City

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

- Are metropolitan in nature with major residential, commercial and industrial areas
- Typically host government departments, major tertiary education and health facilities and incorporate high density commercial and residential development
- Provide a full range of higher order services and activities along with arts, culture, recreation, sporting and entertainment facilities to service the wider community and broader region
- Have significant transport and freight infrastructure servicing international markets, the capital city and regional areas
- Have significant natural and man-made assets to support diverse economic activity, trade and future investment
- Typically contain ventures which have a broader State and national focus which impact upon the operations of the Council.

Major Strategic Area

Councils categorised as Major Strategic Area will have a minimum population of 200,000. To satisfy this criteria the non-resident working population can be included.

Other features may include:

Appendices

- Health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- A full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- Total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum
- Significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- A proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Regional Strategic Area

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

Other features may include:

- Health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- A full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- Total operating revenue exceeding $250M per annum
- Significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- A proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

Appendices

Regional Centre

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

Other features may include:

- A large city or town providing a significant proportion of the region's housing and employment
- Health services, tertiary education services and major regional airports which service the surrounding and wider regional community
- A full range of high-order services including business, office and retail uses with arts, culture, recreation and entertainment centres
- Total operating revenue exceeding $100M per annum
- The highest rates of population growth in regional NSW
- Significant visitor numbers to established tourism ventures and major events that attract state and national attention
- A proximity to Sydney which generates economic opportunities.

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

Regional Rural

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

Other features may include:

Appendices

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

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

Rural Large

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

Other features may include:

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

Rural

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

Appendices

County Councils - Water

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

County Councils - Other

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

REVIEW OF COUNCILLOR EXPENSES AND FACILITIES POLICY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	For Council to adopt the updated Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy
BACKGROUND:	Section 252(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) requires Council to adopt a Councillor Expenses and Facilities policy within the first 12 months of each term of Council. In accordance with Office of Local Government (OLG) Guidelines, Council reviews this policy on an annual basis.
COMMENTS:	Council has reviewed the policy and suggested amendments as outlined in the report. It is intended that, subject to exhibition, any changes to the expenses, facilities and indexation in this policy come into effect on 1 October 2026.
RECOMMENDATION: (Refer to the full Recommendation at the end of this report)	That the updated Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. If any submissions are received, the matter be reported back to Council after the consultation period. If no submissions are received, that Council adopt the policy to come into effect on 1 October 2026.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Council to adopt the updated Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy

BACKGROUND

Section 252 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to adopt a Councillor expenses and facilities policy within the first 12 months of each term of Council. This policy must comply with the provisions of the Act, regulations and the NSW Office of Local Government's (OLG) *Guidelines for the payment of expenses and the provision of facilities for Mayors and Councillors in NSW* issued under section 23A of the Act.

The Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy is updated regularly to ensure it is:

- updated in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- consistent with NSW and Council policy, and recommendations of integrity bodies
- based on what Councillors need to effectively carry out their civic duties, and
- what is acceptable to the community.

The current version of the policy was approved by Council in September 2025.

COMMENTS

Council has proposed the following changes to the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy (see Attachment A1).

Travel expense limits (clauses 6.2 and 6.3 and Table A)

Travel expenses for official business are not only for reimbursement for use of a private vehicle but also taxi and ride share fares, which are significantly more expensive. The current limit of $1,160 per year of term are inadequate if a Councillor uses taxis and ride share on a regular basis. It is therefore recommended that the limit for travel expenses be increased to $2,000 per year of term.

The reimbursement rates for private vehicle use are currently pegged to the per km rate in the Local Government (State) Award. The cents per km rate from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) is a flat 88 cents per kilometre. A comparison of rates for 2025/26 are shown in Table 1 below. As the Local Government (State) Award rates are well under the ATO rates for electric and hybrid cars, it is recommended that the reimbursement rate be changed to be the greater of the Local Government Award or ATO rates.

Cents per km rates (2025/26)		
Vehicle Type	Local Govt Award Rate	ATO Rate
Electric Vehicle (EV)	$0.44 / km	**$0.88 / km**
Hybrid Vehicle	$0.64 / km	**$0.88 / km**
ICE (Under 2.5 Litres)	$0.83 / km	**$0.88 / km**
ICE (2.5 Litres & Over)	**$0.98 / km**	$0.88 / km

Table 1: Cents per kilometre rates, 2025/26 Local Government (State) Award and Australian Tax Office (ATO) comparisons

The ATO rate for 2026/27 has been determined as 91 cents per in the *Income Tax Assessment (Cents per Kilometre Deduction Rate for Car Expenses) Determination 2026*. The Local Government (State) Award rates for 2026/27 have not yet been determined. If this change to the policy is adopted by Council, the 2026/27 rates will be updated when the 2026 Award is determined.

Professional development (clause 7.1 and 7.5)

Clause 7.1 has been updated to clarify that professional development includes official Council site visits, such as to facilities in other local government areas, within the annual professional development maximum limits in Table A.

Clause 7.5 has also been updated to clarify that travel costs for attendance at offsite workshops (such as Code of Conduct and strategic planning workshops) are in addition to the professional development maximum limit.

Additional expenses to allow a councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties (clause 13.3)

It is recommended that this be amended to provide a streamlined, delegated pathway for councillors with a disability to access support without requiring a formal Council resolution. This has been set at $2000 per year of term.

Flu vaccinations (clause 16.1)

It is recommended that provision be made for access to annual flu and other public health vaccinations. Where practical, Councillors may participate in Council's internal staff vaccination clinics at no cost. Alternatively, Council would reimburse the direct cost of the vaccination (excluding any associated private GP consultation fees).

Indexation of expense limits

As outlined in the draft policy, expense limits are updated each year in line with CPI (as at June each year). These limits (highlighted in green in **Attachment A1**) will be updated when the ABS publishes June data on 29 July 2026.

The updated policy will be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. If any submissions are received, this will be reported back to Council. If no submissions are received, it is recommended that Council adopt the policy (with updated expense limits) to come into effect for the third year of this Council term (1 October 2026 – 30 September 2027).

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Community Strategic Plan Long Term Objective	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Task
L1: Provide strong and ethical civic leadership to ensure good governance and build and maintain trust and confidence within the community.	L1.2: Council's governance framework supports probity, transparency, compliance with legislative requirements and a culture of ethical conduct and informed decision-making.	L1.2.5: Review and update Council's policy and procedures for the conduct of Council meetings, public forums and committees in line

Community Strategic Plan Long Term Objective	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Task
		with Office of Local Government requirements.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Section 252 of the Local Government Act states that Councils are required to establish a policy within the first year of each term that outlines how they will cover expenses and provide facilities for the mayor, deputy mayor and councillors in fulfilling their official duties. Councils cannot pay expenses or provide facilities to the mayor, deputy mayor or any councillor outside the guidelines of this policy.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

The primary risk associated with the recommendation/s contained in this report is related to regulatory procedures. There are no material risks that arise from the recommendations contained in this report. Minor issues may occur, but these can be managed within Council's current policies, procedures, resources and budget. This policy establishes the provision of councillor expenses and facilities in a manner that is transparent and accountable.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

While expense limits are proposed to increase in line with CPI, actual expenses are contingent on the usage by Councillors.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Nil.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Section 253 of the *Local Government Act 1993* states that Councils must give public notice of their intention to adopt or amend their expense and facilities policy allowing at least 28 days for public submissions, and consider all public submissions received within the public exhibition period and make necessary changes to the draft policy or amendment. Public exhibition is not required for minor amendments.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

The draft policy has been developed by the Governance and Corporate Strategy team, in consultation with Finance.

SUMMARY

Section 252 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to adopt a Councillor expenses and facilities policy within the first 12 months of each term of Council, and the guidelines recommend it

be updated annually. It is intended that, subject to exhibition, any changes to the expenses, facilities and indexation in this policy come into effect on 1 October 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the updated Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy be placed on public exhibition for a period of 28 days. If any submissions are received, the matter be reported back to Council after the consultation period. If no submissions are received, that Council adopt the policy to come into effect on 1 October 2026.

Christopher M Jones
Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy

Attachments: A1⇩ Draft Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy (v20) 2026/161155

Ku-ring-gai Council

Policy

Councillor Expenses and Facilities

Version Number 20

Adopted: tbc

Effective: tbc

Councillor Expenses and Facilities

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Controlled Document Information

Authorisation Details

This is a Controlled Document. Before using this document check it is the latest version by referring to Council's Controlled Document Register. Unless otherwise indicated, printed or downloaded versions of this document are uncontrolled.			
Controlled Document Number:	97	**TRIM Record No:**	2026/161155
Controlled Document Type:	Policy		
Controlled Document Name:	Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy		
Version Number:	20		
Department:	Corporate		
Distribution:	Internal & External		
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Related Document Information, Standards & References

Related Legislation:	Local Government Act 1993 Local Government (General) Regulation 2021	Sections 252 – 254 Sections 217 and 403
Related Policies (Council & Internal)	Ku-ring-gai Council Code of Conduct Fraud and Corruption Control Policy	
Related Documents	Reimbursement Form	2017/259773 (word template) 2017/263007 (PDF template)
Other References	Office of Local Government Circular No. 17-17, Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy Template Guidance for councillors on corruption risks associated with overseas travel (ICAC, June 2024)	

Version History

Version Number	Version Start Date	Version End Date	Author	Details and Comments
1	08/03/2005	27/02/2007	Director Corporate	Original
2	27/02/2007	30/07/2008	Director Corporate	Major revision following DLG Circular 06-57
3	30/07/2008	13/10/2009	Director Corporate	Annual revision following DLG Circulars 07-22 and 08-03
4	13/10/2009	13/02/2010	Director Corporate	Annual Revision
5	13/02/2010	12/10/2010	Director Corporate	Revision following DLG Circular 09-36
6	12/10/2010	19/10/2011	Director Corporate	Annual review (CPI only)
7	19/10/2011	20/11/2012	Director Corporate	Annual review (CPI only)
8	20/11/2012	26/11/2013	Director Corporate	Annual review and minor revisions
9	27/11/2013	24/11/2014	Director Corporate	Annual review and minor revisions
10	25/11/2014	06/10/2015	Director Corporate	Annual review (CPI only) and reformatting into the new policy template
11	07/10/2015	11/10/2016	Director Corporate	Annual review (CPI only) and clarification of Councillor attendance at functions and events.
12	12/10/016	28/08/2018	Director Corporate	Annual review (CPI only)
13	12/10/2016	28/08/2018	Director Corporate	Update formatting only (Team Leader Governance)
14	29/08/2018	04/09/2019	Director Corporate	Term review (CPI only)
15	04/09/2019	4/09/2021	Manager Governance & Corporate Strategy	Annual review (CPI only)
16	04/09/2021	20/12/2022	Manager Governance & Corporate Strategy	Major review and reformatting into the OLG template. Inclusion of counselling and support services.
17	21/12/2022	20/12/2023	Manager Governance & Corporate Strategy	Annual review (review of limits and CPI adjustments at 7.6%).
18	21/12/2023	13/9/2024	Manager Governance & Corporate Strategy	Annual review (review of limits and CPI adjustments at 4.2%). Including commentary about prorating for short term of Council and other minor amendments.
18.1	2/10/2024	30/10/2025	Manager Governance & Corporate Strategy	Limits updated for CPI and circulated to Councillors
19	1/10/2025	Tbc	Manager Governance & Corporate Strategy	Annual review and CPI adjustments (2%). Policy updated to include all expense limits in Table A.
20	tbc	tbc	Manager Governance & Corporate Strategy	Annual review and CPI adjustments (tbc). Accessibility and vaccinations provisions updated.

Policy

Policy Summary

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

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

The policy has been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (the Act) and Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 (the Regulation) and complies with the Office of Local Government's Guidelines for the payment of expenses and provision of facilities to Mayors and Councillors in NSW. A Council must adopt a Councillor Expenses and Facility policy within the first 12 months of each term of Council and may update it as required.

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

Table A: Current expense limits

The expense limits and facilities are summarised in the table below.

Expense or facility	Maximum Limit for each Councillor
Travel expenses (excluding travel for professional development covered separately) (Clause 6.2)	$2,000 per year of term
Professional development (including training and education, conferences and seminars) (Clause 7.2)	$12,470 in the first year of term and $10,300 per year of term thereafter. Includes registration fees, travel, accommodation, meals, refreshments and incidental expenses. Induction and internally arranged training and workshops for all Councillors are additional and subject to budget.
Functions and events (Clause 9.2)	$1,400 per year of term ($2,795 for the Mayor). Complimentary tickets to all Council functions and events for each Councillor and an accompanying person.
Accompanying person expenses (Clause 10.2)	$815 per year of term ($1,630 for the Mayor)
Home telephone and internet (Clause 11.1)	$235 per month reimbursement
Mobile phone (Clause 11.2)	Council provided mobile phone: $3040 per Council term for cost of device, accessories and apps, connected to corporate mobile plan for calls, texts and data or reimbursement for use of a Councillor's private mobile phone for Council business use: $235 per month reimbursement.
Laptop or tablet (Clause 11.3)	$3,470 per Council term for cost of device, accessories and software, connected to corporate data plan.
Multi-function device (Clause 11.4)	$870 per Council term for cost of device.
Home office expenses (Clauses 12.1 – 12.5)	Furniture and equipment: $1,630 per Council term. Consumables and incidentals: $980 per year of term. Subscriptions, publications or other resource materials: $1,200 per year of term Postage: $585 per year of term Business cards: 500 per year of term (750 for the Mayor).
Additional expenses to allow a councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties (Clause 13.3)	$2,000 per year of term
Carer expenses (Clause 13.4)	$3,500 per year of term.
Insurance cover (Clause 14)	Public liability and professional indemnity, Personal accident, Travel, Councillors and Officers Insurance.
Legal assistance (Clause 15)	Various provisions for Councillors defending action taken against them.
Access to facilities in a Councillor common room (Clause 16.1)	Furnished to include telephone, photocopier, printer, desks, computers and refreshments.
Access to rooms for meetings (Clause 16.1)	Councillors may use Council meeting rooms for official business at no charge.

Expense or facility	Maximum Limit for each Councillor
Meals and refreshments (Clause 16.1)	Meals and refreshments for Council and Committee meetings, Public Forums, briefings, workshops and official functions. Maximum of $50 for Councillors attending by audio visual link.
Name badge (Clause 16.1)	Not applicable.
Security card for entry to Council's administration building (Clause 16.1)	Not applicable.
Personal protective equipment for site inspections (Clause 16.1)	A raincoat and a pair of protective footwear for site inspections during inclement weather.
Christmas or festive cards (Clause 16.1 & 17.1)	100 per year of term (200 for the Mayor).
Reserved parking space at Council offices (Clauses 16.1 & 17.1)	One space provided for the Mayor and three spaces for Councillors.
Car parking permit (Clause 16.1)	Car parking sticker to enable a Councillor to park in any Council car park at any time for an unlimited period when discharging the functions of civic office.
Executive Assistant (Clause 16.1 & 17.1)	One staff member provided to support Councillors and one staff member provided to support the Mayor.
Mayoral Office (Clause 17.1)	Furnished office, including office equipment, consumables, Mayoral letterhead, postage, light meals and refreshments, Mayoral robes and chain.
Council vehicle and fuel card (Clause 17.1)	A similar standard vehicle to that available for the General Manager, for use on official business and incidental private use. Other private use (more than incidental) to be reimbursed to Council at the rate contained in the Local Government (State) Award.
Note: *Expenses limits will be adjusted for CPI for each year of term (calculated as the annual increase to June each year in line with the corporate budget and forecasts).*	

Responsibilities

Councillors are responsible for complying with the provisions and spirit of this policy,

The General Manager is responsible for approving claims made under this policy.

The Manager Governance and Corporate Strategy is responsible for providing advice to the General Manager and to Councillors regarding this policy.

Part A – Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1. The provision of expenses and facilities enables Councillors to fulfil their civic duties as the elected representatives of Ku-ring-gai Council.

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

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

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

2. Policy Objectives

2.1. The objectives of this policy are to:

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

3. Principles

3.1. Council commits to the following principles:

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

4. Private or Political Benefit

4.1. Councillors must not obtain private or political benefit from any expense or facility provided under this policy.

4.2. Incidental private use of Council equipment and facilities by Councillors may occur from time to time.

4.3. Such incidental private use does not require a compensatory payment back to Council.

4.4. Councillors should avoid obtaining any greater private benefit from Council than an incidental benefit. Where there are unavoidable circumstances and more substantial private use of Council facilities does occur, Councillors must reimburse the Council.

4.5. Campaigns for re-election are considered a political benefit. The following are examples of what is considered a political interest during a re-election campaign:

- production of election material
- use of Council resources and equipment for campaigning
- use of official Council letterhead, publications, websites or services for political benefit
- fundraising activities of political parties or individuals, including political fundraising events.

Part B — Expenses and Facilities

5. General Requirements

5.1. All expenses provided under this policy will be for a purpose specific to the functions of holding civic office. A general expense allowance is not permitted under this policy.

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

5.3. All monetary amounts are exclusive of GST and will be increased annually on the anniversary of election to office in accordance with CPI (Sydney, all groups).

6. Travel Expenses

6.1. The Mayor and each Councillor may be compensated for travel expenses incurred while undertaking official Council business and for professional development in respect to their role as an elected member. This includes direct payment or reimbursement for public transport fares, use of a private vehicle, taxi fares, airfares, ride-share programs, parking costs and tolls. From time to time the General Manager may authorise the use of a Council vehicle by a Councillor for official business if other options are not available or impractical.

6.2 The maximum limit for general travel expenses for each Councillor per year of term is listed in **Table A**. Travel expenses incurred for professional development are additional and included within the separate maximum limit set out in Clause 7.2. Travel expenses to locations outside the Greater Sydney and surrounding regions may only be authorised by resolution of Council, unless for professional development.

6.3. Councillors seeking to be reimbursed for travel expenses must submit a claim that includes as a minimum the date, place of departure and arrival, distance (for private vehicle claims) and the purpose of travel being claimed. The use of a private vehicle will be reimbursed by kilometre at the rate contained in the Local Government (State) Award, or the Australian Tax Office Cents per Kilometre method, whichever is greater.

6.4. Air travel is economy class and bookings for air travel are to be made by the General Manager's office on behalf of the Councillor.

6.5. All travel by Councillors should be undertaken using the most direct route and the most practicable and economical mode of transport subject to any personal medical considerations.

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

7. Professional Development

7.1 Professional development includes training and education, attendance at conferences and seminars and membership of professional bodies relevant to the role of a Councillor or the Mayor. It may also include official Council site visits, such as facilities in other local government areas.

7.2 Councillors may attend professional development within the maximum limits under **Table A** for each year of term. This includes the reasonable cost of registration fees, travel, accommodation, meals, refreshments and incidental expenses.

7.4 In the first year of a new Council term, Council will provide a comprehensive induction program for all Councillors. The cost of the induction program will be in addition to the individual professional development maximum limit for Councillors.

7.5 From time to time all Councillors will be provided with internally organised training and offsite workshops, such as for the Code of Conduct and strategic planning workshops. These costs, including travel to offsite workshops, will be in addition to the individual professional development maximum limit for Councillors and subject to budget allocations.

7.6 Councillors are best placed to determine their own their requirements for professional development. This will be a key consideration for the General Manager when assessing an application for professional development, which must be made in advance by written request.

8. Accommodation, meals and incidental travel expenses

8.1 Council will provide for accommodation, meals and incidental travel expenses while Councillors are undertaking professional development and other official business, within the maximum limits set out in the relevant clauses.

8.2 In circumstances where Councillors are travelling long distances, it may be appropriate to claim accommodation and meals the night before and/or the night after the event. It is a matter for each Councillor, on balance, to decide whether to claim accommodation in these circumstances.

8.3 Generally, it is not expected that Councillors would claim for accommodation in locations within metropolitan Sydney. However, there may be occasions where events within metropolitan Sydney run into the evening and staying overnight is appropriate, or when travel time and costs would

outweigh the cost of accommodation. It is a matter for each Councillor, on balance, to decide whether to claim accommodation in these circumstances.

8.4 When practical and available, accommodation will be arranged at the location of events, or as near as possible. The accommodation will be equivalent to a double room and generally of a standard similar to accommodation at the event venue. Accommodation arrangements will balance cost, location, comfort, convenience and safety.

8.5 Council will meet the reasonable cost of meals and refreshments associated with travel when not provided as part of the event. Incidental costs may also be reimbursed such as internet charges, newspapers, laundry, snacks and drinks. As a guide, it is expected that the total amount claimed under this clause would generally be less than $165 per day, reducing for part days. These costs are included within the maximum limit for professional development.

9. Functions and Events

9.1 Council will meet the cost of attendance at functions and events that would reasonably be considered relevant to the role of Councillor or Mayor. This includes functions and events held by charities, community organisations, sporting groups, members of parliament and business groups. The function or event must be within Greater Sydney or surrounding regions and relevant to the local government area or Council's wider interest.

9.2 Councillors may attend functions and events within the maximum limits under **Table A.**

9.3 Expenses may not be claimed for functions and events associated with fundraising for a political party, an election candidate's campaign or for a private benefit.

9.4 Councillors are entitled to complimentary tickets to all Council functions and events as well as for an accompanying person. Depending on the nature of the event, the General Manager may approve complimentary tickets for more than one person to accompany the Councillor. Complimentary tickets will not be included in the maximum limits for accompanying persons set out in Clause 10.2.

10. Accompanying Person Expenses

10.1 Council will meet limited costs for a person accompanying a Councillor on official business or professional development, such as to functions, events, official dinners and for registration costs such as for conference accompanying person activities.

10.2 The maximum limit for accompanying persons expenses is listed in **Table A**.

10.3 Accompanying person expenses are limited to the direct cost of the function, event, dinner or registration. Council will not meet expenses such as for travel, additional accommodation or general meal costs, clothing or grooming.

11. Information and Communications Technology

11.1 Council will meet the costs associated with a home telephone (landline) and home internet service. For practical reasons the connections and services are to be arranged and paid for directly by Councillors and reimbursed by Council. The maximum limit for reimbursement of home telephone costs (including calls and other charges) and internet costs for each Councillor (per month) is listed in **Table A**.

11.2 Council will meet the costs associated with a mobile phone used for Council business. A Councillor may elect to use a Council provided mobile phone or use their own and Council will reimburse the costs.

Council provided mobile phone[1]**:** The maximum limit for the cost of the device, accessories and apps for the Council term is listed in **Table A**.

Reimbursement for use of a Councillor's personal mobile phone for Council business[2]**.:** the maximum monthly limit for reimbursement is listed in **Table A** (covering all plan costs such as rental/repayment, call, text message and data costs)

11.3 Councillors will be issued with a laptop or tablet[3]. The maximum limit for the cost of the device, accessories and software per Council term for each Councillor is listed in **Table A**.

[1] During the Council term the phone will be repaired or replaced as required due to loss, damage or other malfunction. Councillors may choose their preferred mobile phone within the cost limit. While the conditions of the corporate plan may change from time to time, it currently provides for unlimited standard fixed and mobile calls and text messages within Australia and a shared data allowance. As the calls and text messages are uncapped, private use by Councillors is allowed. Use of data should be limited to Council business use and incidental private use.

[2] Council will not reimburse Councillors for lost or damaged personal phones.

[3] During the Council term the device will be repaired or replaced as required due to loss, damage or other malfunction. Laptops will be provided in accordance with the Council corporate standard (ie brand/model). To support full access and support for Council's Meetings Hub app (electronic business papers), a Council-issued 2-in-1 laptop device is recommended. Councillors may choose an alternate device (subject to availability and maximum expenditure limits), but Council may not be able to guarantee support services for non-standard devices or software. The device will be connected to the Council corporate data plan, the conditions of which may change from time to time. Currently the corporate plan provides a shared data allowance which should be limited to Council business use and incidental private use. Laptops will be provided with Council's standard corporate software at no additional cost to Councillors.

11.4 Councillors may be provided with a multi-function device[4] (print\scan\copy). The maximum limit for the cost of the device per Council term for each Councillor is listed in **Table A**.

11.5 Councillors will be provided with support for use of technology by Council staff.

12. Home Office Expenses

12.1 Each Councillor may be provided with or reimbursed for general home office furniture and equipment (e.g. desk, filing cabinet, bookshelf) within the maximum value listed in **Table A**.

12.2 Each Councillor may be supplied with or reimbursed for consumables and other incidentals associated with a home office such as minor items of stationery, paper and printer ink cartridges, within the maximum limit listed in **Table A**. Utility costs (electricity, gas) will not be reimbursed.

12.3 Each Councillor may incur postage costs (via Council) or be reimbursed for postage costs within the maximum limit listed in **Table A**.

12.4 Each Councillor is entitled to subscriptions, publications or other resource materials relevant to the role of a Councillor or the Mayor within the maximum limit listed in **Table A**.

12.5 Councillors are entitled to 500 business cards each year of term and 750 for the Mayor.

13. Special Requirement and Carer Expenses

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

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

13.3 In addition to the provisions above, subject to receipt of a medical certificate supporting the provision of additional facilities and expenses to allow a councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties, the General Manager may authorise up to the maximum limit under **Table A** for each year of term. Council may also, by resolution, authorise the provision of reasonable additional facilities and expenses in order to allow a Councillor with a disability to perform their civic duties.

[4] During the Council term the device will be repaired or replaced as required due to damage or other malfunction. Multi-function devices will be provided in accordance with the Council corporate standard (ie brand/model). Councillors may be provided or reimbursed for consumables such as printer cartridges and paper under Clause 12.2 for home office expenses.

13.4 Councillors will be entitled to reimbursement of carer's expenses up to the maximum limit listed in **Table A** to enable attendance at official business.

13.5 The entitlement to claim carer's expenses is subject to the Councillor being responsible for the care of the person concerned, and the person needing the Councillor's care and support.

13.6 Claims for reimbursement of carer expenses must be accompanied by a receipt showing the date and time care was provided.

14. Insurances

14.1 Councillors are covered by the following insurance policies:

- Public liability and professional indemnity
- Personal accident
- Travel
- Councillors and Officers Insurance

14.2 Insurance protection is only provided if a claim arises out of or in connection with the Councillor's performance of his or her civic duties, or exercise of his or her functions as a Councillor.

14.3 All insurances are subject to any limitations or conditions set out in the policies of insurance.

14.4 Council shall pay the insurance policy excess in respect of any claim accepted by Council's insurers, whether defended or not.

15. Legal Assistance

15.1 Council shall, if requested, indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses properly incurred of:

- a Councillor defending an action arising from the performance in good faith of a function under the Act, or
- a Councillor defending an action in defamation provided the statements complained of were made in good faith in the course of exercising a function under the Act
- and provided that the outcome of the legal proceedings is favourable to the Councillor.

15.2 Council shall, if requested, indemnify or reimburse the reasonable legal expenses properly incurred in respect of any inquiry, investigation of hearing into a Councillor's conduct by an appropriate investigative review body including:

- Local Government Pecuniary Interest and Disciplinary Tribunal
- Independent Commission Against Corruption
- Office of the Ombudsman
- Office of Local Government
- NSW Police Force
- Director of Public Prosecutions
- Council's Conduct Review Committee/Reviewer

15.3 This is provided that the subject of the inquiry, investigation or hearing arises from the performance in good faith of a councillor's functions under the Act and the matter before the investigative or review body has proceeded past any initial assessment phase to a formal investigation or review. In the case of a conduct complaint made against a Councillor, legal costs shall only be made available where a matter has been referred by the General Manager to a conduct reviewer/conduct review committee to make formal enquiries into that matter in accordance with the procedures in the Code of Conduct. In the case of a pecuniary interest or misbehaviour matter legal costs shall only be made available where a formal investigation has been commenced by the Office of Local Government.

15.4 In addition, legal costs shall only be provided where the investigative or review body makes a finding that is not substantially unfavourable to the Councillor. This may include circumstances in which a matter does not proceed to a finding. In relation to a Councillor's conduct, a finding by an investigative or review body that an inadvertent minor technical breach had occurred may not necessarily be considered a substantially unfavourable outcome.

15.5 Council shall not meet the legal costs of legal proceedings initiated by a Councillor in any circumstance.

15.6 Council shall not meet the legal costs of a Councillor seeking advice in respect of possible defamation, or in seeking a non-litigious remedy for possible defamation.

15.7 Council shall not meet any legal costs for legal proceedings that do not involve a Councillor performing their role as a Councillor.

15.8 The maximum amount payable by Council under this clause in respect of any one action is $285,000. Council may obtain insurance cover against the risk of having to meet the reasonable legal costs of a Councillor, or to reimburse those costs, provided that the costs or reimbursements are ones that the Council is authorised to meet.

15.9 Any Councillor seeking to obtain any entitlement under this clause shall make written application to the General Manager and make this application prior to the legal expenses being incurred where possible. The General Manager shall refer the application to a Council Meeting with any advice and recommendations for determination by Council.

16. Other Provisions

16.1 Councillors may be provided with the following miscellaneous expenses and facilities:

- Access to a Councillor common room appropriately furnished to include telephone, photocopier, printer, desks, computers and refreshments.
- Use of meeting rooms for official business in Council buildings at no cost.
- Appropriate meals and refreshments for Council and Committee meetings, Public Forums, briefings, workshops, official functions and other meetings and events as approved by the General Manager. This clause also applies for Councillors attending by audio visual link (within the maximum limits under **Table A**).
- A name badge, which may be worn at official functions, indicating that the wearer holds the office of a Councillor and /or Mayor or Deputy Mayor.
- Security access cards, which provide access to the Administration Building, allowing appropriate access as determined by the General Manager.
- Personal protective equipment as required for site inspections. This will include a raincoat and a pair of protective footwear for site inspections during inclement weather.
- 100 Christmas or festive cards per year and 200 for the Mayor, including postage (which is additional to the Home office allowance for postage).

- Access to annual influenza (flu) and other standard public health vaccinations[5].
- Confidential counselling and support services (through Council's Employee Assistance Program provider). In line with the support available to Council staff, the EAP is available on a short term basis (generally up to three counselling sessions). The EAP provider will assist with referrals if longer term support is required.
- Three car parking spaces for Councillors at Council's offices. When Council and Committee meetings, Public Forums and other events are held where significant numbers of the public are expected to attend, a further six car parking spaces shall be allotted in the same car park.
- Car parking sticker to enable the Councillor to park in any Council car park at any time for an unlimited period when discharging the functions of civic office.
- A qualified and experienced executive assistant to support all Councillors. The executive assistant shall be responsible to the General Manager. The executive assistant may assist Councillors with civic duties only, and not assist with matters of personal or political interest, including campaigning.
- The provision of expenses and facilities will generally be of a standard deemed by the General Manager as appropriate for the purpose.

17. Additional Provisions for the Mayor

17.1 The Mayor will be provided with the following expenses and facilities, in addition to relevant Councillor expenses and facilities:

- A furnished and equipped office to the standard consistent with the custom and practice of Council, including relevant consumables.
- Light meals and refreshments for the Mayor, visitors and guests during official business at Council.
- Mayoral letterhead and postage costs for official correspondence (with the exception of bulk mail-outs).

[5] Where practical, Councillors may participate in Council's internal staff vaccination clinics at no cost. Alternatively, Council will reimburse the direct cost of the vaccination (excluding any associated private GP consultation fees) upon presentation of a tax invoice/receipt in accordance with Clause 19.5.

- Mayoral robes and chain for official, civic and ceremonial use.
- A fully maintained vehicle[6] of a similar standard to the Council vehicle available to the General Manager, with fuel card.
- A parking space at Council's offices will be reserved for the Mayor.
- The provision of expenses and facilities will generally be of a standard deemed by the General Manager as appropriate for the purpose.

18. Return or Retention of Equipment

18.1 Upon a Councillor or Mayor ceasing to hold office, the following must be returned to Council:

- Information and communication technology equipment (phones, tablets, laptops, printers)
- Security access passes

18.2 Should a councillor desire to keep any equipment allocated by Council, then this policy enables the Councillor to make application to the General Manager to purchase any such equipment. The General Manager will determine the purchase price, based on an assessment of the approximate market price or the written down value for the item of equipment (subject to availability of pricing the lesser amount will be used).

18.3 Home office furniture and equipment provided under Clause 12.1 of this policy is not required to be returned to Council.

18.4 Minor items such as consumables, stationery and other incidentals are not required to be returned to Council.

[6] Use of the vehicle is subject to compliance with relevant Council operational policies regarding motor vehicle use. The vehicle may be used for official business and professional development. Incidental private use of the vehicle is allowed such as minor diversions on the way to and from official business (e.g. attending local shops). If the Mayor uses the vehicle for private use other than incidental use as described above, the Mayoral Allowance will be reduced to cover the cost of any private travel, calculated on a per kilometre basis by the rate set by the Local Government (State) Award. This private use must be recorded in a log book.

Part C — Processes

19. Approval, Payment and Reimbursement Arrangements

19.1 Expenses should only be incurred by Councillors in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

19.2 Approval for incurring expenses, where required under this policy, should be obtained before the expense is incurred.

19.3 Final approval for payments made under this policy will be granted by the General Manager.

Direct payment

19.4 Council may approve and directly pay expenses. Requests for direct payment must be submitted through the appropriate system for assessment against this policy using prescribed forms, with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.

Reimbursement

19.5 All claims for reimbursement of expenses incurred must be made on the prescribed forms, supported by relevant information, appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices and be submitted to the General Manager or delegate.

Advance payment

19.6 Council may pay a cash advance for Councillors attending approved professional development, or to meet the cost of any service or facility covered by the policy and paid for by the Councillor (rather than be reimbursed). The maximum value of a cash advance is $800.

19.7 Requests for advance payment must be submitted to the General Manager for assessment against this policy with sufficient information and time to allow for the claim to be assessed and processed.

19.8 Councillors must fully reconcile all expenses against the cost of the advance within one month of incurring the cost and/or returning home. This includes providing to Council:

- A full reconciliation of all expenses including appropriate receipts and/or tax invoices
- Reimbursement of any amount of the advance payment not spent.

Reimbursement to Council

19.9 If Council has incurred an expense on behalf of a Councillor that exceeds a maximum limit, exceeds reasonable incidental private use or is not provided for in this policy:

- Council will invoice the Councillor for the expense
- The Councillor will reimburse Council for that expense within 30 days of the invoice date.

19.10 If the Councillor cannot reimburse Council within 30 days of the invoice date, they are to submit a written explanation to the General Manager. The General Manager shall report such matters to the next meeting of Council seeking approval to deduct the amount from the Councillor's allowance.

Maximum Limits and Time limits

19.11 Maximum financial limits for expenses and facilities apply to specific time periods and unspent amounts cannot be transferred from one time period to another, or brought forward from future periods.

19.12 If a Councillor is elected to office after the commencement of the Council term (such as in a bi-election), maximum limits will be adjusted to reflect any part periods. If a Councillor ceases to be in office prior to the end of the Council term, the Councillor will not be required to repay a portion of an expense allowance that has already been spent.

19.13 For the purposes of maximum limits, expenses will be allocated to the period in which the expenditure was incurred (not the date a claim was submitted or paid).

19.14 Once a maximum limit is exceeded, costs will not be paid for or reimbursed to Councillors.

19.15 Unless otherwise specified in this policy, Councillors must provide all claims for reimbursement within twelve months of an expense being incurred. The General Manager has no authority to approve claims submitted after this time.

20. Disputes

20.1 If a Councillor disputes a determination under this policy, the Councillor should discuss the matter with the General Manager.

20.2 In the event of a dispute occurring that is unable to be resolved, the General Manager shall report to the next meeting of Council to have the dispute determined by a resolution of Council having regard to this Policy, the Act and any other relevant law. The decision of Council shall be binding on all of the parties.

21. Publication

21.1 This policy will be published on Council's website.

22. Reporting

22.1 Council will report on the provision of expenses and facilities to Councillors as required in the Act and Regulations.

23. Breaches

23.1 Suspected breaches of this policy are to be reported to the General Manager.

23.2 Alleged breaches of this policy shall be dealt with by following the processes outlined for breaches of the Code of Conduct, as detailed in the Code and in the Procedures for the Administration of the Code.

PART D – Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout this policy.

Term	Definition
Accompanying person	Means any person a Councillor chooses to accompany them
Appropriate refreshments	Means food and beverages provided by Council to support Councillors undertaking official business
Act	Means the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)
Clause	Unless stated otherwise, a reference to a clause is a reference to a clause of this policy
Code of Conduct	Means the Code of Conduct adopted by Council or the Model Code if none is adopted
Councillor	Refers to all Councillors including the Mayor and Deputy Mayor
Council Term	Means the period that the Council was elected for
Greater Sydney and surrounding regions	Includes Metropolitan Sydney, the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Lower Hunter, Greater Newcastle and Illawarra-Shoalhaven regions (as defined by the Greater Cities Commission NSW)
Incidental private use	Means use that is infrequent and brief and use that does not breach this policy or the Code of Conduct
Maximum limit	Means the maximum limit for an expense or facility
Official business	Means activities that the Mayor or Councillors undertake to fulfil their legislated role and responsibilities for Council.
Regulation	Means the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021 (NSW)
Year	Means the financial year, that is the 12 month period commencing on 1 July each year
Year of Term	Refers to the twelve month period commencing on the date of election to Council of a Councillor and every subsequent twelve month period of the term of office.

INVESTMENT REPORT AS AT 31 MAY 2026

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To present Council's investment portfolio performance for May 2026.
BACKGROUND:	Council's investments are reported monthly to Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.
COMMENTS:	The net return on investments for the financial year to the end of May 2026 was $8,772,000, against the revised budget of $8,321,000 giving a year-to-date favourable variance of $451,000.
RECOMMENDATION:	That the summary of investments performance for May 2026 be received and noted; and that the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To present Council's investment portfolio performance for May 2026.

BACKGROUND

Council's investments are reported monthly to Council in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993, the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.

COMMENTS

Investment Portfolio Performance Snapshot

The table below provides the investments portfolio performance against targets identified in Council's Investment Policy as well as other key performance indicators based on industry benchmarks.

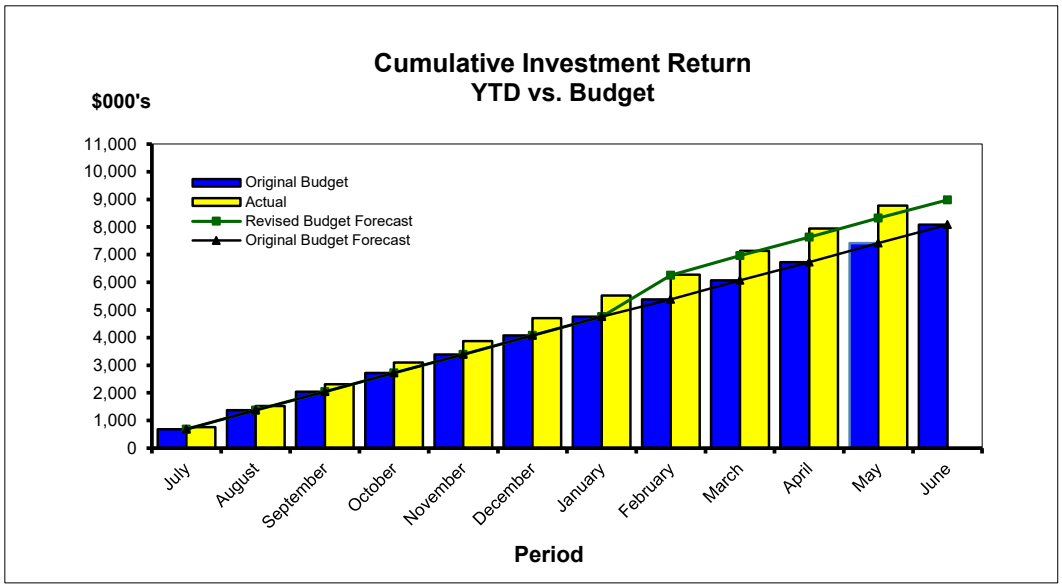
Performance Indicator & Policy Targets	Indicator	Details
Portfolio Performance vs. Benchmark	✔	Council's investment performance aligned with the Industry benchmark
Monthly Investment Income vs. Revised Budget	✔	Council's income from investments exceeded monthly revised budget
Investment Policy Compliance:		
Legislative Requirements	✔	Fully compliant
Portfolio Credit Rating Limit	✔	Fully compliant
Institutional Exposure Limits	✔	Fully compliant
Term to Maturity Limits	✔	Fully compliant

Cumulative Investment Returns against Revised Budget

The net return on investments for the financial year to the end of May 2026 is $8,772,000, compared to the revised budget of $8,321,000, resulting in a favourable year-to-date variance of $451,000 mainly due to a larger than anticipated investment portfolio and higher than forecast interest rates.

$000's	May-26 Year To Date
Investment Return	8,772
Revised Budget	8,321
Variance	451

A comparison of the cumulative investment returns against year-to-date revised budget is shown in the chart below.



Cash Flow and Investment Movements

Council's total cash and investment portfolio as at 31 May 2026 was $204,557,000 compared to $201,287,000 at the end of April 2026. The net cash inflow of $3,270,000 was mainly due to the fourth instalment of rates income.

During the month, two investments have matured and three new investments were made.

Investment Name	Investment Rating (S&P)	New/Re-Investments $' 000	Investments Matured/Sold $' 000	Interest Rate %
Bank of China 6 Month Term Deposit	A	0	5,000	4.34
P&N Bank 5 Month Term Deposit	BBB+	0	6,000	4.51
Rabobank Australia 6 Month Term Deposit	A	3,000	0	5.24
Defence Bank 9 Month Term Deposit	BBB+	4,000	0	5.35
National Bank of Austrlia 6 Month Term Deposit	AA-	3,000	0	5.20
TOTAL		**10,000**	**11,000**	

Investment Performance against Industry Benchmark

Overall, the investment performance in May was above the industry benchmark.

The benchmark is specific to the type of investment and the details are provided below. Bloomberg AusBond Bank Bill Index is used for all Council's investments.

Table 1 - Investments Performance against Industry Benchmarks

Investment Type	Annualised MAY 2026 YTD Return %	Annualised Industry Benchmark %	Variance %
At Call/Cash/Term Deposits/FRNs (Benchmark is AusBond Bank Bill Index)	4.70	3.77	0.93

Table 2 below provides a summary of all investments by type and performance during the month.

Table 2 - Investments Portfolio Summary during May 2026

Investment Name	Investment Rating	Invested at 31-May-2026 $000's	Month Return (%)	Annualised YTD Return (%)	Total Invested (%)	Market Value at 31-May-2026 $000's	Maturity
At Call/Cash Account**							
Westpac At-Call	AA-	1,776	0.00	0.00	0.87	1,776	At Call
Westpac Bank Deposit Max-I Investment	AA-	10,136	0.42	4.39	4.96	10,136	At Call
Sub Total		**11,912**				**11,912**	
Term Deposits							
Bank of China 7 Month Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.36	4.36	2.44	5,000	22-June-2026
ING Bank 3 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.43	5.30	2.44	5,000	23-June-2026
Bank of Queensland 7 Month Term Deposit	A-	2,000	0.36	4.40	0.98	2,000	29-June-2026
Judo Bank 1 Year Term Deposit	BBB	6,000	0.35	4.30	2.93	6,000	06-July-2026
P&N Bank 3 Year Term Deposit	BBB+	5,000	0.45	5.50	2.44	5,000	28-July-2026
Heartland 1 Year Term Deposit	BBB	2,000	0.34	4.20	0.98	2,000	20-August-2026
Westpac 6 Month Term Deposit	AA-	4,000	0.39	4.76	1.96	4,000	26-August-2026
Great Southern Bank 11 Month Term Deposit	BBB+	5,000	0.36	4.38	2.44	5,000	21-October-2026
Heartland Bank 9 Month Term Deposit	BBB	3,000	0.39	4.75	1.47	3,000	13-October-2026
Westpac 8 Month Term Deposit	AA-	4,000	0.39	4.83	1.96	4,000	26-October-2026
National Bank of Austrlia 6 Month Term Deposit	AA-	3,000	0.42	5.20	1.47	3,000	23-November-2026
Rabobank Australia 6 Month Term Deposit	A	3,000	0.43	5.24	1.47	3,000	24-November-2026
Heartland Bank 10 Month Term Deposit	BBB	5,000	0.39	4.75	2.44	5,000	25-November-2026
Westpac 10 Month Term Deposit	AA-	4,000	0.40	4.92	1.96	4,000	26-December-2026
Judo Bank 1 Year Term Deposit	BBB	4,000	0.40	4.95	1.96	4,000	05-February-2027
Defence Bank 9 Month Term Deposit	BBB+	4,000	0.44	5.35	1.96	4,000	23-February-2027
Westpac 5 Year Term Deposit	AA-	4,000	0.21	2.50	1.96	4,000	25-February-2027
Westpac 1 Year Term Deposit	AA-	5,000	0.41	5.05	2.44	5,000	01-March-2027
Rabobank Australia 3 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.42	5.12	2.44	5,000	28-May-2027
Macquarie Bank 5 Year Term Deposit	A	1,000	0.37	4.55	0.49	1,000	09-September-2027
Macquarie Bank 5 Year Term Deposit	A	1,000	0.37	4.55	0.49	1,000	09-September-2027
ING Bank 5 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.42	5.13	2.44	5,000	28-February-2028
ING Bank 5 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.42	5.20	2.44	5,000	23-June-2028
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.42	5.20	2.44	5,000	20-February-2029
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	6,000	0.42	5.15	2.93	6,000	26-February-2029
ING Bank 5 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.42	5.13	2.44	5,000	28-February-2029
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	3,000	0.44	5.35	1.47	3,000	30-April-2029
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	6,000	0.40	4.85	2.93	6,000	28-August-2029
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	6,000	0.42	5.10	2.93	6,000	25-February-2030
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	4,000	0.41	5.02	1.96	4,000	29-March-2030
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	4,000	0.38	4.70	1.96	4,000	30-April-2030
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.37	4.55	2.44	5,000	27-June-2030
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	6,000	0.38	4.70	2.93	6,000	29-July-2030
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	5,000	0.40	4.86	2.44	5,000	26-November-2030
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Term Deposit	A	3,000	0.42	5.20	1.47	3,000	16-December-2030
Sub Total		**148,000**				**148,000**	

Investment Name	Investment Rating	Invested at 31-May-2026 $000's	Month Return (%)	Annualised YTD Return (%)	Total Invested (%)	Market Value at 30-Apr-2026 $000's***	Maturity
Fixed & Floating Rate Notes (FRNs)							
Suncorp-Metway Limited 5 Year FRN	AA-	4,500	0.43	4.63	2.20	4,620	25-January-2027
Commonwealth Bank 5 Year Fixed Senior Note	AA-	3,497	0.37	4.55	1.71	3,497	18-August-2027
AMP Bank 3 Year FRN	BBB+	3,400	0.45	5.16	1.66	3,445	13-September-2027
ANZ Bank 5 Year Senior FRN	AA-	800	0.45	4.91	0.39	800	31-March-2028
Bank of Queensland 5 Year Floating Covered Bond	AAA	1,750	0.46	5.09	0.86	1,777	09-May-2028
Mutual Bank 3 Year Floating Bond	BBB	3,000	0.48	5.39	1.47	3,000	15-May-2028
Bendigo Bank 5 Year Floating Covered Bond	AAA	2,800	0.44	5.02	1.37	2,838	16-June-2028
Suncorp Metway 5 Year Floating Covered Bond	AAA	3,000	0.45	5.03	1.47	3,033	12-July-2028
Commonwealth Bank of Australia 5 Year Senior FRN	AA-	5,000	0.43	4.81	2.44	5,098	17-August-2028
ANZ 5 Year FRN Senior	AA-	4,200	0.42	4.80	2.05	4,240	11-September-2028
Police Bank 3 Year Senior FRN	BBB+	2,500	0.45	4.97	1.22	2,500	03-November-2028
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Fixed MTNs	A	4,000	0.42	5.15	1.96	3,997	26-February-2029
Suncorp Metway 5 Year Fixed MTNs	AA-	1,598	0.40	4.89	0.78	1,578	19-March-2029
Rabobank Australia 5 Year Senior MTN	A	2,600	0.44	4.75	1.27	2,624	17-July-2029
ING Bank 5 Year Covered FRN	AAA	2,000	0.42	4.64	0.98	2,010	15-August-2030
Sub Total		**44,645**				**45,057**	
Total Portfolio		**204,557**		**4.80***	**100.00**	**204,969**	
Matured/Traded Investments - Weighted YTD Average Return (%)				**4.51**			
Weighted Average Overall Return Year To date (%)				**4.70**			

** Weighted average returns.*

*** Funds in at-call/short term accounts are working funds kept for the purpose of meeting short term cash outflow requirements. At-call investments portfolio is being monitored on a regular basis to ensure funds are reinvested at higher rates when opportunities arise, whilst also keeping and adequate balance for short-term cash outflows.*

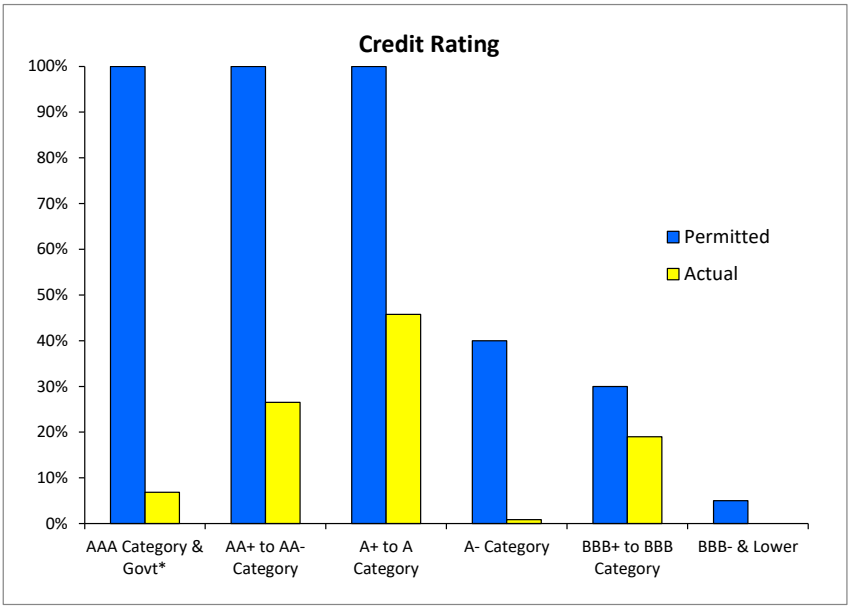
**** Market Values as at 31 May 2026 were not available at the time of writing the report.*

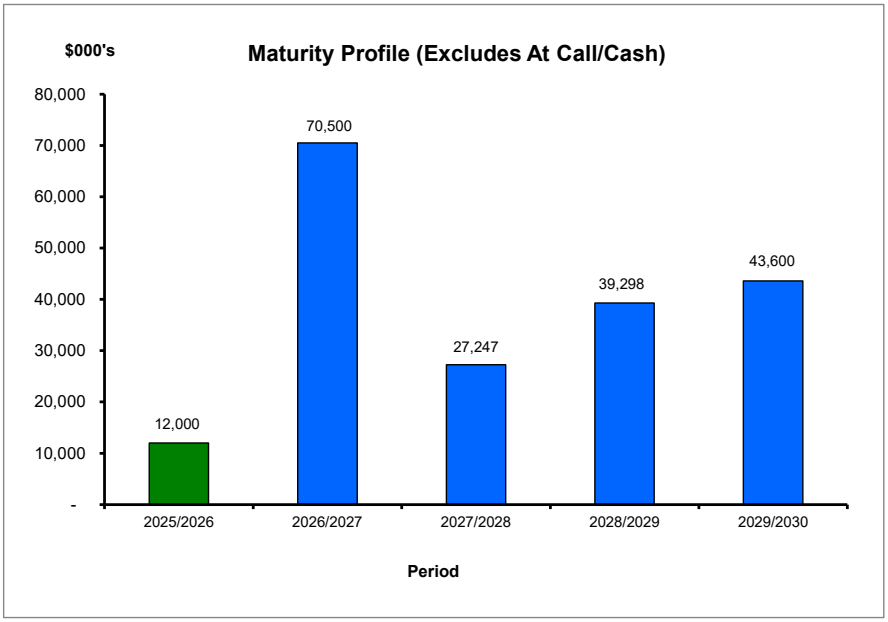
Investment by Credit rating and Maturity Profile

The allocation of Council's investments by credit rating and the maturity profile are shown below:

Rating Group	Permitted	Actual	Permitted Less Actual
AAA Category & Govt*	100%	7%	93%
AA+ to AA- Category	100%	27%	73%
A+ to A Category	100%	46%	54%
A- Category	40%	1%	39%
BBB+ to BBB Category	30%	19%	11%
BBB- & Lower	5%	0%	5%

** Government guaranteed ADI deposits (first $250,000 investment that Council holds with any bank, credit union, and building society)*





INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Leadership & Governance

Community Strategic Plan Long Term Objective	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Task
L2.1 Council rigorously manages its financial resources and assets to maximise delivery of services	Council maintains and improves its long-term financial position and performance	Continue to analyse opportunities to expand the revenue base of Council

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Council's investments are made in accordance with the Local Government Act (1993), the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.

Section 212 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2005 states:

(1) The responsible accounting officer of a council:

(a) must provide the council with a written report (setting out details of all money that the council has invested under section 625 of the Act) to be presented:

(i) if only one ordinary meeting of the council is held in a month, at that meeting, or

(ii) if more than one such meeting is held in a month, at whichever of those meetings the council by resolution determines, and

(b) must include in the report a certificate as to whether or not the investment has been made in accordance with the Act, the regulations and the council's investment policies.

(2) The report must be made up to the last day of the month immediately preceding the meeting.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Council manages the risk associated with investments by diversifying the types of investment, credit quality, counterparty exposure and term to maturity profile.

Council invests its funds in accordance with The Ministerial Investment Order.

All investments are made with consideration of advice from Dynamic Asset Consulting Pty Ltd (DAC), as the successor to Council's appointed advisor, CPG Research and Advisory (CPGRA).

CPGRA provided investments advisory services to Council. In January 2026, CPGRA was purchased by DAC. DAC is a financial services consultancy operating under an Australian financial services licence.

Council's advisory services will continue under DAC's financial services licence and there is no change to the service or the advice provided to Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The adopted revised budget for interest on investments for the financial year 2025/2026 is $8,983,000. Of this amount approximately $4,815,300 is restricted for the benefit of future expenditure relating to development contributions, $1,870,400 transferred to the internally restricted Infrastructure & Facility Reserve, and the remainder of $2,297,300 is available for operations.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Not applicable.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

None undertaken or required.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

None undertaken or required.

Certification - Responsible Accounting Officer

I hereby certify that the investments listed in the attached report have been made in accordance with Section 625 of the Local Government Act 1993, clause 212 of the Local Government General Regulation 2005 and Council's Investment Policy.

SUMMARY

As at 31 May 2026:

- Council's total cash and investment portfolio was $204,557,000, the net cash inflow of $3,270,000 was mainly due to the fourth instalment of rates income.

- The net return on investments for the financial year to the end of May 2026 is $8,772,000, compared to the revised budget of $8,321,000, resulting in a favourable year-to-date variance of $451,000. This is mainly attributed to a larger than anticipated investment portfolio at the time of budgeting along with higher rates than forecast.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

A. The summary of investments and performance for May 2026 be received and noted.

B. The Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be noted and the report adopted.

Tony Ly
Financial Accounting Officer

Mette Kofoed
A/Manager Finance

Angela Apostol
Director Corporate

CHARLES BEAN OVAL LINDFIELD - RENEWAL OF PLAYING SURFACE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	This report provides Council with an update on the renewal of the synthetic turf playing surface project at Charles Bean Oval Lindfield including the community consultation undertaken.
BACKGROUND:	Charles Bean Oval is used extensively throughout the year by community sporting groups, casual hirers, Lindfield College and the general public. The playing surface is due for replacement.
COMMENTS:	Community consultation took place in late 2025 and reached a broad audience. The opt-in survey indicated a majority in favour of retaining a synthetic turf surface. However, there were also issues raised about environmental and health concerns for a synthetic turf surface. Based on the assessment of carrying capacity, a reduction in booked hours by about 50% is likely to be required in the winter season should the current synthetic turf surface be replaced with a best practice natural turf surface. If school enrolments at Lindfield College increase with the growing population in the area, the demand on the oval will also increase. The cost of both types of playing surfaces could be in the order of $2.5M. Council recently resolved to obtain an independent cost comparison for a best practice natural turf field compared to a synthetic field at Norman Griffiths Oval. It would be opportune for Council to extend the brief to include Charles Bean Oval and decide about the type of playing surface when the independent costing is reported back to Council.
RECOMMENDATION: (Refer to the full Recommendation at the end of this report)	That Council receive and note this report, engage NSW Public Works or another suitably qualified independent expert to provide a cost comparison of delivering a best practice natural turf field at Charles Bean Oval compared to a synthetic turf field, and make a decision on the type of playing surface for Charles Bean Oval when the independent costing is reported back to Council.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides Council with an update on the renewal of the synthetic turf playing surface project at Charles Bean Oval Lindfield including the community consultation undertaken.

BACKGROUND

Charles Bean Oval Lindfield was built by Defence Housing Australia in early 2013 and transferred to Council in December 2013. It was Council's first synthetic turf surface sports field.

The field is currently an important community facility used extensively throughout the year by community sporting groups for seasonal competitions and training, casual hirers for training and sports activities, Lindfield Learning Village (now Lindfield College) as a playground and sports activities on weekdays and by the public for passive recreation.

In 2022, Council commissioned a condition report on the synthetic playing surface at Charles Bean Oval. At the time, although the synthetic surface was generally in a satisfactory condition, it was concluded that it did not meet all the FIFA quality standards with absorption being the main concern. At the time, the report suggested surface renewal would be appropriate within a few years.

The age of the synthetic turf surface is now approximately 13 years. Typically, synthetic turf playing surfaces would be replaced every 10-12 years.

There are conflicting community views on the use of synthetic turf playing surfaces including availability for use and concerns regarding health and environmental impacts. As part of the project scoping, in late 2025 Council sought community feedback on the preferred renewal of this playing surface. The consultation process included the engagement of industry experts for natural and synthetic turf, letters to residents, community survey, direct email to sporting, community and environmental groups, meeting with Lindfield College and an open public forum on 3 December 2025.

COMMENTS

Industry Experts

Prior to community consultation, Council engaged two independent industry experts to evaluate Charles Bean Oval and provide specialist insights to support informed community input.

AgEnviro Solutions provided expert advice for a natural turf playing surface. A copy of this report is provided in Attachment A1: Technical Report – AgEnviro Solutions.

Smart Connections Consultancy provided expert advice on a synthetic turf playing surface. A copy of this report is provided in Attachment A2: Technical Report - Smart Connections Consultancy.

The expert reports were made available through Council's Engagement Hub and the industry experts presented at a community forum on Wednesday 3 December 2025. A copy of the two presentations is provided in Attachment A3: Community Forum Presentations by AgEnviro Solutions and Smart Connections Consultancy.

A high-level summary of the general pros and cons from the expert reports for each surface option are included in Table 1.

Table 1 – General high-level Pros and Cons of Playing Surface Options

	Pros	Cons
Natural Turf Surface	- Natural cooling effect and reduced environmental concerns. - Softer playing surface. - Grass plays a role in sequestering carbon from the atmosphere, helping to combat climate change. - Increased general recreational use (e. g. for dog walking) - Reduced renewal costs (maintenance dependant).	- Marginally higher yearly maintenance cost including watering, mowing. - Requirement for pesticides, herbicides and fertilisers. - Greater wear during peak periods and potential recovery time required for long-term health of field. - More even spread of wear would occur if corresponding. improvements were also made to other fields used in the area. - Would require high water usage for irrigation. - Limited field use (weather and maintenance dependent).
Synthetic Turf Surface	- All-weather usability and extended playing hours. - Marginally lower regular yearly maintenance cost (no mowing, watering). - Higher usage yield (multiple sports codes, training, and games). - Potentially an earlier delivery date for synthetic turf as no establishment time is required for the turf to grow	- Longer term upgrade costs are higher (with surface replacement). - Environmental and health concerns (e.g. urban heat, microplastics, chemicals) - Potential reduced usability in hot weather. - Limited general recreational use (e.g. for dog walking) - Surface should be replaced every 10-12 years.

Community Engagement

In late 2025, community engagement was undertaken, with a primary objective to ascertain community views on the renewal of the synthetic turf playing surface at Charles Bean Oval. The engagement reached a broad audience through multiple channels. The Community Engagement report is provided in **Attachment A4: Charles Bean Oval – Community Engagement Report**. Some of the highlights are:

- 11,399 page views from 4,041 visitors and 913 document downloads were received via Council's Engagement Hub.
- 1,126 opt-in survey responses.
- 41 written submissions from environmental groups, community groups and residents, and
- twenty-five (25) community members attended the community forum on 3 December 2025 to watch presentations from the two independent industry experts and were provided the

opportunity to ask questions and seek feedback on either synthetic turf or natural turf options.

Surface preference by user group

The opt-in survey of 1,126 participants found an overall majority preference for synthetic turf (83.1%), with 16.4% preferring natural turf. Preferences varied significantly across user groups and were closely linked to sporting involvement.

Preferences by user group (survey participants could select more than one group)

- Sports users showed the strongest preference for synthetic turf (94%).
- Community members/visitors followed at 81% in favour of synthetic.
- Local residents preferred synthetic turf at 75%.
- Lindfield College (LC) connected participants were nearly evenly split — 50% synthetic vs 49% natural.

Impact of association with sport

Sporting involvement was a key driver of surface preference across all groups:

- Participants with a sporting connection strongly favoured synthetic turf — 92% of sport-associated local residents and 93% of sport-associated community members/visitors
- Participants without a sporting connection were more likely to prefer natural turf — 58% of non-sport local residents, 52% of non-sport community members/visitors, and 75% of non-sport Lindfield College connected participants.

Preference by frequency of use

- Weekly visitors overwhelmingly preferred synthetic turf (464 vs 51 for natural), reflecting that support for synthetic turf was primarily driven by high-frequency users and the sporting community.
- Those who rarely or never visit the site were more likely to prefer natural turf (23 of 31 respondents), consistent with the pattern that support for natural turf was most concentrated among infrequent visitors and residents.

Reasoning for surface preferences

Participants were asked to describe their main reason for their surface preference. This is summarised in Table 2.

Table 2: Main reason for surface preferences

Support for natural turf surface	Support for synthetic turf surface
Environmental concerns: microplastics, PFAs, sustainability issues.	All-weather reliability: reduces cancellations due to wet weather.

Health and safety: cooler surface than synthetic turf, elimination of exposure to rubber crumb, perception that natural turf is safer to play on, safety near bushfire zones.	Increased usage capacity: allows for more hours of use per week which supports school/club/community use, supports regular physical activity, responds to growing community need.
Community use: welcoming for a range of activities including passive recreation and dog walking, no "plastic" smell.	Playing surface quality: consistent surface throughout sporting seasons, avoidance of holes and divots common to grass fields.
Cost and maintenance: lower long term cost (does not require full replacement every decade).	Cost and maintenance: less maintenance required than natural turf, more cost effective over life of turf.

A total of forty-one (41) written submissions were received. Eighteen (18) of these submissions were in favour of retaining synthetic turf surface and twenty (20) submissions were in favour of a natural turf surface. Three (3) submissions were neutral.

Key issues raised in the submissions in favour of a natural turf surface were:

- there are harmful impacts of PFAS and microplastics including impacts on human health and environment;
- the harmful environmental impacts of water runoff into creeks and local sensitive areas including nearby bushland;
- the end-of-life recycling process for synthetic turf is not feasible;
- synthetic turf surface provides increased bushfire risk to residents due to proximity to Lane Cove National Park;
- synthetic turf surface has heat impact on users and neighbours, and
- costings show that natural turf would be cheaper.

Key issues raised in submissions in favour of synthetic turf surface were:

- synthetic turf provides a reliable surface quality throughout the season and meets the demand of local sporting groups;
- there would be significant wet weather loss on winter sport if the field was converted to a natural turf surface, this loss would be more significant than losses to heat in summer months, and
- synthetic turf surface requires less maintenance and cost per hour is more favourable due to higher usage.

A summary of written submissions and responses can be found in **Attachment A5: Summary of written submissions and response.**

The submission from National Parks and Wildlife requested consideration of historical environment impacts from synthetic turf including hydrologic and hydraulic flows, catchment water quality, pollution and sedimentation and soil impacts. This will be duly considered in the preparation of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF).

Council staff also met with Lindfield College staff, P&C and Schools Infrastructure. The key issues raised during this meeting related to heat impact during summer months and the impact on

participation, additional shade requirements off the field, environmental concerns and potential health impacts associated with synthetic turf surfaces.

Recently, the Principal of Lindfield College provided the following statement:

"Given the conflicting reports of the long term suitability and safety of synthetic turf blades (irrespective of the fill used), a precautionary approach would be preferred, meaning that natural turf is the school's preferred option. We are mindful that the facility is heavily utilised by students of all ages, some as young as 5 years old. Additionally, the heat profile of the synthetic turf is such that our measurements have indicated that the oval is too hot to be used when the ambient temperature is over 30 degrees, leading to a significant reduction to the usable time of the oval."

Additionally, a representative from the NSW Department of Education (Schools Infrastructure) has advised:

" *The department doesn't have a position on the renewal, given it is council land. We appreciate the work council has done to engage the school and seek community feedback on the proposal. Currently, synthetic turf is considered within the Department's Education Facilities Standards and Guidelines (EFSG) primarily for high-traffic areas, shaded locations, or sites where sustaining natural turf is challenging."*

Usage - Hours per week

Charles Bean Oval is an intensively used field with the highest usage in the winter football season. In addition to use by sporting clubs and the community, it serves as an oval for the adjacent Lindfield College for PDHPE, school sport and informal recreation during recess and lunch.

The capacity to cope with this high usage is an important consideration in the choice of surface.

Actual bookings at Charles Bean Oval

During the 2025 calendar year, Council's booking system shows Charles Bean Oval was booked a total of 3,663 hours. Table 3 shows the usage of Charles Bean Oval in terms of booked hours during the winter and summer seasons.

Anecdotally, there is a high correlation between booked hours and the actual usage of the field. This reflects the high demand for the field and the higher user fees compared to natural turf fields.

Table 3: Usage (average booked hours per week)

Winter Season (hours/week)			Summer Season (hours/week)		
Competition	Training	Lindfield College	Competition	Training	Lindfield College
22.5 hrs	32.5 hrs	30 hrs	4 hrs	24 hrs	30 hrs
Total: 85 hours/week			Total: 58 hours/week		

Capacity

The AgEnviro Solutions report states that if Charles Bean Oval was converted to a best practice natural turf surface it would be capable of handling more than 2,000 hours of annual usage. This equates to about 40 hours per week.

The Smart Connection Consultancy report states that a natural turf surface could support a maximum of 20 to 25 hours per week.

Charles Bean Oval is booked for around 85 hours per week in the winter season, more than double the most generous capacity estimate of 40 hours per week for a best practice natural turf field.

As a practical benchmark, a new best practice natural turf field at Bob Campbell Oval in Greenwich is in its first winter season of use. This field has been booked for 34 hours per week for the four weeks prior to 25 May 2026. The wear as at 25 May 2026 is shown in the images below.

Western end:



Northwestern end:



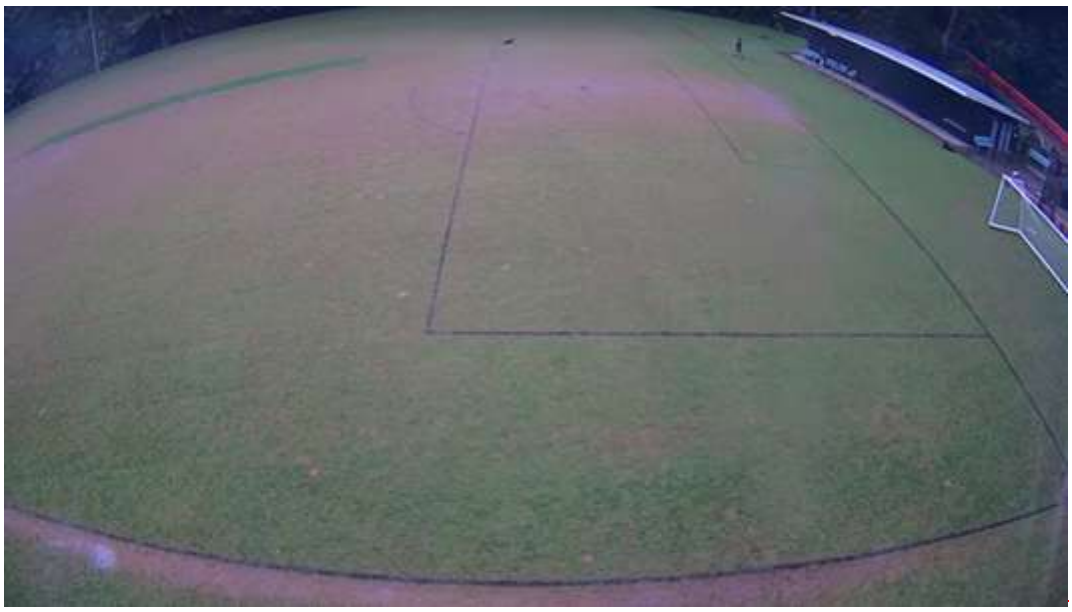
Looking northeast:



Looking southwest:



Western end:



Another benchmark are the fields in Mosman at Middle Head Oval and Balmoral Oval. The following information has been provided by Mosman Council.

The field at Middle head Oval was upgraded in 2018. Drainage works were not required as the drainage system was installed in 2011 and continues to perform effectively. There is no current need to spend money on turf patching. A 12-month nutritional program, commenced in 2024, has significantly improved turf quality. The current wear pattern is primarily attributable to increased usage, including soccer training throughout the summer and earlier commencement of pre-season games this year. Current winter use is high, about 40 hours a week.

The wear as at 1 June 2026 is shown in the images below.

Eastern end:



Western end:



Middle of the field:



Middle of the field:



Balmoral Oval was upgraded in 2023. The works included full field reconstruction, drainage and irrigation installation. Winter use is about 40 hours a week. While both Middle Head Oval and Balmoral Oval perform well in wet weather, Balmoral Oval performs better in terms of drainage as it has closer drainage collector spacing (2m interval vs 3m intervals) and it is newer (installed in 2023 vs 2011).

The wear as at 1 June 2026 is shown in the images below.

Southern end:



Southern end:



Northern end:



Northern end:



Middle of field, looking south:



Middle of field, looking south:



Usage – Number of registered players

The AgEnviro Solutions report states that not all hours of use have the same impact, with school use typically causing less damage than formal sport. For this reason, AgEnviro Solutions advise that carrying capacity is more accurately expressed in terms of registered players per week, rather than hours of usage.

Capacity

A summary of the carrying capacities in terms of players per week as provided by the experts is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Number of players - Capacity comparison as provided by the Industry Experts

	Natural Turf Surface	Synthetic Turf Surface
AgEnviro Solutions	550 players per week should be regarded as the logistical limit for a single football field, regardless of whether its natural turf or synthetic turf. A natural turf playing field at Charles Bean would be capable of handling more than 550 players per week. Though not recommended, the most intensely used natural turf field in Sydney hosts approximately 800 registered players per week and sport from 3 schools.	550 players per week should be regarded as the logistical limit for a single football field, regardless of whether its natural turf or synthetic turf.

Smart Connection Consultancy	Could support a maximum of 20-25 hours per week, up to 25 players per hour. This equates to a maximum number of players of between 500 to 625 per week.	Will reliably accommodate 60-80 hours per week, up to 60 players per hour.

Actual number of players

The AgEnviro Solutions report allows for 250 registered football players from the UTS Football Club in the winter season, plus an estimate of school use by Lindfield College from 810 students to be the equivalent of 200 registered football players. The total winter wear from football and school use is therefore estimated by AgEnviro Solutions at 450 registered players.

However, there are also football players from Lindfield Football Club and the Northern Tigers who use the field during the winter season. The AgEnviro Solutions calculation also did not consider that UTS uses two (2) fields for training.

Using the same methodology as AgEnviro Solutions but including the Lindfield Football Club and Northern Tigers who also use Charles Bean Oval, and also adjusting for multiple fields used by clubs for training, a more realistic estimate of the number of registered players for Charles Bean Oval in the winter season is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Estimate of the number of registered players for Charles Bean Oval in the winter season

Club	Registered Players	Number of fields used by Club / School	Estimate of number of registered players for Charles Bean Oval in winter
UTS FC	256	2	128
Lindfield College* (for 810 students)	220*	1	220*
Lindfield FC	2,315	6	386
Northern Tigers	839	2	420
Estimated total number of register players for Charles Bean Oval			**1,154**
Estimated total number of players using Charles Bean Oval if Lindfield College increases student numbers to the planned capacity of 2,000			*1,334 to 1,434*

** Based on current student enrolment of 810 provided by Department of Education, AgEnviro Solutions (page 8) estimates school usage to cause the equivalent wear of about 220 registered football players. AgEnviro Solutions notes that Lindfield College has a planned capacity of up to 2,000 students which in theory could increase wear levels to the equivalent of 400 to 500 registered football players.*

The number of registered players for Charles Bean Oval is estimated at 1,154 per week during the winter season. Even if this is conservatively rounded down to 1,000 registered players, it still far exceeds the capacity of 550 players stated by AgEnviro Solutions as the logistical limit. It also far

exceeds the maximum for a natural turf field provided by Smart Connections Consultancy of 500 to 625 per week.

Conclusion on the capacity of a natural turf field to cope with the usage requirements of Charles Bean Oval

Charles Bean Oval is booked for 85 hours per week in the winter season. This far exceeds the capacity for a natural turf field as follows:

- AgEnviro Solutions stated capacity of about 40 hours per week (based on 2,000 hours per year).
- Smart Connection Consultancy stated capacity of 20 to 25 hours per week.
- Actual winter usage of Bob Campbell Oval of 34 hours per week.
- Actual winter usage of Middle Head Oval and Balmoral Oval of about 40 hours per week.

There are currently an estimated 1,154 registered players for Charles Bean Oval in the winter season. This could increase to 1,334 to 1,434 players if Lindfield College increases student numbers to the planned capacity of 2,000. This far exceeds the capacity for a natural turf field as follows:

- AgEnviro Solutions stated logistical capacity of 550 players.
- Smart Connections Consultancy stated maximum players numbers of 500 to 625.

Charles Bean Oval is an intensely used sports field. Based on the assessment of carrying capacity, a reduction in booked hours by about 50% is likely to be required in the winter season should the current synthetic turf surface be replaced with a best practice natural turf surface. If school enrolments at Lindfield College increase with the growing population in the area, the demand on the oval will also increase.

High-level Cost Estimates

The two industry experts provided indicative capital costs as shown in Table 6.

Table 6: Capital Costs as provided by the Industry Experts

	Natural Turf Playing Surface		Synthetic Turf Playing Surface	
	AgEnviro Solutions (Best Practice) ($)	Smart Connections Consultancy ($)	AgEnviro Solutions ($)	Smart Connection Consultancy ($)
Capital Cost	$2,200,000 (from AgEnviro report page 13)	Initial capital cost $900,000 plus $700,000 to take away the current top = $1,600,000 (from Smart Connections report page 14 and community forum presentation)	Not estimated for the initial construction but estimated at $1,375,000 when replaced every 10 years (from AgEnviro report page 13)	$1,662,000 (from Smart Connections report Appendix 3)

Council staff are of the view that the cost for both types of fields could be significantly higher than estimated above, possibly around $2.5M.

At the recent Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 18 May 2026, Council resolved as follows (in part) with respect to the Norman Griffiths Oval upgrade project:

D. Council engage NSW Public Works or another suitably qualified independent expert to provide an updated cost comparison of delivering a best practice natural turf field at Norman Griffiths Oval compared to a synthetic turf field. This report will provide minimum and maximum construction cost estimates to complete the project with the two alternate surfaces. To report to the August 2026 council meeting.

It would be opportune for Council to extend the brief to include Charles Bean Oval and decide about the type of playing surface when the independent costing is reported back to Council.

High-level delivery timeline

Subject to funding, a high-level delivery timeline is shown in Table 7 and will be subject to a more detailed analysis once the project has been further developed.

Table 7: High-level delivery timeline

Key Delivery Milestones	Forecast completion of milestone (not including contingency which is applied at the end)	Comment
Design/ REF	June 2027	Full design to be completed for project. Assumption is REF will be exhibited in this timeframe.
Tender	August 2027	
Council approval to award contract	September 2027	Football offseason and end of year school holiday period.
Construction end	March 2028	Duration of construction will be dependent on successful contractor's program and excludes the contingency.
Field open for use by the public	April 2028	This is dependent on the surface type as natural turf will require an extended establishment period.
Project Completion including contingency	July 2028	Includes uncertainties such as the impact of the current world events on the supply chain; availability of suitable contractors; outcomes of the REF process, and adverse weather conditions.

Ideally, construction would be scheduled to occur at the end of the 2027 soccer season, also incorporating the end of year school holiday period so as to minimise impacts on the soccer season and school use. The construction timing may also be impacted by the progress of the Norman Griffiths Oval upgrade project as it would not be recommended to make both sites unavailable at the same time.

Carpark

The community engagement project also asked respondents about the parking at Charles Bean Oval with most respondents believe parking is an issue this sports field (69%). There was overwhelming community support for Council entering into a commercial agreement with Lindfield College to utilise their carpark for public parking (79%). This will be taken up with Schools Infrastructure and reported separately to Council.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Outcome 3: Infrastructure and assets support community needs

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Action
A1: Strategically plan, manage and fund public infrastructure and assets to meet the needs of the community, defined levels of service and intergenerational equity	A1.3: The community is engaged on infrastructure priorities and the design and upgrade of new facilities with regular updates on project progress.	A1.3.1: Undertake engagement activities for identified projects consistent with Council's Community Engagement Strategy and provide regular updates on progress.
A2: Provide, upgrade and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.	A2.1: A program is implemented to provide, improve and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities including multi-use facilities.	A2.1.1: Deliver Council's adopted Open Space Capital Works Program on time and within budget.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The consultation is consistent with Council's policies and procedures in relation to consultation and community engagement.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

The community consultation demonstrates the diversity of opinion for surface renewals. Both surface renewal options expose Council to risk including environmental, financial and reputational risks. The expert reports and community consultation is provided to reduce this risk.

A further project risk assessment will be developed during project planning, programming and delivery.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Charles Bean Surface Renewal is funded in draft DP&OP and Council has allocated $919,300 for the delivery of this project. This amount is insufficient to complete a surface renewal, which could be in the order of $2.5M.

Council has applied to IPART for a special rates variation. If successful, there could be $1.9M additional funds per year for open space/recreational assets commencing in 2026/27. This could be allocated by Council to Charles Bean Oval upon considering of the wider program and requirements.

Council recently resolved to obtain an independent cost comparison for a best practice natural turf field compared to a synthetic field at Norman Griffiths Oval. It would be opportune for Council to extend the brief to include Charles Bean Oval and decide about the type of playing surface when the independent costing is reported back to Council.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Charles Bean Oval is an important recreational facility for Lindfield College, local sporting groups and the public. A change to natural turf may have a significant impact on facility availability for all users due to impacts of weather conditions and intensity of usage.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The community consultation identified environmental concerns with proceeding with a synthetic turf playing surface.

Regulations and industry standards around synthetic turf playing surfaces have changed since Charles Bean Oval was constructed in 2013. The NSW Government has undertaken significant studies in this area and have developed *Synthetic Turf in Public Space – Guideline for Decision-Makers* and *Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments – Addendum for synthetic turf sports fields.* In these guidelines, factors such as stormwater and soil health, human health, biodiversity, amenity and intensification of use and material selection and management must be considered within the design. This process requires Council to address environmental concerns before works take place.

With respect to a natural turf playing surface, this would be in accordance with the *Best-practice guidelines for sporting fields – A guide for climate-resilient surfaces in New South Wales.*

A Review of Environment Factors (REF) will also be compiled for the chosen playing surface.

AUSMAP consideration

Council is in a joint AUSMAP project with the Sydney Coastal Councils Group evaluating conditions of synthetic turf fields as a potential source of microplastic. Over two (2) years the study is evaluating conditions of synthetic turf fields as a potential source of microplastic, in an effort to determine and implement effective mitigation measures to reduce microplastic loss. The project also includes an education campaign with stakeholders to promote best practice. The project team

is working closely with Sydney Coastal Councils and the NSW EPA to research effective approaches to waste reduction and resource recovery, in line with the goals of a circular economy.

The project involves 3 phases being:

- Phase 1: Rapid appraisals
- Phase 2: Case studies
- Phase 3: Promotion

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

In late 2025, community engagement was undertaken, with a primary objective to ascertain community views on the renewal of the playing surface at Charles Bean Oval. The community consultation is discussed earlier in this report and is provided in detail in Attachment A4: Charles Bean Oval – Community Engagement Report.

Since Council's formal engagement period, several campaigns were launched from which correspondence have been sent to Councillors, expressing views both in support of converting to natural turf surface and in favour of retaining a synthetic surface. The campaigns have attracted many hundreds of participants and remain ongoing. However, as they fall outside the period and structure of the official engagement process, the campaigns are not addressed in this report.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Multiple teams across Council have been consulted during the preparation of this report including Infrastructure Services, Assets and Technical Services, Finance, Project Services, Strategy & Environment and Communications.

SUMMARY

Charles Bean Oval is an important and heavily used recreational facility.

In late 2025, Council undertook community consultation seeking feedback on the renewal of the existing synthetic turf playing surface. Council engaged two independent industry experts to evaluate Charles Bean Oval and provide specialist insights to inform the community.

The engagement generated 1,126 survey responses, 41 written submissions from residents, environmental groups and community groups. 25 community members attended the community forum. The opt-in survey indicated a majority in favour of retaining a synthetic turf surface.

Community consultation highlighted concerns about the potential loss of booking hours including due to wet weather if a natural turf surface was installed. Issues were also raised about environmental and health concerns for a synthetic turf surface.

Based on the assessment of the carrying capacity, a reduction in booked hours by about 50% is likely to be required in the winter season should the current synthetic turf surface be replaced with a best practice natural turf surface. If school enrolments at Lindfield College increase with the growing population in the area, the demand on the oval will also increase.

The cost of both types of playing surfaces could be in the order of $2.5M. Council recently resolved to obtain an independent cost comparison for a best practice natural turf field compared to a synthetic field at Norman Griffiths Oval. It would be opportune for Council to extend the brief to

include Charles Bean Oval and decide about the type of playing surface when the independent costing is reported back to Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:
A. Receive and note this report.
B. Engage NSW Public Works or another suitably qualified independent expert to provide a cost comparison of delivering a best practice natural turf field at Charles Bean Oval compared to a synthetic turf field. This report will provide minimum and maximum construction cost estimates to complete the project with the two alternate surfaces.
C. Makes a decision on the type of playing surface for Charles Bean Oval when the independent costing is reported back to Council.

Meghan Andrew
Coordinator Open Space, Recreational and Building Assets

William Adames
Community & Business Engagement Co-ordinator

Mursaleen Shah
Manager Assets & Technical Services

Matthew Drago
Manager Infrastructure Services

Peter Lichaa
Director Operations

Attachments:

A1⇩	Technical Report - AgEnviro	2026/076353
A2⇩	Technical Report - Smart Connections Consultancy	2026/076352
A3⇩	Community Forum Presentations by AgEnviro Solutions and Smart Connections Consultancy	2026/133234
A4⇩	Charles Bean Oval - Community Engagement Report	2026/145051
A5⇩	Summary of Written Submissions and Responses - Charles Bean Surface Renewal	2026/163019

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Matthew Drago
Acting Manager Assets & Technical Services, Ku-ring-gai Council
818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

18th September 2025
Re: Converting Charles Bean Oval to a best practice natural turf field

Matt,

Construction cost estimates

Based on the high-level evaluation, the cost to complete the construction of Charles Bean Oval as a best practice natural turf field is around $2.2 million (includes 20% contingency).

Lifecycle costs

The potential financial commitment over 30 years is provided in Table E.1. Key points to note:

- the best practice natural turf field will be functional at year 30 (if well maintained). Hence its year 30 net present value (NVP) would equal to its newly constructed value, with asset replacement for the synthetic field at year 30 is needed for a like for like comparison
- periodic works on the irrigation and drainage systems have been allowed for in the annual maintenance costs for a best practice natural turf field
- both best practice natural turf fields and synthetic fields can handle considerably higher wear levels than those currently occurring on the field, but as wear levels increase:
    - **natural turf:** condition of the field will become thinner by the end of the winter sport season (recover in spring), especially if wear levels were increased by more than 75%
    - **synthetic turf:** lifespan will be reduced in proportion to increased wear levels, requiring carpet replacement every 5 to 7 years for high wear levels (see product warranty).

For hybrid field built and maintained according to best practice an additional $1.4 million should be added to the construction (and lifecycle) costs of the best practice natural turf option.

Table E.1: Summary of expected lifecycle costs for best practice natural turf and synthetic fields

Item	Best Practice Natural Turf	Synthetic Turf	Notes
Estimated costs to complete construction	$2.2m[1]	TBC[1]	20% contingency included in the best practice natural turf field
Total maintenance costs	$1.25m	$0.78m[2]	Over 30-year period
Total asset renewal costs	Nil	$2.75m	Year 10 and 20 for the synthetic field
Asset replacement at Year 30[3]	Nil	$1.38m[3]	Synthetic field needs replacing at year 30 to be a functional facility[3]
Total financial commitment	**$3.45m[1]**	**$4.91m + construction cost[1]**	**Includes end of life replacement at year 30 for the synthetic field**

1 Includes 20% contingency
2 Excludes costs for maintaining synthetic turf stormwater treatment measures (filters/biofilters) as currently occurs, see Ausmap, 2024
3 at year 30 the synthetic (end of its useful life) requires complete replacement (shock pad, carpet, infill etc) so it remains a functional field

Filtration system

The current filtration system at Charles Bean Oval is inadequate at preventing turf fibre and infill losses from the site (Ausmap, 2024). The synthetic field design for nearby Norman Griffith Oval for example has a flat surface (0% fall), a surrounding plinth and a biobasin to treat the synthetic field stormwater.

A best practice natural turf field should comply with council's stormwater water quality targets if:

- a suitable (not excessive) fertiliser program is implemented
- appropriate maintenance practices are implemented (Section 3.2)

Weather cancellations

Sport can be cancelled due to adverse weather such as:

- **heat:** in addition to high temperatures, players can struggle at moderate temperatures if the humidity is high (NSW Football, 2023). Natural turf fields have fewer heat cancellations then synthetic because they can dissipate the suns radiation via photosynthesis & evaporative cooling. Synthetic fields with organic infill often exceed 55ºC when the air temperature rises above 30ºC (McKechnie, 2024)
- **intense rainfall:** can dislodge the synthetic infill so the surface needs re-grooming (and possibly topping up) before it can be played on. Intense rain can cause waterlogging on natural turf fields
- **other rain events:** can cause waterlogging on natural turf fields, with less interruptions on fields that have an effective drainage system that are built and maintained according to best practice. Aside from intense rain, other rain events typically have minimal impact on synthetic fields.

Based on modelling of 15 years of weather data a synthetic field with organic infill will have about 23 school days per year (this excludes holidays and weekends) when cancellations are likely. These are mostly associated with heat (Figure E.1). A well-constructed and maintained best practice field is likely to have about 9 school days per year when cancellations may occur. Weather can vary, with wet years causing more cancellations for natural turf and drought years causing more synthetic cancellations.

During the regular football season, the average annual cancellations are likely to be similar for a synthetic field (organic infill) and a well-constructed best practice field (Figure E.1). The impact of weather for pre-season, summer futsal and the summer break are provided in Section 4.4.

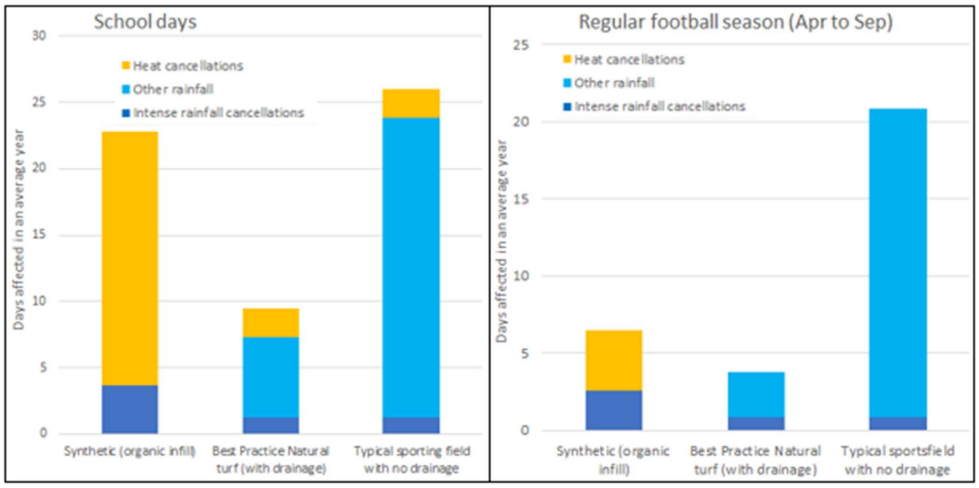

Figure E.1: Average days where adverse weather could impact on play. These are indicative measures of impact only, with actual impact depending on the time of the weather event relative to play times. Weather varies from year to year, with some years being hotter and drier (drought years) and other years being wetter.

Current wear levels

UTS Football Club has about 250 (2025) registered players in the winter sport season. The field is also used by Lindfield Learning Village (810 students). Based on school usage data and comparisons with similar sized schools, usage is estimated to cause the equivalent wear of about 200 registered football players. As such, the total winter wear (soccer + school) is the equivalent of about 450 registered players.

The actual equivalent wear appears to be lower than the above value given the field has fixed goals and has received only minor synthetic patching despite being 9 years old. By comparison, Cromer Park no. 1 (also a rubber crumb synthetic field) became unsuitable for play and was resurfaced after 9 years despite typically hosting less than 400 players per week. These differences could be attributable to hot weather cancellations by the school or even spreading of wear by the students relative to weekend soccer.

Annual usage hours capacity

A best practice field will be able to handle much higher hours or use than any of the current natural turf fields in Ku-Ring-Gai. If Charles Bean Oval was converted to best practice natural turf it would be capable of handling more than 2000 hours of annual usage i.e. similar to other intensely used best practice natural turf fields in the Sydney Basin. Most sporting fields receive a maximum of 1700 hours per year of school plus formal sport use (Appendix B).

Charles Bean Oval is in a unique situation as it is directly adjacent to a school that has minimal greenspace. As such, unlike any other sporting field in Ku-Ring-Gai LGA, Charles Bean Oval's annual usage could reach as high as 2500 hours per year. However, not all hours of use have the same impact, with school use typically causing less damage than formal sport. As such, carrying capacity is more accurately expressed in terms of registered players per week as described in the NSW Best Practice Guidelines for Sporting Fields (DCCEEW, 2025a).

Carrying capacity

If a natural turf playing field was constructed at Charles Bean Oval, then it would be capable of handling more than 550 players per week (22 to 38% higher than current school/soccer combined wear), provided:

- it is built in according to best practice (DCCEEW, 2025a)
- it is maintained according to best practice (DCCEEW, 2025a)
- intensely worn areas are effectively managed by:
    - not training in the gameday goal positions
    - shifting the position of the field midway through the winter sport season. This could be achieved using moveable goals (FIFA and FA approved models are available)
    - marking up the field 1 m east/west of where it was in the previous season, so the areas compacted and worn by the assistant referees have additional time to recover

A best practice field can handle 75% higher wear then current levels, with the most intensely used natural turf field in Sydney hosting ~800 registered players per week and sport from 3 schools. Whilst these wear levels are not recommended (field has 50% turf cover by the end of the football season, but remains suitable for community sport), this field recovers year after year with minimal turf patching. For higher wear levels, consideration should be given to laying hybrid turf in the 6-yard boxes.

As synthetic turf is a carpet, its lifespan will be reduced by a corresponding percentage to increased wear levels (see warranty documentation for the selected product).

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0425 363 161.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mick Battam
Principal Soil Scientist

1 Background

Charles Bean Oval is located at Eton Road Lindfield. The synthetic surface occupies about 0.9 hectares that is marked up with a 105 x 68 m soccer field. The western goals are 8 m from the perimeter, with 3 m runoff zones on other sides (Figure 1). Based on the brief provided by Ku-Ring-Gai Council there has been increasing concern in the community around synthetic surfaces and their impact on the environment, including the (KC, 2025):

- **release of microplastics:** 3905 microplastic pieces (synthetic grass fibres) were captured in the drainage channel below Charles Bean Oval in two rain events (Ausmap, 2024). These microplastics had bypassed the 8 basket filters that are installed around the field (Figure 1)
- **release of crumbed rubber infill:** 15280 pieces of rubber crumb was found in ~3 kg of sediment from the drainage channel below the Charles Bean Oval (Ausmap, 2024). These had bypassed the 8 basket filters that are around the field (Figure 1)
- **localised heat island effect:** black globe thermometer readings by University of Western Sydney show that when air temperatures are below 30°C, the thermal experience of a human on synthetic turf can be like being in a place that feels like it is more than 45°C (NSW CSE, 2022)
- **effects of synthetic surfaces on human health:**
    - after 30 minutes of play on Charles Bean Oval, an average of 72 pieces of microplastics and 155 pieces of rubber crumb were brushed off each player (Ausmap, 2024)
    - arsenic, lead and other heavy metals in the stormwater channel below Charles Bean Oval were above freshwater trigger levels (Ausmap, 2024)
    - PFOS & PFHxS (banned chemicals since July 2025) were also above trigger levels in the drainage channel below Charles Bean Oval (Ausmap, 2024).

The school has also raised additional concerns (Appendix A), including:

- **surface causing high numbers of abrasions that require first aid**
- **rubber infill sticking to shoes:** being walked through school (and homes)
- **no access to shade**

Ku-ring-gai Council engaged AgEnviro Solutions Pty Ltd to provide a high-level description of the works needed to convert the site to a best practice natural turf field. A summary of these recommendations is provided in this memo which was written by Dr Mick Battam (Certified Professional Soil Scientist and Certified Irrigation Agronomist).

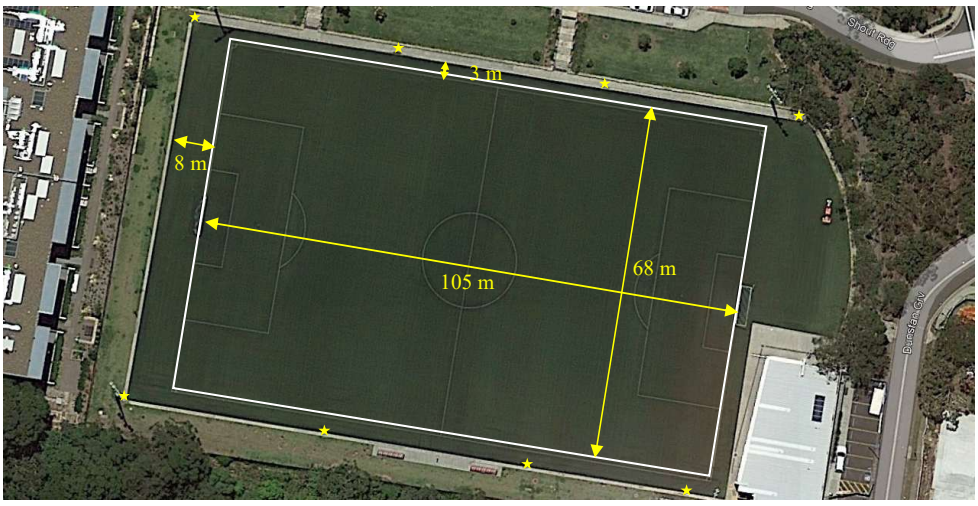

Figure 1: Charles Bean Oval, with stars showing drainage pits with 500-micron basket filters.

2 Site History

Charles Bean Oval was handed over to Ku-Ring-Gai Council as part of an agreement with Defence Housing Australia (DHA) in lieu of developer contribution payments to Council (KC, 2025). As part of that agreement, it was negotiated that the field be changed from natural turf to a synthetic surface. The project was managed and funded by DHA, with the completed field handed over to Council in 2013. Charles Bean Oval was built to FIFA standards at the time and was Ku-Ring-Gai Councils first synthetic sporting field (KC, 2025).

2.1 Site assessment findings

Non-invasive site investigations were performed in July 2025. The playing surface has a central ridge, with a 1 in 200 fall towards each of the sidelines. A dish drain surrounds the field conveys water to 8 major pits (Figure 1) which each have a 500-micron filter basket (Ausmap, 2024). Several small drainage pits (like drains in a residential shower) are also installed in the perimeter dish drains that have no filter.

2.2 Information provided

As-built plans were not available at the time of writing this report. However, Council did provide:

- design plans (McMahons, 2013) – see Figure 2
- geotechnical report (JK Geotechnics, 2021)
- project handover documentation (Greenplay Australia, 2013)
- email from Anthony Saba10/7/2025 saying: “From what I can remember, we installed a HDPE liner with a 300mm engineered gravel layer vertically draining with a crown off set from the centre with perimeter stormwater pits”
- email from Anthony Saba 25/7/2025 saying: “10-14mm gravel layer topped up with a 30mm fines layer (3-5mm with fines) that’s the general method”

2.3 Assumptions

Some contradictions exist in the plans and information provided by Council (Section 2.2). The natural turf reconstruction methodology in Section 3 assumes the McMahons (2013) design plan is accurate. As such the profile is assumed to consist of (Figure 2):

- 60 mm of synthetic turf containing sand and SBR infill (Greenplay Australia, 2013); overlying
- 20 mm layer of 3-5 mm gravel with fines; overlying
- 80 mm of 10 to 14 mm gravel; overlying
- 0 to 186 mm (this layer has a steeper fall then the surface) of 20 to 40 mm gravel; overlying
- HDPE liner (Anthony Saba email 10/7/2025); overlying
- compacted sub-base.

It is also assumed the subsoil drainage system is effective in removing all water percolating beneath the synthetic field.

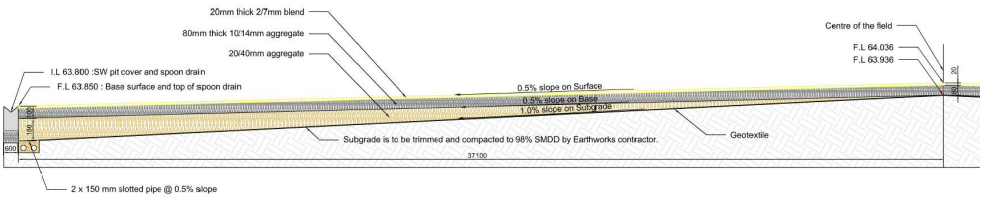

Figure 2: Lindfield soccer field design drawing MCM200203-04 Review H (McMahons, 2013).

3 Creating a best practice nature turf field

The following recommendations are provided as a high-level guide only, with detailed design beyond the scope of works of this report.

3.1 Outline of reconstruction procedure

Based on the profile described in Section 2.3, a best practice natural turf field could be achieved by:

- removing the synthetic carpet and infill from the site and deliver it to the recycling plant
- removing the upper 50 mm of material from site and dispose (~750 tonne)
- removing ~2000 tonne of gravel from the site and recycle or dispose
- replacing part of the concrete and dish drain so it will marry with the new finished surface
- installing an irrigation system that applies water evenly with minimal overspray and complies with the best practice guidelines (DCCEEW, 2025a)
- import and spread a minimum of 100 mm of 5 to 7 mm USGA gravel over the entire surface
- spreading 250 to 300 mm of growing media over the entire surface that complies with the requirements in the best practice guidelines (DCCEEW, 2025a)
- installing a slit drainage system that discharges into the underlying gravel layer
- watering and maintaining the field until the turf is fully established

The carrying capacity is highly dependent on the turf cultivar and growing medium. It is essential that both align with the requirements for high wear fields as described in the NSW Best Practice Guidelines (DCCEEW, 2025a). Consideration should be given to laying hybrid turf in the goal areas (allowing for the shifting field position).

3.2 Maintenance requirements

The field must be maintained according to the principles in the best practice guidelines (DCCEEW, 2025a). These practices will need to be tailored to the characteristics of the growing media which would be specified during detailed design. As a general guide, the maintenance will include:

- no oversowing of the field (ryegrass cannot handle high wear levels and will clog the profile)
- use of turf colourants to increase turf growth during the cooler months
- no irrigation of the field from late March until September (unless conditions are unseasonally dry and warm)
- ensuring effective management of intensely worn areas by using moveable goals (FA and FIFA approved models) to:
    - slide the field lengthways midway through the winter sport season. There is sufficient space for 3x full sized field configurations
    - not training in the gameday goal positions
- adequate fertiliser, pest and weed control
- aeration, dethatching and localised topdressing (possibly a general topdress every 5 years)
- performing minor repairs to high wear areas (forking, localised topdressing, minor plugs, etc.)

4 Carrying capacity of the field

The carrying capacity of sporting fields should never be expressed in hours per week. This is because clubs/schools often blanket book, resulting in some of the booked timeslots having minimal use. Furthermore, wear levels will vary significantly depending on:

- number of players using the field at a time
- age of players
- sporting code and
- site conditions (e.g. turf, soils, microclimate, waterlogging, traffic management etc).

Wear levels from school usage can also vary considerably based on whether it is being used for lunchtime play, formal sport, PDHPE classes or laying idle between these activities.

4.1 Annual usage hours carrying capacity of Charles Bean Oval

A best practice field will be able to handle much higher hours or use than any of the current natural turf fields in Ku-Ring-Gai. If Charles Bean Oval was converted to best practice natural turf it would be capable of handling more than 2000 hours of annual usage i.e. similar to other intensely used best practice natural turf fields in the Sydney Basin. Due to the timeframes when students are available for play, most fields receive a maximum of about (Appendix B):

- 1545 hours per year if they are only used for football and school use
- 1945 hours per year if they are used for football, school use and summer sport such as cricket

Charles Bean Oval is in a unique situation as it is directly adjacent to a school that has minimal greenspace. As such, unlike any other sporting field in Ku-Ring-Gai LGA, Charles Bean Oval's annual usage could reach as high as 2500 hours per year. However, as stated above not all hours of use have the same impact, with school use typically causing less damage than formal sport. As such, carrying capacity is more accurately expressed in terms of registered players per week as described in the NSW Best Practice Guidelines for Sporting Fields (DCCEEW, 2025a).

4.2 Using registered players per soccer field

Carrying capacity can be expressed as the number of registered players per week that a single full sized football field could handle over the winter sport season (DCCEEW, 2025a). Using this metric allows sporting field carrying capacity to be directly compared with player registrations.

UTS Football Club has about 220 (2022) to 250 (2025) registered players in the winter sport season. The field is also used by Lindfield Learning Village that has 810 students. The school only uses Charles Bean Oval in school hours (minimal use before and after school), with the field hosting (Appendix A):

- lunchtime and recess play (90 to 110 students on the field)
- PDHPE classes
- school sport
- fitness and training

Based on the usage data provided by the school and comparisons with other similar sized schools, the school usage is estimated to cause the equivalent wear of about 200 registered football players. As such, the total winter wear (soccer + school) is approximately the equivalent of about 450 registered players.

The actual equivalent wear appears to be lower than the above value given the field has fixed goals and has received only minor synthetic patching despite being 9 years old. By comparison, Cromer Park no. 1 (also a rubber crumb synthetic field) became unsuitable for play and was resurfaced after 9 years despite typically hosting less than 400 players per week. These differences could be attributable to hot weather cancellations by the school or even spreading of wear by the students relative to weekend soccer.

4.3 Logistical limit on player numbers

Soccer club limitations

There are not enough timeslots on the weekend for a single football field to host more than about 550 registered players (an adult game lasts for 2 hours when stoppage and turnover time is included). Whilst there are a handful of fields across Sydney that hosts more than 550 players, the limited space can restrict player development e.g. 5 teams training at once, juniors playing on undersized fields, etc. As such, 550 players per week should be regarded as the logistical limit for a single football field, regardless of whether it is natural turf or synthetic (DCCEEW, 2025a).

School limitations

The school currently has 810 student that cause the equivalent wear of about 220 registered football players (Section 4.1). The school has a planned capacity of about 2000 students (Appendix A) which in theory could increase wear levels to the equivalent of about 500 registered football players. However, it is likely that this could not be extended beyond the equivalent of about 400 registered football players without significantly impacting on the space available for school sport and PDPE classes.

4.4 Carrying capacity of Charles Bean Oval

If a natural turf playing field was constructed at Charles Bean Oval, then it would be capable of handling more than 550 players per week if (22 to 38% higher than current school/soccer combined wear):

- it is built and maintained according to best practice (DCCEEW, 2025a)
- intensely worn areas are effectively managed by:
    - not training in the gameday goal positions
    - shifting the position of the field midway through the winter sport season. This could be achieved using moveable goals (FIFA and FA approved models are available)
    - marking up the field 1 m east/west of where it was in the previous season, so the areas compacted and worn by the assistant referees have additional time to recover

A best practice field can handle 75% higher wear then current levels, with the most intensely used natural turf field in Sydney hosting ~800 registered players per week and sport from 3 schools. Whilst these wear levels are not recommended (field has 50% turf cover by the end of the football season, but remains suitable for community sport), this field recovers year after year with minimal turf patching.

If wear increases, consideration should be given to laying hybrid turf in the 6-yard boxes. As synthetic turf is a carpet, its lifespan will be reduced by a corresponding percentage to wear level increases.

4.5 Cancellations

Sport can be cancelled due to adverse weather such as:

- **heat:** in addition to high temperatures, players can also struggle at moderate temperatures if the humidity is high (NSW Football, 2023). Natural turf fields have fewer heat cancellations then synthetic because they can dissipate the suns radiation via photosynthesis & evaporative cooling
- **intense rainfall:** can dislodge the synthetic infill so the surface needs re-grooming (and possibly topping up) before it can be played on. Infill migration is especially problematic for sloped synthetic fields with organic infill (note the proposed design for Norman Griffiths Oval has 0% cross-fall). Intense rain can cause waterlogging on natural turf
- **other rain events:** can cause waterlogging on natural turf fields, with less interruptions on fields that have an effective drainage system that are built and maintained according to best practice. Low to moderate intensity rainfall is of minimal concern to well-maintained synthetic fields.

Although synthetic fields with organic infill can be cooler than those with crumb rubber, surface temperatures often exceed 55ºC when the air temperature rises above 30ºC (McKechnie, 2024).

Cancellations for the school

Based on modelling of 15 years of weather data a synthetic field with organic infill will have about 23 school days per year (this excludes holidays and weekends) when cancellations are likely. These are mostly associated with heat (Figure 3), with many more hot days in drought years. A well-constructed best practice field is likely to have about 9 school days per year when cancellations may occur (more in wet years).

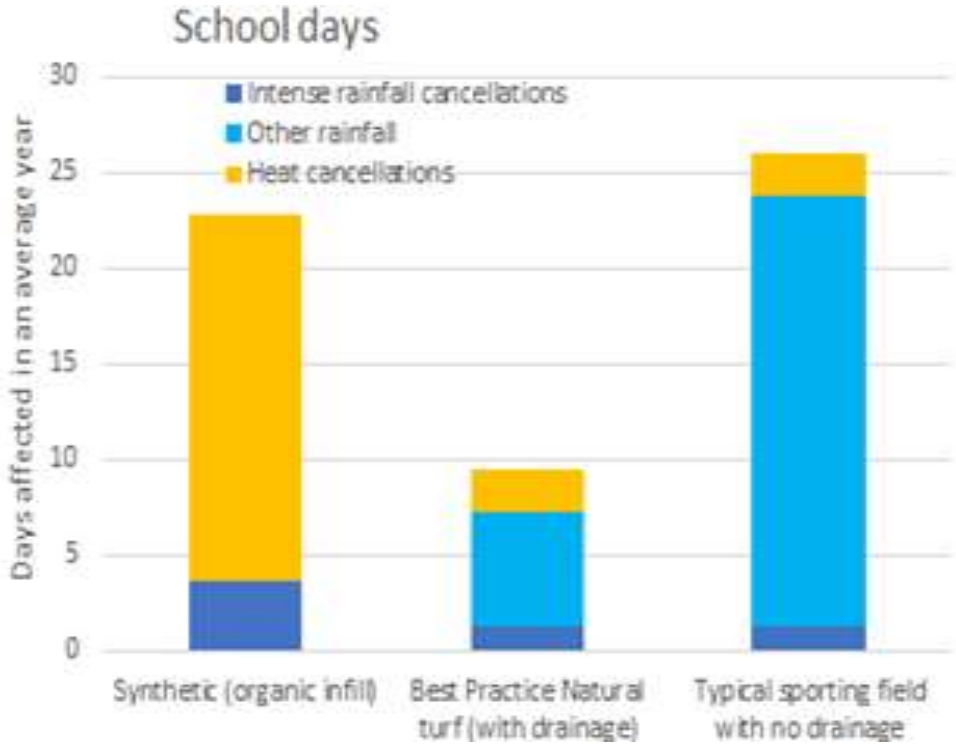

Figure 3: Average annual school days where adverse weather could impact on play. These are indicative frequencies only, with actual impact depending on the time of weather events relative to play times. Weather varies from year to year.

Cancellations for the soccer club

During the regular football season, the average annual cancellations are likely to be similar for a synthetic field (organic infill) and a well-constructed best practice field (Figure 4). Cancellations for pre-season, summer futsal and the summer break period have also been provided. Weather varies from year to year, with some years being hotter (typically drought years) and other years being wetter.

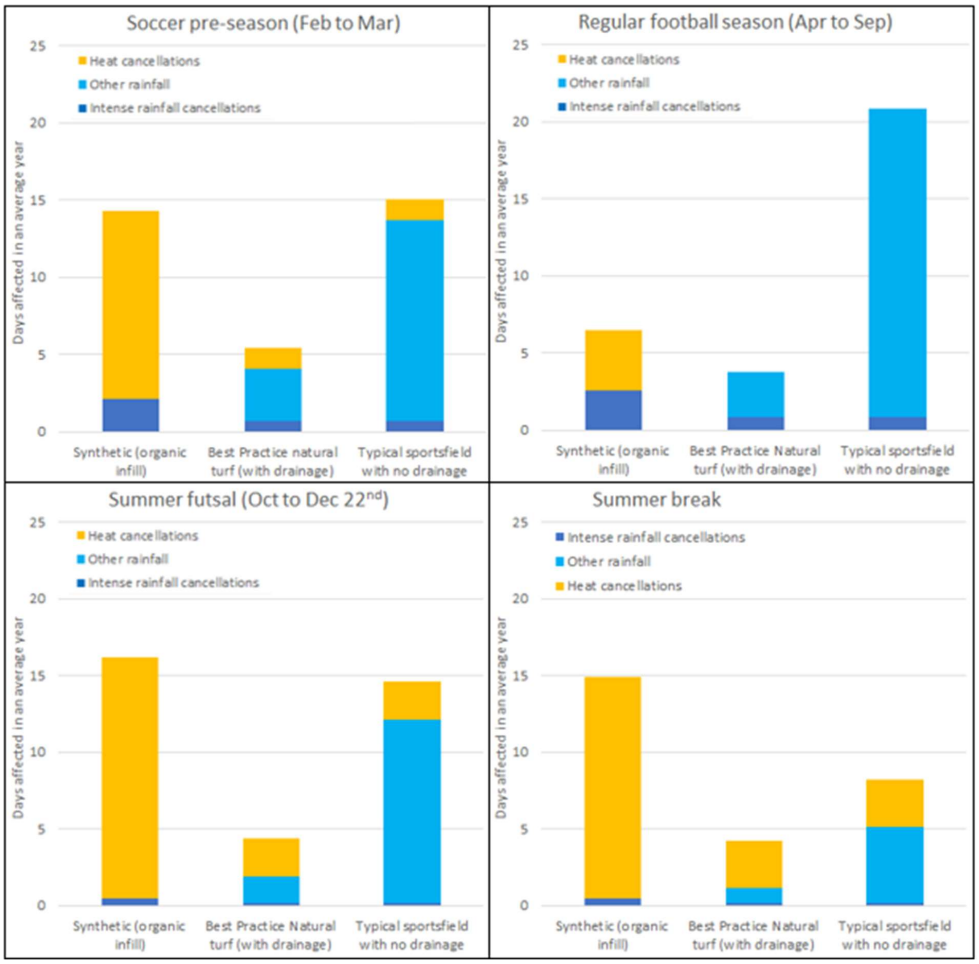

Figure 4: Average annual days where adverse weather could impact on play. These are indicative measures of impact only, with actual impact depending on the time of the weather event relative to play times. Weather varies from year to year.

Note: Playing only at night can mitigate heat cancellations for synthetic in the warmer months.

5 Irrigation requirements

If a best practice natural turf field is built at Charles Bean Oval, then its average annual irrigation requirements are likely to be about 2.3 ML (DCCEEW, 2025a). This represents an average annual water bill of about $6,200 (assuming $2.67 per KL). This water bill could be reduced if stormwater harvesting was performed onsite.

6 Stormwater

Ku-ring-gai Council DCP (2024) requires captured stormwater be treated to the standards described in Table 1. The Guidelines for Division 5.1 assessments for synthetic fields recommend that synthetic fields draining into sensitive ecosystems be independently assessed and comply with the Australian and New Zealand guidelines for fresh and marine water quality (DCCEEW 2025b, page 13).

Table 1: Captured stormwater treatment standards set out in Ku-ring-gai Council DCP (2024).

Pollutant	Ku-ring-gai DCP target	Target for 9200 m^2
Gross pollutants	150 kg/ha/yr	138 kg/yr
Total suspended solids	135 kg/ha/yr	124 kg/yr
Total phosphorus	0.7 kg/ha/yr	0.64 kg/yr
Total nitrogen	8.25 kg/ha/yr	7.6 kg/yr

6.1 Synthetic turf

PFAS, PFOS and PFHxS

Ausmap (2024) detected two banned chemicals (PFOS and PFHxS) in the drainage channel below Charles Bean Oval. Studies have also detected PFAS in other synthetic fields (NSW CSE, 2022).

Council should obtain a letter from the manufacturer and installer that none of the products (shock pad, carpet, infill, etc.) used in the synthetic field contain any of the banned chemicals in the IChEMS 2022 instrument. An independent NATA laboratory should verify that none of the materials used to construct the field contain any banned chemicals such as PFOS and PFHxS (Ausmap,2024). This could be a tender requirement so there is no cost to council.

Microplastics

The current filtration system at Charles Bean Oval is inadequate at preventing turf fibre from being lost from the site, with the Ausmap (2024) study finding:

- 3905 microplastic pieces were captured during two rain events in the drainage channel below the field. This included large fibres that had bypassed the 8 basket filters installed at the site
- about 10% of microplastic particles captured in the pits were smaller than the basket mesh size. This includes particles that are less than 100 microns in diameter

Filtration system upgrades are needed to prevent these losses. The filtration system proposed for Norman Griffiths Oval for example includes a biofilter (Battam, 2025, TurfOne & 2MH Consulting, 2024).

Infill losses

The current filtration system at Charles Bean Oval has not prevented rubber crumb losses, with 15280 pieces of rubber crumb in ~3 kg sediment samples from the drainage channel below the field (Ausmap, 2024). If the rubber crumb is replaced with an organic infill, then losses would likely increase given:

- SBR (~0.42 g/cm^3) is denser than Brockfill (~0.25 g/cm^3) and cork (~0.11 g/cm^3)
- the field has 1 in 200 slope instead of being flat (as proposed for nearby Norman Griffith Oval).

Mass migration of organic infill is an issue on other synthetic fields, with new designs ensuring field is flat and has a surrounding plinth to reduce losses. Aside from pollution, infill is expensive to replace and mass migration can lead to cancellations (Section 4.4).

6.2 Best practice natural turf

A best practice natural turf field should comply with the stormwater treatment standards in Table 1 if:

- a suitable (not excessive) fertiliser program is implemented
- ensuring other appropriate maintenance practices are implemented (Section 3.2)

7 Lifecycle costs

Cost data and cost estimates are highly sensitive to the underlying assumptions, site conditions, contractual requirements and other elements (e.g. market conditions). As such, the cost estimates provided in this section are high-level estimates that are based on available information.

Cost estimates have been compiled from multiple sources that include, but are not limited to:

- published contract values for works and services as released by Local Councils and State Government agencies
- published information guides
- industry sources and contacts from previous projects.

7.1 Construction costs

A best practice natural turf field for Charles Bean Oval has not been subject to detailed design. As such, the construction cost estimates have a higher degree of uncertainty than for a synthetic field which has already been through a detailed design process. As such, we have incorporated a 20% contingency into the cost estimate.

The overall cost for a best practice natural turf field is around $2.2m, with the major cost items (>$200,000) being:

- $600,000 for the specialised imported gravel and growing medium for the natural turf surface
- $600,000 removal and disposal/recycling of old synthetic surface and underlying aggregate
- $300,000 for contingency
- $280,000 for sports field irrigation, drainage and surface water management
- $240,000 for a new generation, wear tolerant turf cultivar (washed turf) and turf establishment

No additional stormwater treatment is needed for a best practice natural turf field to comply with Council DCP (2024) and DCCEEW (2025b) stormwater targets if an appropriate maintenance regime is implemented (Section 3.2).

7.2 Maintenance costs

The anticipated maintenance costs for a best practice natural turf field at Charles Bean Oval are likely to be around $40,000 pa. This cost assumes maintenance is not undertaken by Council staff but are contracted out to qualified external contractors. It includes irrigation water costs.

Based on the available information, the annual maintenance costs for a synthetic turf field at Charles Bean Oval are likely to be about $25-$35,000 per year. This is consistent with the values of synthetic turf maintenance contracts where the contract value has been released. These maintenance costs do NOT include:

- **synthetic surface renewal costs (Section 7.3):** which equate to around $138,000 per year
- **maintenance of the synthetic turf stormwater treatment system (Section 6.2):** regular maintenance will need to be performed to prevent clogging or bypassing (Ausmap, 2024) of filters/biofilters.

7.3 Surface renewal costs

Best practice natural turf fields do not require resurfacing, with turf plugging and/or minor patching allowed for in the maintenance costs (Section 7.2). Periodic asset renewal works on the irrigation and sports field drainage systems have been incorporated into the annual maintenance costs.

According to synthetic turf information guides, synthetic turf fields require resurfacing every 8 to 10 years at a cost of $1.1 million per soccer field (~$130/m^2). This rate is low compared to recently completed projects, where the published contract value for replacing a synthetic field was around $145-$155 per m^2 (e.g. Blackman Oval and Moore Park). At a rate of $150/m^2, the surface renewal costs for a synthetic field at Charles Bean Oval is ~$1.4m. This equates to $140,000 per year if the surface is replaced every 10 years.

7.4 Lifecyle costs

The potential financial commitment over 30-year period is summarised in Table 1. Key points to note are as follows:

- the best practice natural turf field if well maintained will be functional at year 30 have a net present value (NVP) equal to its newly constructed value, so asset replacement for the synthetic field at year 30 is needed for a like for like comparison
- a best practice natural turf field does not have a finite life and does not require replacement or resurfacing if best practice maintenance is conducted regularly. Periodic works on the irrigation and drainage systems have been allowed for in the annual maintenance costs for a best practice natural turf field
- both best practice natural turf fields and synthetic fields can handle considerably higher wear levels than those currently occurring on the field, but as wear levels increase:
    - **natural turf:** condition of the field will become thinner by the end of the winter sport season (recover in spring), especially if wear levels were increased by more than 75%
    - **synthetic turf:** carpet lifespan will be reduced in proportion to the increase in wear levels, requiring replacement every 5 to 7 years at extreme wear levels (see warranty).

For hybrid field built and maintained according to best practice an additional $1.4 million should be added to the construction (and lifecycle) costs of the best practice natural turf option.

Table 1: Summary of expected lifecycle costs for best practice natural turf and synthetic fields

Item	Best Practice Natural Turf	Synthetic Turf	Notes
Estimated costs to complete construction	$2.2m[1]	TBC[1]	20% contingency included in the best practice natural turf field
Total maintenance costs	$1.25m	$0.78m[2]	Over 30-year period
Total asset renewal costs	Nil	$2.75m	Year 10 and 20 for the synthetic field
Asset replacement at Year 30[3]	Nil	$1.38m[3]	Synthetic field needs replacing at year 30 to be a functional facility[3]
Total financial commitment	**$3.45m[1]**	**$4.91m + construction cost[1]**	**Includes end of life replacement at year 30 for the synthetic field**

1 Includes 20% contingency
2 Excludes costs for maintaining synthetic turf stormwater treatment measures to prevent clogging or bypassing of filters/biofilters by infill or plastics (as currently occurs, see Ausmap, 2024)
3 at year 30 the synthetic turf field is at the end of its useful life and requires complete replacement (shock pad, carpet, infill etc) to ensure it remains a functional facility

8 Project timeframes

A best practice natural turf field could be constructed in 4 to 6 months following award of the construction contract if conditions are suitable (e.g. contractors are available, design and procurement processes proceed smoothly, weather conditions are favourable). The indicative, broad timeframes are as follows:

- Design: about 1-2 months
- Procurement (Tendering): about 4 months
- Construction: about 2 months (subject to weather conditions)
- Turf establishment (ready for play): 2 to 4 months if turf laid in growing season (October to March).

9 Conclusion

A best practice field will be able to handle much higher hours or use than any of the current natural turf fields in Ku-Ring-Gai. If Charles Bean Oval was converted to a best practice natural turf:

- **Annual usage capacity:** best practice field would be capable of handling more than 2000 playing hours per year (like other intensely used best practice fields in the Sydney Basin). However, the NSW Best Practice Guideline for Sporting Fields advising against the use of usage hours for estimating wear (DCCEEW, 2025a), with an hour of school PDHPE classes causing less wear than formal sport use
- **Carrying capacity:** best practice natural turf would be capable of handling up to 75% higher wear then current wear levels (Section 4.4)
- **Weather cancellations for the school:** less for best practice natural turf relative to synthetic (considerable heat cancellations in semesters 1 & 4)
- **Weather cancellations for football:**
    - Football season: similar cancellations for a best practice natural turf and synthetic field
    - Pre-season and summer futsal: there would be more cancellations for a synthetic field, but these could be mitigated by only playing at night (less use hours)
- **issues raised by the school:** best practice field would overcome existing synthetic turf related issues such as:
    - synthetic surface causing high numbers of abrasions that require first aid
    - synthetic field infill sticking to shoes: being walked through school (and homes)
    - excess heat from synthetic fields (issue also for synthetics with organic infill)
    - student exposure to lead, arsenic, zinc and PAHs (Ausmap, 2024)
- **other community concerns:** best practice field would overcome the following synthetic turf related issues that have been observed on site (Ausmap, 2024):
    - plastic fibre losses to the environment
    - infill losses to the environment
    - banned substances such as PFOS and PFSxS being lost to the environment

The overall cost to convert Charles Bean Oval to a best practice natural turf field is about $2.2m (includes 20% contingency), with the lifecycle costs being less than synthetic (Table 1). The best practice natural turf field if well maintained will be functional at year 30. Hence the best practice field at year 30 should be assigned a net present value (NVP) equal to its newly constructed value, with asset replacement for the synthetic field at year 30 is needed for a like for like comparison.

10 References

Ausmap (2024) Investigation into rubber crumb and synthetic grass loss at Charles Bean Oval

Battam (2022) Winter usage, wear and carrying capacity of sporting fields in the Sydney Basin

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NRMMC, EPHC and NHMRC (2009) Australian guidelines for water recycling: Managing health and environmental risks (Phase 2)

NSW CSE (2022) Independent review into the design, use and impacts of synthetic turf in public open spaces. NSW Government Chief Scientist and Engineer

TurfOne and 2MH Consulting (9/5/2024). Norman Griffiths Oval synthetic football (soccer) pitch redevelopment

Appendix A: School usage of Charles Bean Oval

Lindfield Learning Village provided the following information regarding school usage of Charles Bean Oval.

How many primary students attend the school? **379 (current enrolment)**

How many secondary students attend the school? **431 (current enrolment)**

NB the school has capacity to enrol a larger number of total students than the current enrolment figures. Planned capacity is approximately 2000 students. The school would be seeking access to Charles Bean Oval before and after school for training times to enable an adequate sports program.

Are there any factors that limit the usage of Charles Bean Oval for the students? **No access to shade; current issues with rubber infill sticking to shoes and being walked through the school (and homes) in students' shoes. Inadequate provision of bins. Current surface results in high number of abrasions requiring first aid attention from school. General public use during LLV hire times has presented challenges for staff to monitor safety of students at times when general public has proximity to students or taking photos of the area/students without express permission.**

Would Charles Bean Oval be used for a similar number of hours per week by the school if it were a natural turf field? **Yes, the same number of hours would be requested by the school.**

NB. Current hire hours are 9am to 3pm. These hours prevent the school from being able to do before or after school sport/training etc. Charles Bean Oval is hired out by Ku-ring-gai Council most mornings and afternoons to private schools and football clubs.

Before and after school use of Charles Bean Oval (do not include other areas):

Daily period	Number of students that play sport on Charles Bean Oval	Additional number of students doing other active play activities on Charles Bean Oval (e.g. chasings)
30 minutes before school starts	**0 – hired by Ku-ring-gai Council to private schools and fitness providers**	**0 – hired by Ku-ring-gai Council to private schools and fitness providers**
Just before school starts	**0 – LLV hire time is from 9:00am.** - **Secondary school starts 8:50am** - **Primary school starts 09:00am**	**0 – LLV hire time is from 9:00am.** - **Secondary school starts 8:50am** - **Primary school starts 09:00am**

Questions about lunchtime and school play on Charles Bean Oval (do not include other areas)

Daily period	Number of students that play sport on Charles Bean Oval	Additional number of students doing other active play activities on Charles Bean Oval (e.g. chasings)
Recess for primary school kids (30 minutes) – 11:30am to 12:00md	**30-40**	**20**
Lunchtime for primary school kids (30 minutes) – 1:20pm to 1:50pm	**30-40**	**20**
Recess for secondary school kids (30 minutes) – 11:30am to 12:00md	**40-50**	**20**
Lunchtime for secondary school kids (30 minutes) – 1:20 to 1:50pm	**40-50**	**20**
Just after school ends	**0 – LLV hire time is to 3:00pm.** - **Secondary school ends 3:10pm** - **Primary school ends 3:00pm**	**0 – LLV hire time is to 3:00pm.** - **Secondary school ends 3:10pm** - **Primary school ends 3:00pm** **A number of families use the space immediately after the school day, however, it is not a designated supervision area for the school**
30 minutes after school ends	**0 – hired by Ku-ring-gai Council to sports associations**	**0 – hired by Ku-ring-gai Council to sports associations**

Questions Charles Bean Oval use on school sports day/s:			What sport/s are played on Charles Bean Oval on school sports day?			
	What day is school sports day? E.g. Wednesday	What hours does school sport run for? E.g. 12 to 3 pm	Term 1 e.g. softball	Term 2 e.g. soccer	Term 3	Term 4
Primary school	**Fridays**	**9-2.45pm**	**Various**	**Various**	**Various**	**Various**
Secondary school	**Tuesdays**	**1:50 - 3:10pm**	**Soccer / Oz Tag**	**Soccer / Ultimate frisbee**	**League Tag**	**Soccer / Softball**
	Thursdays (Beyond program)	**12:00 – 3:10pm**	**Fitness & Training**	**Fitness & Training**	**Fitness & Training**	**Fitness & Training**

Questions Charles Bean Oval use for PDHPE classes	For a typical student (1 person), how many hours per week is Charles Bean Oval be used for PDHPE classes? And what sport is typically played?			
	Term 1 e.g. Nil (PDHPE has swimming)	Term 2 e.g. 1 hour/wk of soccer	Term 3	Term 4
Primary school (248 students)	**School based program 70 mins per week**	**External Sports provider 70 mins per week**	**School based program 70 mins per week**	**School based program 70 mins per week**
Secondary school (350 students)	**80 mins per week**	**80 mins per week**	**80 mins per week**	**80 mins per week**
Activities included in PDHPE curriculum	**OzTag, Touch Football, Flag Football, AFL, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Vortex, European Handball, Volleyball, Athletics/Running, Indigenous Games, Cricket, Softball, Baseball, T-Ball, Fitness Training**			

Questions about Charles Bean Oval use for formal school sport played outside of school hours	How many students are using Charles Bean Oval for school sport that is OUTSIDE school hours? What sport are they typically using Charles Bean Oval for?			
	Term 1 e.g. Nil	Term 2 e.g. 24 students on Charles Bean for soccer training/games	Term 3	Term 4
	There is no school sport scheduled after school hours – current hire arrangements are only 9:00am to 3:00pm on school days. **The school would be seeking access to Charles Bean Oval before and after school for training times to enable an adequate sports program.**			

Appendix B: Breakdown of hours of use

Whilst clubs often blanket book, most soccer fields (natural or synthetic) receive:

- a maximum of about 1200 hours per year of formal sport use (Table B.1)
- less than 351 hours per year of school usage (Table B.1)

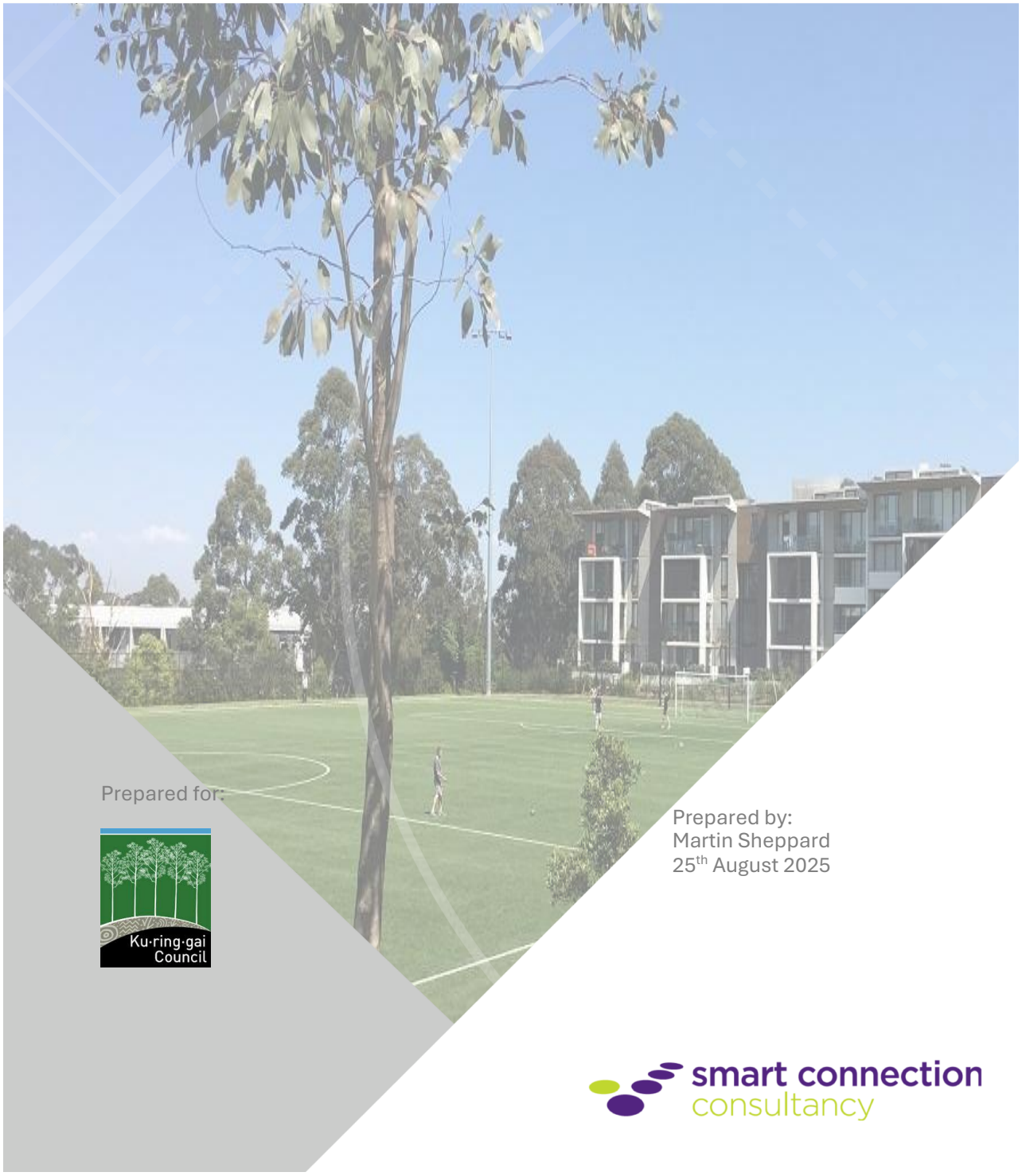
A best practice field will be able to handle much higher hours or use than any of the current natural turf fields in Ku-Ring-Gai. If Charles Bean Oval was converted to best practice natural turf it would be capable of handling more than 2000 hours of annual usage i.e. similar to other intensely used best practice natural turf fields in the Sydney Basin. However, not all hours of use have the same impact, with school use typically causing less damage than formal sport. As such, carrying capacity is more accurately expressed in terms of registered players per week as described in the NSW Best Practice Guidelines for Sporting Fields (DCCEEW, 2025a).

Table 1: Breakdown of maximum annual usage hours for most sporting fields

Activity	No. of weeks	Weekly usage	Hours per year
Pre-season football	8 weeks (Feb. to March)	20 hours	160
Winter season games	23 weeks (April to September)	18 hours (8 am to 5 pm Saturday & Sunday)	414
Winter season training	23 weeks (April to September)	20 hours per week (4:30 to 9:30 pm for 4 nights/week)	460
Summer Futsal (Oct. to Dec.)	8 weeks (Feb. to March)	20 hours[1]	160
January	0	0	0
School usage	39 weeks (school year)	0 to 9 hours (most fields)	0 to 351
		Total	**1545***

*usage levels could be increased by up to 400 hours per year if the field is fully booked for cricket, baseball or softball during the summer sport season. Summer temperatures are often not conducive to daytime football (Section 4.5)

CHARLES BEAN OVAL
SYNTHETIC SURFACES REVIEW



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25th August 2025

smart connection consultancy

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Acknowledgements

This Smart Independent Assessment has been prepared by Smart Connection Consultancy on behalf of the Ku-ring-Gai Council (Client).

Assumptions

All recommendations and considerations identified by Smart Connection Consultancy are based on data and information provided by Council, and Smart Connection Consultancy has relied on such information being correct at the time this report was prepared.

The information within this report is provided with good faith. Whilst Smart Connection Consultancy has applied its experience to this Assessment, we have relied upon information and views expressed by Client staff or other stakeholders involved in the project.

Readers should be aware that in the preparation of this report it has been necessary to provide commentary on future projections that may be inherently uncertain, and that our opinion is based on the underlying assumptions at this point in time – which has been influenced by the information provided in good faith.

We do not express an opinion as to whether actual results will achieve our estimates, or underwrite or guarantee the achievability of the projections or value assumptions which are based on future events.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Ku-ring-gai Council is faced with an important decision regarding the future of **Charles Bean Oval**. With increasing demand for sporting facilities across the municipality, particularly for football (soccer), Council must determine whether to reinvest in a **new-generation synthetic turf system** or revert the site to natural grass.

After detailed analysis, this assessment demonstrates that replacing the existing synthetic surface provides significantly greater value for Ku-ring-gai Council and its community than reverting to natural turf.

1. Meeting Growing Participation Demand

Football is Ku-ring-gai's fastest growing sport, with registered player numbers increasing by more than 20% in recent years, especially among juniors and women. Synthetic fields are uniquely capable of handling this growth:

A natural grass field at Charles Bean Oval could support a maximum of **20–25 hours per week** and even at best may be able to cope with 30 hours but will need additional maintenance and end of year renovations. This type of field can only cope with around 25 players per hour as well.

A new synthetic system will reliably accommodate 60–80 hours per week, tripling access and ensuring Council can keep pace with community demand. The intensity can also cope with over 60 players per hour, therefore multiplying the comparison between both surface types.

This additional capacity reduces pressure on other overused grass fields and provides a reliable venue for training, competition, and school programs.

2. Reliability and Community Access

The existing synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval has demonstrated the importance of all-weather resilience. Unlike natural grass, which is highly susceptible to wear, compaction, and weather-related closures, synthetic turf enables uninterrupted community access year-round. This reduces cancellations, relocations, and community frustration — and guarantees equitable access for priority groups such as juniors, schools, and female programs.

3. Financial Sustainability

Although natural grass has a lower initial cost (circa $0.9m), synthetic turf (circa $1.4m) delivers superior **lifecycle value** for Council with the hourly rate of usage being $65.30(natural) compared to $48.89(synthetic):

Avoids annual maintenance costs of mowing, irrigation, topdressing, and re-turfing.

Prevents the loss of tens of thousands of dollars each year associated with cancelled fixtures, reduced canteen revenue, and displaced competitions.

Provides greater certainty for long-term bookings by schools and clubs, generating consistent revenue streams.

Over its 10–12 year lifespan, the synthetic field represents a better return on investment and ensures Council assets are optimised for maximum community benefit.

4. Environmental and Sustainability Outcomes

A shift back to natural grass would require significant water input — **5–7 megalitres per year** for a field the size of Charles Bean Oval — and heavy use of fertilisers and pesticides to maintain playing quality under high traffic. By contrast, a modern synthetic system:

- Utilises organic infill rather than rubber crumb, avoiding legacy concerns about microplastics.
- Incorporates closed-cell drainage with filtration, ensuring water quality is protected and contaminants are captured.
- Includes recyclable system components (shockpads, drainage cells), aligning with NSW Circular Economy Strategy 2041.

This represents a forward-looking approach to both community sport and environmental stewardship.

5. Strategic and Community Legacy

Charles Bean Oval already functions as a key hub for football in Ku-ring-gai, supporting grassroots participation, development pathways, and community events. Maintaining the site as synthetic:

- Ensures it remains a regional-standard venue, attracting school carnivals, representative football, and broader community use.
- Aligns with Council's Sportsground Strategy, which identifies synthetic turf as critical to addressing capacity shortfalls.
- Supports the long-term health, wellbeing, and social cohesion benefits of increased sporting participation.
- Reverting to grass would compromise this role, constrain community access, and undermine Council's strategic investment in sporting infrastructure.

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Conclusion

Replacing Charles Bean Oval with a new synthetic turf surface is the only option that meets participation demand, provides reliable and equitable access to the broader community without limiting hours of use , delivers lifecycle cost efficiency, conserves environmental resources, and secures Ku-ring-gai's long-term sporting future.

Reverting to natural turf would limit playing capacity, increase operating costs, consume large volumes of water, and fail to deliver on community expectations for modern sporting infrastructure.

The evidence strongly supports Ku-ring-gai Council reinvesting in a new-generation synthetic field at Charles Bean Oval as the most responsible, future-proof, and community-beneficial choice.

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION & SCOPE



The importance of a Smart Synthetic Field Health Check explores the status of the field against its expected performance; the maintenance being carried out and the expected life expectancy

1 INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

Council has allocated funding for the proposed replacement of Charles Bean Oval synthetic playing surface, as the current field has reached the end of its useful life.

Charles Bean Oval was handed over to Council as part of an agreement with Defence Housing Australia (DHA) in lieu of developer contribution payments to Council. As part of that agreement, it was negotiated that the field be changed from a natural turf surface to a synthetic turf surface. The project was managed and funded by DHA and the completed field was handed over to Council in 2013. It was built to FIFA standards at the time and was Ku-ring-gai's first synthetic field.

In recent times, there has been increasing general concern in the community around synthetic surfaces and their impact on the environment, including the release of microplastics and localised heat island effect. In addition to this, there has also been significant concern with the effects of synthetic surfaces on human health, also relating to microplastics and the use of crumbed rubber infill.

The NSW Government has undertaken significant study in this area, and following a report from the Chief Scientist, they developed the "Best-practice guidelines for sporting fields" see link: Best-practice guidelines for sporting fields as well as "Synthetic turf sports fields in public open space" see link: Synthetic turf for sports fields | Planning

A considered community consultation process is required to ensure project scope considers the expectations of all stakeholders and we will be seeking recommendations and opinions from industry experts to include in the consultation.

Council is seeking an assessment report from Smart Connection Consultancy for the replacement of the Charles Bean Oval with a synthetic or hybrid surface.

1.2 Scope of Project

Council has requested that as a minimum the report should include the following:

- An assessment of existing site conditions and suitability of existing infrastructure for replacement with synthetic surface and inclusion of engineering or other measures to reduce/eliminate negative environmental and amenity impacts
- Surface recommendation to include no rubber in-fill
- Maintenance specifications
- High level cost of construction
- High level indication of maintenance costs
- High-level life cycle cost
- An assessment of the level and intensity of use that the field could sustain (hours and attendees/week or year)
- A comparison of the level and intensity of use versus existing level and intensity of use
- Any considerations or comments regarding flow on effect to other facilities should existing hours booked not be able to be achieved
- We would also suggest that the report considers the following aspects:
- The changes in synthetic surface manufacturing, field design and management to reduce the perceived or actual impact on the environmental footprint
- How the "new generation" of design, installation and management of synthetic surfaces can address any negative aspects identified within the Chief Scientist and Engineers or the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Guidelines
- Identify specific gaps in the current synthetic system compared to issues raised in 10 and 11 above

1.3 Project Methodology

Smart Connection Consultancy is a specialist sports management consultancy who support local government and sports organisations in the planning, design, procurement and management of sports assets. These include natural, hybrid, synthetic, rubber and acrylic sports surfaces for hockey, athletics, multi-sport and all of the football codes.

Our commitment to creating environments that can be promoted to encourage more people, and especially children, to be more active is based on the following:

- How can natural grass be enhanced to cope with the type and intensity of desired usage, through improvements to drainage, irrigation, grass type and profile enhancements etc
- Embracing hybrid technology to reinforce high wear areas in a manner that can allow greater intensity of use of the field
- Only when there are two options exhausted, do we explore the ability of synthetic sports surface technology to be used. The challenge with football (soccer especially) is that as the population density grows, combined with the moving to a 12 month a year sports program, many natural turf fields can't either accommodate the intensity of usage or indeed the recovery needed at the end of the winter season.

Synthetic sports turf fields are able to complement the natural turf fields, allowing for greater usage, while resting the natural surfaces to reduce the

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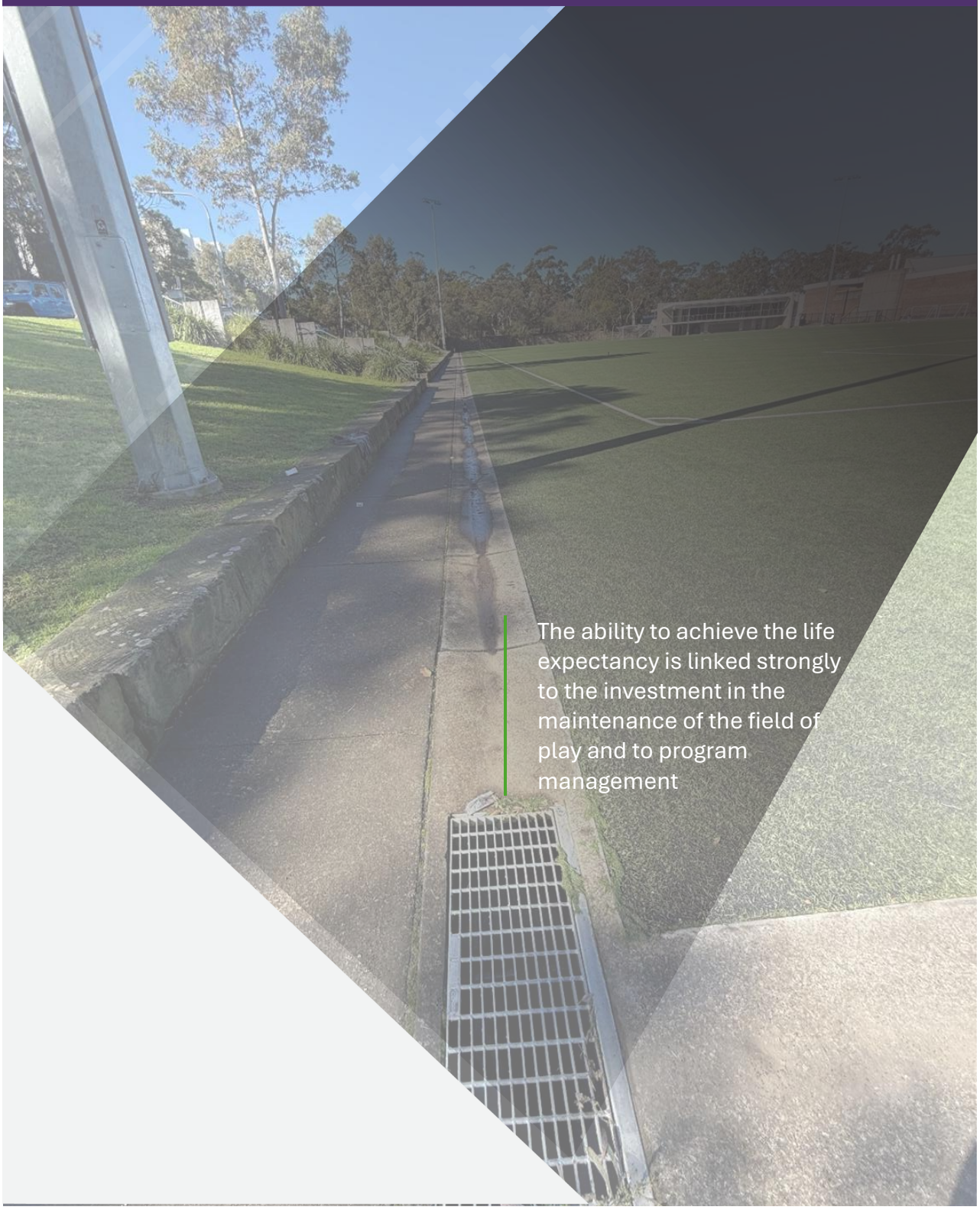
intensity of usage, providing a more consistent performance surface.

We would recommend the following methodology be considered

Report Inclusion	Methodology
1. Site Assessment An assessment of existing site conditions and suitability of existing infrastructure for replacement with synthetic surface and inclusion of engineering or other measures to reduce/eliminate negative environmental and amenity impacts. Identify specific gaps in the current synthetic system compared to issues raised in 10 and 11 above.	**Visit site** Explore the design, review the As Built Drawings and provide a high-level overview of the opportunities to improve the design to meet the contemporary design and needs of a typically modern field. Review the current design against global good practice, and the NSW Guidelines / Chief Scientist Guide – with recommendations.
2. Future Proofing the Site Identify for Councils consideration, recommendations that are needed for future proofing the site with contemporary design, procurement and management including: • Surface recommendation to include no rubber infill. • Maintenance specification recommendations to increase the probability of achieving the expected life of any future facility. • High level cost of construction for the replacement of the current surface (including recycling) • High level indication of maintenanc e costs High level life cycle cost (Whole of Life Costs – and per hour of usage)	Development of high-level specification principles that should be considered for the future. These will identify how each aspect of a next generation surface that would meet the needs of a more Sustainable outcome for the community, including: • Planet (Environmental) sustainability – to meet the requirements and perceptions of environmental concerns. • People (Community) sustainability – exploring the current needs (people and hours) • Prosperity (Economic) Sustainability – exploring the whole of life costs for the field (over 30 years) and the cost per hour of usage. • Performance (Fit for purpose) Production of a Report that explores all of the above in a manner that
3. Impact of Change To explore the potential impact of a change from the current surface to either natural turf or hybrid turf, including: • An assessment of the level and intensity of use that the field could sustain (hours and attendees/week or year) • A comparison of the level and intensity of use versus existing level and intensity of use **3.** Any considerations or comments regarding flow on effect to other facilities should existing hours booked not be able to be achieve	Within the Report, have a chapter that can explore and clearly identify and where possible model, the impact of the field was to be changed to Scenario 1: Natural turf field at the highest level to accommodate high intensity of use Scenario 2: Hybrid reinforced natural turf field that will accommodate a further 5- 10 hours per week Explore possible flow on effects to other fields in area and or to the current users – including the schools
4. Impact of Deign Improvements to Meet Best Practice • The changes in synthetic surface manufacturing, field design and management to reduce the perceived or actual impact on the environmental footprint • How the "new generation" of design, installation and management of synthetic surfaces can address any negative aspects identified within the Chief Scientist and Engineers or the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Guidelines	Chapter in report (And Appendix) that identifies all the aspects that the NSW Chief Scientist and the Dept. PHI has identified as good practice for synthetic fields. Assessment of the current field against these components and then the alignment of the proposed specification changes and how they would create a better impact for Council against these components etc.

Table 1: Methodology

SECTION 2: FINDINGS



The ability to achieve the life expectancy is linked strongly to the investment in the maintenance of the field of play and to program management

2 FINDINGS

2.1 Site Assessment

A site assessment was conducted by Martin Sheppard, Managing Director, Smart Connection Consultancy, on Tuesday, the 5th of August, where the weather was fine and dry, after a week of heavy rain. Although there was still water weeping from the rocks by the pavilion, the field was in a very satisfactory condition to play sport.

The assessment explored what condition the site was in and if Council was to upgrade the surface and future proof it, what would be needed. A QA project plan was conducted, which identified key aspects that should be considered if the surface was upgraded, and they can be explored through a Multiple Bottom Line as detailed below.



Photo: 1. Seeping from the rocks with the remnants of the heavy rais will need to be addressed in any future design



Photo: 2 Open grills allow microplastics and other rubbish access to the storm water system

2.1.1. Planet (environmental) sustainability considerations

When the field was originally commissioned it's unlikely that the environmental considerations were so important. The contemporary aspects that should be considered now include:

- Under surface drainage, not the current spoon drain that is around the field should be considered.
- No rubber/plastic infill - with organic infill being used, or consideration to “4G” fields that have very little infill.



Photo: 3: Three examples of organic infill from one of the Australian companies

- Extra durability for the yarn, with stricter U.V. degradation standards over and above FIFA requirements, to cope with significant use.
- Tensile Strength improvements of yarn to reduce breaking of young.
- Containment strategy for infill and any microplastics within the site.
- Use of recycled rubber for the shock pad.
- Increase of shade through use of additional tree canopy around the site.

2.1.2. People (community) sustainability

- The extensive used by school and community (70+ hours) indicates that a very durable synthetic field will need to be specified over under both the normal standard synthetic system, 42 hours per week, to achieve what's needed.
- The single field is traditionally marked out currently but could be enhanced with half and quarter field markings, and in the warm-up area, ‘boxes’ could be painted on to allow school games and technical drills for football.

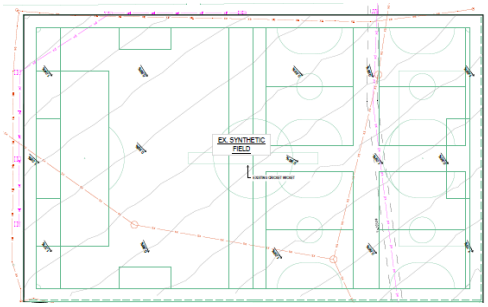


Figure 1: example of a football field with a half field and 5-aside field areas

- As the standard usage of a FIFA would be 40 hours per week, and an expected two teams of players (suggest 25), but with the additional durability standards proposed, it should be able

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to cope with over 40 players per hour. This increases the usage hours from 2,080 annually to 3,120, and player hours from 52,000 to 124,800 people hours per annum. By comparison, natural grass would also accommodate 25 players per hour, but for an expected 40-week year of 30 hours, equates to 30,000 people hours/annual. Synthetics providing an additional 94,800 player hours annually

2.1.3. Prosperity (economic) sustainability

- The cost to replace the current setup is detailed in Section 3 of this report, is estimated to be $1.334m .
- By exploring the Whole of Life costs over the next 30 years, which is the expected life of the pavement base, the shockpad (25 year warranty) and two further replacement the total capital cost would expect to be $3.354m (including this one)
- By including the annual maintenance costs over the next 30 years the cost for maintenance could be $1.383(average of $46k annually- inc CPI calculations)
- Assuming a 70 hour a week usage over 50 weeks the Whole of Life costs equates to an hourly rate of $50.40 and purely a Replacement and Maintenance amortised cost would be $34.65. (Appendix 4 has the details – incl CPI annual rises).

2.1.4. Performance (Fit for Purpose) surface

For the surface to both be fit for purpose for extensive school usage, sport needs for community sport, environmental good management and to achieve value for the future design. The following performance suggestions are made:

- Consider a “4G” field that can achieve the FIFA Quality mark and has a 12-year warranty (2 companies provide this in Australia currently).



Photo: 4. 4G Football turf, side on picture, which can be plaid with no infill (not certified) or with some small amount of infill - sand and olive pips and has certification, and a 12-year warranty

- Request additional durability standards around porosity, intensity of use, UV degradation, dual-use yarn and ‘non-floating’ organic infill.
- Ensure certification is achieved once procured to ensure that the surface performs to the required levels (Fit for Purpose).
- The warranties need to address the usage (70+ hours a week) for the surface and shockpad.
- Ensure resources are allocated to maintenance tasks and an annual renovation to increase the probability of meeting its life expectancy.

2.2 Design Review

When reviewing the current design against the components of the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) with good practices from global learnings the following key aspects are summarised from the Assessment Report (Appendix 2).

2.2.1 Planning stage

- There is no known natural grass solution to be able to cater for 70+ hours a week usage. Indeed, the intensity of usage purely by the school (both hours per week and participants) could not be accommodated by natural grass without a reduction in accessibility.
  The new apartments being built within 500m of the oval will mean increased facility usage further.
- Sport-specific needs from the Football Association warrant a synthetic field (30+ hours a week), which, if it weren't there, could not be accommodated at other natural turf fields due to current capacity issues at them, according to Council staff.
- Consideration as to other solutions of natural turf or natural/hybrid turf solution still has a shortfall of more than 30+ hours.
- The current As-built drawings will be used for the upgrade process.

2.2.2 Design review

- The field standards will reflect FIFA Quality requirements, Football NSW overlays and additional standards for durability, porosity, UV degradation, environmental best practice, and any safety and health good practices within the specification.
- The field size will reflect the current design, with additional line marking for half and quarter fields, as well as drill areas/ play skill space on the warm-up space.
- Introduce a shock pad to the field, with organic infill (that is less likely to float) and explore “4G” innovation fields that can pass the field FIFA standards.

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Photo: 5. Example of shock and, 3G carpet and organic infill

- Introduce more native trees on the banks of the road and carpark side to provide greater shade and increase evaporation cooling around the field.

2.2.3 Procurement review

- The procurement process will follow Council's protocols to ensure transparency and rigour to the process, to secure a contractor who has the capability, capacity, experience and quality of offer for this specific project.
- Certification standards will be employed at each stage of the procurement, construction and handover process.

2.2.4 Management

- A maintenance and renovations specification will be utilised at the Tender phase to ensure that the life expectancy and performance can be achieved.
- Monitoring the fields success through Smart Technology and the use of KPI's is recommended.

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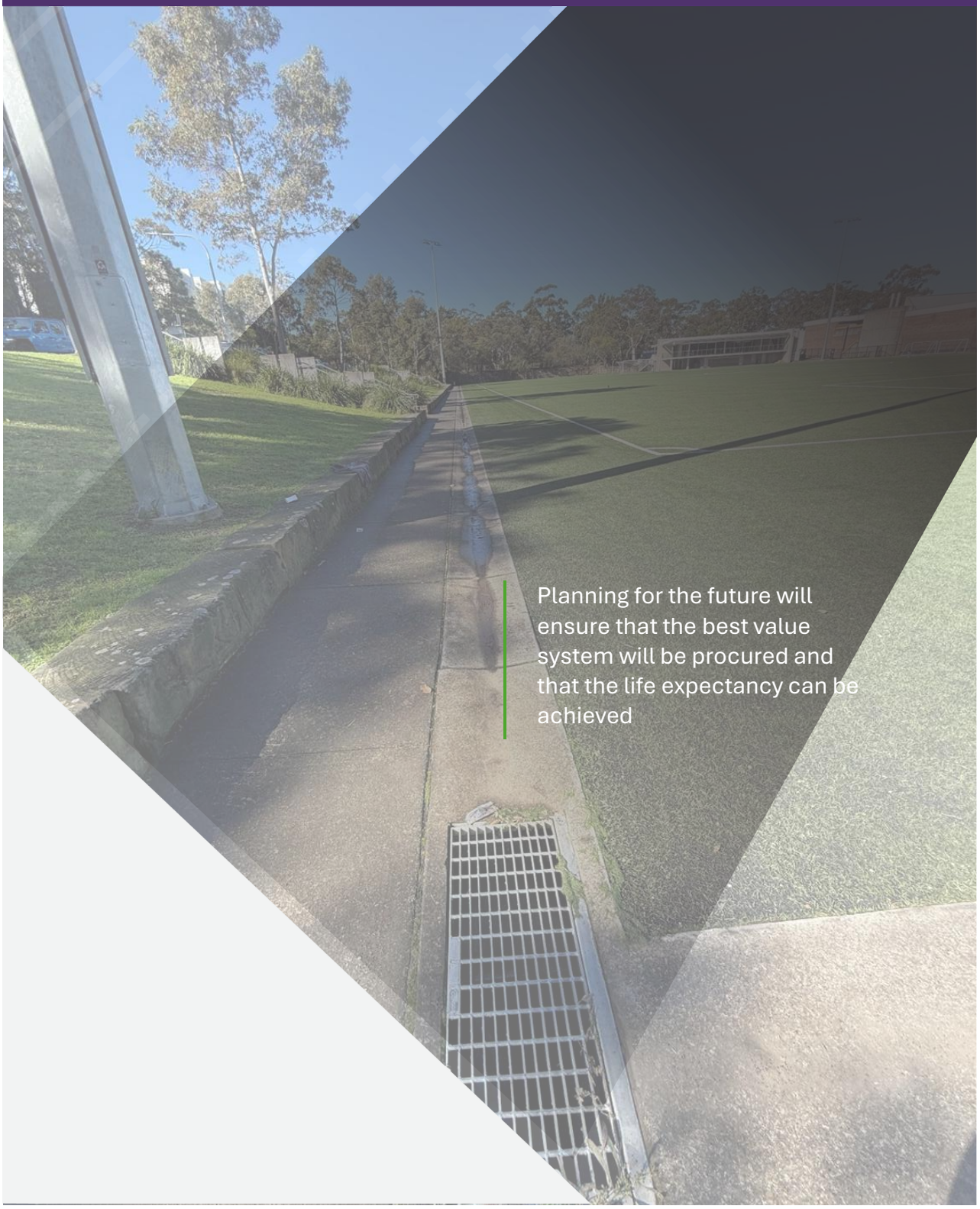
SECTION 3: FUTURE PROOFING THE SITE



Planning for the future will ensure that the best value system will be procured and that the life expectancy can be achieved

3 FUTURE PROOFING THE SITE

3.1 Introduction

The changes in the technology reflect the community's drive for additional intensity of use (more people per hour of use) together with the environmental management narrative, and with an affordability consideration.

Section 2 of this report explores improvements to the current site design and condition. This section explores a number of specific considerations against a sustainability lens.

3.2 Prosperity (Economic) Lens

Council recently rebuilt a natural turf sports field a cost of $900,000 (actual) compared to the rebuild of this field being approximately $1.4m (inc. 20% contingency) , including the recycling costs.

The maintenance costs provided by Council for a typical football field annually would be circa $20,000 compared to the expected synthetic field costs of $25,000 to $30,000.

Renovations of natural turf fields are completed at the end of each season and dependent upon the usage and impact on the turf that would result in the type and range of renovation needed. It is expected that from years 3 – 10 of a synthetic turf field that infill will be needed depending upon the solution. This could be in the range of $10,000 to $20,000 depending upon the infill and carpet type. Interestingly the 4G innovative system proposes that no top-up is needed and that maintenance would be minimal. The system in question (manufactured by Tencate and offered by Synergy Turf (NSW), Tiger Turf (VIC) and Limonta (SA), also has a 12 year warranty compared to a standard 5-8 offered for all 3G fields.

When all the costs are taken into account a comparison between a natural turf field, hybrid, and 2 levels of synthetic the financial comparisons are:

	Natural	Hybrid reinforcement	Synthetic – FIFA Quality	Synthetic - Smart
Initial Capital Cost	$900k	$900k	$1.2m	$1.4m
Maintenance Costs	$30k	$35k	$25k	$20k
Whole of Life costs (30 yrs)	$2.4m	$2.4m	$3.8m	$44m
WoL Performance of Usage	$65.30ph	$58.04ph	$59.52ph	$48.89ph

Table 2: Cost comparison

By considering the 4G field, although this would increase the cost by circa $100,000 at capital cost, the maintenance is reduced (by 50%), the top-ups are now zero and the warranty stipulates 12 years (33%) more than the 3G fields, which would bring the costs down further.

3.3 Planet (Environmental) Lens

To future-proof the field the following is encouraged, regarding environmental good practice:

i. Longer life of system, therefore reducing waste

- Additional durability standards
- Increased UV stabiliser to reduce breakage of yarns
- Use of dual yarn systems to increase durability
- Extended manufacturer warranties for key system components
- Explore innovations e.g. 4G field systems
- End of life ability to be 100% recycled or reused.

ii. Reduce environmental footprint

- Increase tree canopy around site
- Require Environmental Footprint Impact as part of procurement
- Procure 'ANZ' product only/priority
- Organic infill
- Non-oil-based polymer / recycled grass yarn use / recycled shockpad / 100% recycled end of life
- Water filtration through 'closed/ below ground' drainage strategy.

iii. Circular economy

- Recycled components in make-up of system
- 100% recyclable components or repurpose (organic)
- Extended life of system (e.g. shockpad to 25 years and grass to 12 years) to reduce waste

iv. Reduced impact on local environment

- Increased tree canopy for cooling of Urban Heat Island Impact and cooling of area with increased evaporation cooling from the Canopy
- Reduced microplastics into water waste systems through redesign of drainage to be sub-surface only.

3.4 People (Community) Lens

To encourage greater usage, with purpose, for the field the design of the field could include for each category of users:

i. School

- Provide multi-sport markings on the field of play, including half and quarter field sizes.
- Develop games areas handball boxes etc, that could be used for informal games and skills drills on the warm-up areas.

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- Lines on field painted for fitness drills etc.

ii. Football

- Provide half / quarter field markings.
- On warm-up area, goal area and penalty spot for additional space for drills.
- Drill design areas on the warm-up area.
- Provide more trees on the inclined embankment, behind the goals and on the coaches box side for shade and tree canopy.

iii. Community

- Review the drainage around the field and convert it and the current concrete path into a walkway/jogging track around the outside of the field.
- Explore easier access for people with disability and appropriate directional signage.

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SECTION 4: CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS



4 CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Conclusion

This 13 year old field is satisfying three primary groups of users:

- The school (40 hours per week on school days).
- The local Football Association (30+ hours weekly all year round).
- Local community (casual usage for exercise including. walking, recreation (kick with kids) and participation in community sport (through the local football teams and academies).

The expected usage (70+ hrs) is at the upper edge of the current synthetic technology ability to cope, and additional requirements will need to be specified to meet these intensive levels.

Even if a natural turf field was constructed with the best technological solutions for grass type, growing medium, irrigation and drainage, as well as a carefully orchestrated fertiliser application, maintenance and renovation programme, it would not be able to cope with either the hours of use (70+) and/or the number of participants per hour that a synthetic field can.

The current field was designed 13 years ago with the standard design of the day and doesn't meet the environmental expectations of today's climate, which can be retrospectively 'fitted' for the next generation of systems.

The next generation of sports surface manufacturing, design, procurement and management are already here and the opportunity to specify these innovations and now standard practices will have a significant impact on the environmental lens and also the ability of councils to meet the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure Guidelines. This would seem to be the only way that the intensity of use can be accommodated at Charles Bean.

The conclusion is that the only way that the 70 hours usage that can be accommodated on site is to retain the synthetic surface infrastructure and replace the current carpet with state of the art environmental friendly organic infill system that can be 100% recycled at the end of its life. Specific recommendations are listed below.

4.2 Recommendations

The key recommendations are highlighted for Councils consideration

4.2.1. **People** (community) recommendations

1. Retain the synthetic sports surface subsystem and replace the carpet surface with a system that can cope with the 70+ hours and the intensity of over 50 people using it per hour.
2. Enhance the markings of the field for greater usage by the community (e.g. walking path around field), school/ drills and exercise marks and the football community (half, quarter field markings and drill areas on warm up space).
3. Ensure design can cope with the intensity of usage for durability.
4. Plant more trees around the site to create shade and more evaporative cooling.
5. Ensure that the surface procured meets FIFA quality standards and more to allow a longer life than usual.

4.2.2. **Planet** (environmental) recommendations

6. The current synthetic system (carpet, rubber infill and sand) should be recycled and repurposed at Australia's only centre for synthetic services at RE4ORM in Barnawartha.
7. The design and procurement of the new systems should be made from, and where possible, recycled or repurposed materials (e.g. carpet, shockpad and infill). The synthetic surface should 100% be able to be recycled (carpet/yarn) or repurposed (infill) at the end of life.
8. The procurement should consider the new systems impact on the environment, from a logistics/ transport, manufacturing, installation, management and end of life perspective.
9. The new design should consider the specific aspects that will reduce Urban Heat Island (UHI) impact and impact on the environment and include lowering UHI impact with organic infill, increased tree canopy, heat retarding technology within the yarn carpet.
10. Lowering environmental impact – 'closed drainage' strategy, including a water filter to capture any debris from the field, expansion of tree canopy, use of LED lights. Reduction of diesel/ petrol maintenance machinery and explore innovative solutions to design synthetic systems to reduce maintenance needs.

4.2.3. **Prosperity** (economic) sustainability

Explore benefits of innovative systems that could reduce the WoL costs such as 4G certified systems that could extend life cycle expectations to 12 years.

Request innovative options that may reduce maintenance costs over the life cycle of the surface.

Ensure that key aspects of the system can be reused (e.g. shockpad) for 2-3 cycles (25+ years).

Design the specification that rewards the Contractors/ Tenderers with longer term manufacturer warranties.

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Appendix 1: QA Action Plan for Spec and Drawings

See attached document

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Appendix 2: Charles Bean Site Assessment to NSW DPHI Guidelines

Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
1. PLANNING		
Identify Sports Uses and Needs		
Provision and Capacity	Complete a demand assessment analysis, agreed with the Sports SSA, to justify the need for new facilities and/or upgrade existing ones. This should consider recreational needs, training, and competition needs	The school needs access to the field for PE Lessons, school breaks and for sport, of circa 40 hours per school week. The Football Association need circ 30 hours a week during evenings and weekends for competition. Additional housing being built will only place more stress and relevance of this in the network of sports fields for Council The site is already in place and it is estimated that if the site was to be rebuilt from its current state and removal of the sub-base, pavement and drainage strategy to allow for a sand based natural field, with irrigation and drainage, the costs would be in excess of $2.2million
	Ensure justification considers any internal or external organisations strategy, policy, or management plans	
	Community consultation at an early stage to reflect the whole community, including all (potential) users, key stakeholders, and the community who may be impacted by the development potentially from increased usage, traffic, noise, or lights.	
	There is a need to quantify current and future needs for participants and the surface type as well as identify the right site	
Sports specific needs	Certain sports have requirements for the surface types and performance criteria and most are linked to the level of play, from multi-sport to training, community, regional, state, national, and international; play requirements. Work with local SSA to identify the actual standards and type of surface needed for the field of play, not just the aspirational needs	A FIFA Quality standard is recommended with additional performance criteria for durability, porosity, UV impact, safety standards and environmental good practices.
Strategic Considerations	Consult and confirm any strategic needs and how this planning request will fit into State/Territory, Commonwealth, and local government strategies, both within this location and the neighbouring ones. Strategic decision-making will impact the viability and needs of the planned facilities and needs to be contextualised Consider the Open Space, Recreation needs, and sporting facilities strategies as well as the SSA needs studies.	Alignment with PlayWell – the Commonwealth Governments strategy to encourage more people to be active and participate in sport and recreation, through sporting clubs and at schools
Site assessment	Justification that the current site cannot accommodate the current or future demand without such technological improvements	The 70 per week needs during school time and the 30+ hours a week the rest of the year pus community usage, is critical to the surface type to ensure: **1.** Safety of the players **2.** Consistency of the surface performance **3.** Reduction in cost of maintenance and renovation of natural turf v hybrid v synthetic
	A municipal-wide geographical assessment should consider which is the best site and encourage broad community usage	According to Council all the nearby natural turf sites are at capacity currently and could not accommodate the additional load
	Number of synthetic fields of play in the area and how does the proposed one complement others and are	Council has 1.5 other synthetic fields at North Turramurra Recreation Area. This is 12.1km or a good 25m car travel, which is unlikely to

Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
	part of a network solution to address capacity issues in the area	allow the school or local community to travel to the other.
	Exploration of other options (e.g. natural surface upgrade with drainage & irrigation system improvements or use of hybrid technology)	Natural turf, if all the right circumstances were in place including drainage, irrigation, the right grass, growing medium and maintenance could accommodate 25 people playing and training for circa 30 hours. With hybrid grass reinforcement that could then be extended to 35 hours. For the intensity of use for the number of students at the school the level of maintenance and renovation would need to be significantly increased.
	Exploration of flooding, bushfire, environmentally or residentially sensitive areas) prior to the agreement of the site	None identified
Planning - Civil Engineering Considerations and Site Design		
The whole of Site design	Exploration of a whole of parkland masterplan should be considered to ensure that any field of play design is aligned with the strategic needs of the site. Impact of the field of play for the whole site - including tree canopy, fauna, flora, water harvesting, parking, lights, etc)	The field is already in place – and ahs been for the past 13 years
	Placement of field of play – to minimise the impact of the field on other environmentally or community-sensitive areas (e.g. waterways, bushfires, etc)	There is opportunity to improve the environmental management of the field include, subsurface drainage plan, increase the number of native trees on the site, and address the current microplastic migration
	Climate change impact - has the design embraced the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Climate Positive Design(Vol 1-3) Guidance	Increased trees for shade Adoption of an organic infill strategy and ensure that the FIFA Heat test results are 1-2
	Tree planting – to reduce climate challenges and carbon sink and possible impacts to Urban Heat Island (UHI) impacts.	There is ample space for more trees to be planted on the street side embankments
	Active, Passive recreation impact – will the new facility have a significant impact on passive recreation in the area? Will it significantly impact the hours of play in a manner that will impact the local community	With the additional housing being created currently this will be their “home field” to play and actively recreate on
	Accessibility – Consider whether the new facility will impact people using the site, accessing the site and whether will it be perceived as being safe and accessible by all	Has been in place for over 13 years and only the conversion of the site back to natural grass would impact significantly the ability for the school, the Football Association and the community to recreate and participate in community sport.
Planning approval process	New facilities, where a Development Application, is required will need to adhere to the new Territory Plan, which includes a range of statutory documents and additional reference documents (e.g. District and Zone policies, Technical Specifications, Design Guides, District Strategies	NA
Preliminary Site	The project needs to conduct at least the following:	Already in place – no other engineering works needed

Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
engineering solutions	Site geotech report - to ascertain the ability of the site to accommodate the pavement base, and in what form to ensure that it can be built for a minimum of 20 years	
	Site environment assessment – to consider all soil health issues	NA
	Flood report – that may impact the site longevity and ability to construct as flooding needs strategic engineering solutions for certain types of flooding	NA
	Site survey – to be able to design and build the site to its optimal performance	NA
	Tree management report – in relation to any trees impacting the field of play and also how the tree canopy can be expanded with the careful planting of additional trees, for shade, reduce surface heat, and offset any UHI impact. Need to consider new legislation - Urban Forest Act 2023	NA – additional tree planting strategy should be considered
	Review of the whole of site access – to ascertain pedestrian and vehicle travel around the site from the development and during the development, reducing the impact on the community.	Works well currently
	Site overlays – has the site any overlays such as heritage importance, restrictive zoning, previous landfill, existing easements etc	NA
Pavement base	20-year minimum design and preference is for 30 years to ensure that the investment can make a difference to generations of children and sports players Geotech site assessment is needed to ascertain the ability of the site to accommodate the pavement base, and in what form to ensure that is can be built for a minimum of 20 and preferably 30 years	Design parameters are shown on the ASBuilts from McMahons Civil engineers and from the site assessment there are no “soft spots” and the pavement may need to minor rectification at replacement time as expected.
Drainage strategy	Drainage strategy – to address a 1 in 20-year ARI event of approx 20 mins is allowed for and preferably 1 in 50-year ARI. It is important that the drainage can disperse the water after heavy rainfall and for the sport to resume within an acceptable period.	There has been no issues raised that Council are aware of re drainage. It is recommended that the drains are flushed and checked with a camera to ensure that there will not be any other unforeseen challenges during the next carpet life
	Water harvesting – where affordable should be considered to provide a benefit back to the whole parkland	NA
2. DESIGN		
Field of Play Standards		
Sports Performance standards	The fields of play should be designed according to the International Federation standards for community sport, namely: • Football - FIFA Quality mark • Rugby Union – World Rugby, Regulation 22 • Rugby League – NRL, Community Standard	Designed currently for football and used for PE games as well. Suggest the field is remarked for school needs in the “warm up area” and that half and quarter fields are marked on the proposed new surface.

Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
	• Australian Rules – AFL/CA Community Standard The International Federation surface standards are the starting point and additional performance standards are needed for Australia due to our intensity of use, the environmental conditions, and the community's concern about health and safety	
Field sizes	Ensure that the field size is linked to the level of play that is going to be held on the field, as the difference for an aspirational-sized field may add a further 25% to the costs.	The field size will remain as it is currently
Line marking	The line marking should meet the appropriate sports standards (e.g. state, national sports organisation, and that of the International Federation) depending upon the jurisdiction.	Suggest the field is remarked for school needs in the “warm up area” and that half and quarter fields are marked on the proposed new surface
System design – Yarn	Dual yarn of monofilament and fibrillated tape with additional durability testing (Lisport test 2012 – over 100,000 cycles) to allow it to stand up to the intensity of use in Australia Reduce ball splash and migration of infill, more durable combination and reducing the maintenance needs. Also reduces the likely migration of infill outside of the field of play The design of the Field of Play needs to be designed to achieve AS TR CEN 17519:2021 Surfaces for Sports Areas – Synthetic turf facilities – Guidance on how to minimise infill dispersion into the environment	Yes as suggested – all to be adopted
System design – infill	Organic infill options with a preference for limited floating Heat level of 1-2 on the FIFA scale as opposed to rubber was 2.5 to 3 (40% heat reduction) Environmentally positive as it removes the rubbers from the system and the possible migration from the field. It will reduce the heat impact significantly and positively impact the perceptions of the community. This will address the perceived issue with some of the community who fear the rubber may have negative health impacts – which although not proven at any level –will stop this narrative	Organic is recommended to meet these criteria
Shockpad	Every system should have a shockpad that meets the European standard (EN 15330-4 (2022) Surfaces for sports areas (Part 4) and has been tested to the Sports International Federation standard The shockpad should have a manufacturer (not supplier) warranty of a minimum of 20 years and for a minimum of 60 hours and not the normal 40 hours per week The environmental preference is for the shockpad to be constructed from recycled products	Introduce a shockpad

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Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
Environmental standards	The following SMART standards should be embraced for environmental good practice: • Infill and yarn should be tested to AS/NZS 2111.18 (1997) AS/ISO 9239-1 Flammable / melting point is acceptable • The Heat Indices (FIFA Quality manual) should be within a 1-2 score • All drainage should be under the field of play and achieve the AS Standards for Mitigation of Microplastic's • European REACH regulations, Annex. XVIII entry 50: 2021 if rubber infill used • EN71.1 Safety of Toys – part 3 Mitigation of Certain elements, table 2 – category III (Scraped off material) or US standard ASTM F3188-16 • The carpet system needs to be tested for additional durability for Australia (FIFA 2012 Quality manual – Lisport test with a minimum of 100,000 cycles and the higher the better, with some systems now offering over 300,000 cycles	All these recommendations are endorsed to be included
Climate Action good practice	Has the design embraced the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects, Climate Positive Design(Vol 1-3) Guidance	With limited free space the tree canopy is the critical aspect and utilisation of the banks for native vegetation increase
Warranty standards	The performance system should have a manufacturer (not a supplier) warranty of 8 years (min) against a minimum of 60 hours of usage per week for 50 weeks a year (3,000 hours per annum)	This is critical and will be stated in the specification
Supporting infrastructure and equipment standards		
Pathway standards	The width of the pathways should be a minimum of 1.8m and preferably 3m, linked to the expected number of spectators while still allowing 1.8m outside of the spectator's 'line'	Paths and infrastructure already in place
Equipment standards	International and SSA Sports standards need to be embraced Goal posts should be procured as aligned with the Australian standards compliance obligations, AS4866.1: Playing Field Equipment – Soccer goals Identify the standard of play that the field is primarily used for (not the aspirational level) and align the size of posts (e.g. AFL, Rugby, etc) as the post heights differ between local, district, and state-level competition	Any equipment will be specified to the AS standards Community and school usage will be specified and the additional durability needs will be reflected in the Specification
Lighting standards	The light system should be LED, and have smart technology that allows for various settings including 'warmup/down', training, and competition (Various levels) to optimize costs and performance needs The standards should be specified against the various Australian Standards and aligned with the various sports needs • AS 2560.1 Sports Lighting, Part 1: General Principles	Not as part of the project currently

Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
	• AS 2560.2 Sports Lighting Part 2: Specific Applications • AS/NZS 4282:2019 Control of obtrusive effects of outdoor lighting (general and specifically appendix C)	
Fence standards	Fencing and netting need to balance the role between safety (keeping the ball within the field of play and reducing the opportunity of interaction with spectators or passers-by) and keeping spectators out of the field of play while balls are being used AS 1725.5 – 2010 (reconfirmed 2020) Chain link fabric fencing Sports ground fencing – general requirements Higher fencing should be considered at key points around the field of play to reduce the ball entering roads, high-use pedestrian areas and to protect other buildings, etc	No fence around the site. The rear fence could have the mesh replaced to AS standards
Pedestrian and vehicle entry points	There should be adequate gates open continually for pedestrians to enter the field at key points around the field. Vehicles, including emergency vehicles, should have a quick entry point from the main road to allow quickness and ease of access All-access points should have embedded grills to stop infill being taken out on shoes or tyres	Entrance through the side of the pavilion for vehicles and disability needs
Parking and transport	Public transport should be considered for access to fields. If this is difficult then there should be adequate parking for peak times and turnover of participants etc Conversion of current facilities needs Ensure adequate parking is available Explore the ease of public transport Lighting in parking areas to ensure that there is safety of users	Limited parking on Shout Ridge and Dunstan Grove. After 13 years the users are aware of this and as the majority of usage is by the school walking through onto the filed during the day.
3. PROCURE		
Procurement Process		
Transparent procurement	A procurement program is needed to ensure transparency and rigor to secure fit for the for-purpose field of play Council procurement program should be used where possible to ensure transparent and rigorous procurement protocols are followed	Council procurement protocols will be followed
Tenderer suitability	The tenderer chosen must have experience in the construction of these standard fields and the surfaces must be certified and approved by the Sports International Federation Tenderers/suppliers of such sports surfaces must be a licensed or preferred provider of the International Federation or an Agent of such an organisation and can supply a sports system that has been tested and	Each tenderer will have to demonstrate many aspects including: • Capability – experience of uplifting a current field, the logistics of transport of the 'waste' and replacing it with a state of the art environmentally friendly synthetic system • Quality of offer – environmentally friendly synthetic system that has an organic infill,

Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
	has been certified by them to meet the IF's performance standards.	durability, porosity and UV degradation, microplastic migration reduction • Capacity – can do it on time and within budget
Procurement design strategy	The common Design and Construct (D&C) procurement strategy is fraught with dangers and although may present as a cheaper option in the short term will be more costly in the whole of life of the field. Chose either a Design Finalisation and Construct (DF&C) or a Detailed Design (DD) strategy	Suggest that a Design Finalisation strategy is embraced
Innovation strategy	Encourage innovation in the system options to demonstrate best value for the community and users A DF&C offers the best option for innovation together with an RFT option of Value Engineering	Explore and encourage innovation through the procurement process that may include the use of non-oil based polymers in the grass, non-floating organic infills, 4G systems and other options
Procurement documentation	Where possible utilise the Government's standard documentation specifically amended for this type of contract	Council procurement protocols will be followed
Certification standards	Certification to the International and Australian Sports standards once complete and ongoingly All sports fields need to be procured in a manner that ensures that the International Sports Federations' performance standards are achieved as a minimum, plus Australian-specific needs as per the Design Guide (e.g. UV radiation, water porosity, etc)	Football NSW standards / guidelines will be embraced
Construction		
Project management	Ensure sufficient time is allowed for each stage, for wet days, and a contingency is built in A detailed project plan will bring together all parties and ensure an aligned timeline that reduces the probability of overrun and additional costs	Project management around school terms and football seasons will be considered when developing the delivery strategy
Quality control	Assuring the quality is crucial throughout the project and once it has been installed.	A thorough Critical Hold and Witness Point schedule will be used, in addition to a methodology statement and project plan to be provided at the Tendering stage. In addition, specific quality systems are required as well as specific warranties for the intensity of usage
	There should be Critical Hold Dates that allow for independent assessment before the next stage continues, around project management, construction steps, and completion.	
	The field should be certified by an approved International Federation approved assessment company to ensure that the surface performs to the levels specified	Certification to FIFA Quality will be required
	There should be a default handover period, normally 12 months so if anything goes wrong then the tenderer corrects it at no cost to the sport or the purchaser	Default handover and rectification period will be specified
4. MANAGE		
Whole of Life Management		
Maintenance	Maintenance is needed for the surface and should be planned with external suppliers Maintenance of the sports grounds should be conducted in a manner to extend the life of the	A maintenance program will be built into the Specification that addresses routine maintenance, annual infill top up and any renovations as the field ages

Sports Surface Component Considerations	Benchmarked Solution and Preferences	Assessment Result for Chrles Bean Oval
	sportsground while reducing the environmental footprint.	
Annual review	Annual maintenance reports (independent) should be expected that provide the council with the confidence that the fields are being managed adequately	
Smart technology	Consider the embracement of Smart Technology, such as Intelligent Play or similar to monitor programming, usage, maintenance needs, and security.	Council to consider the use of Intelligent Play technology to monitor usage and impact on maintenance
Replacement	The anticipated replacement date should be calculated annually to ensure that the field can achieve its life expectancy, which will be determined by the type and intensity of usage with the maintenance program to reduce the impact of the usage. From the annual review consider when the field of play needs to be replaced and ensure that there is a sinking fund in place to be able to afford its replacement	The specification will ensure that the future synthetic system will be able to be 100% recycled and or re-used It is recommended that the current field be recycled as part of the change over of synthetic carpet etc
Measure impact	To create a community impact focused on growing participation can be created by additional hours for children and adults to have access to more sports fields. Measuring this impact will quantify the effects that technology can have on actual participation Identify key measures to justify the impact that the new sports facility is having on the community by collecting the data that should include: • Club members – annual before and after • Usage – the number of hours per week/year • Usage – the number of players (adults/Children) • Hours of maintenance/hours of use ratio • Cost of maintenance per annum • Hectares of synthetic v natural turf fields in the municipality • Amount of water used before and after installation	These KPI's are suggested for Council to consider adopting and monitoring to demonstrate the impact that the field is making on the school students, the football association and the broader community

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Appendix 3: Estimated Replacement and Site Enhancement costs

Table 11: Initial Capital Cost of Synthetic Surface Installation			
1. Type of synthetic field of play (sports name)			Charles Bean Football Field
2. Size of area of field			9,210
3. Field Planning and Procurement Costs	Variable costs (per m^2 / lin. Metre)	Fixed costs	Total cost of field
Detailed site survey		$0.00	$0.00
Geotechnical investigation		$0.00	$0.00
Technical Specification and Design Package		$35,000.00	$35,000.00
Procurement		$8,000.00	$8,000.00
Project Management		$0.00	$0.00
Approvals i.e. Development Approval		$0.00	$0.00
Field Planning and Procurement Costs Sub-total			$43,000.00
4. Synthetic Field Direct Costs			
Site establishment, documentation & project management		$100,000.00	$100,000.00
Disposal of spoil	$75.00		$75,000.00
Sub grade works	$0.00		$0.00
Drainage, gutters and concrete works		$0.00	$0.00
Base pavement (e.g. road base)	$0.00		$0.00
Additional costs to offset site challenges (see Part 2 Section 6)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Synthetic sports surface and infill	$85.00		$782,850.00
Shock pad installation	$30.00		$276,300.00
Other - drainage upgrade and additioanl trees		$100,000.00	$100,000.00
Pitch Sub-total			$1,334,150.00
5. Synthetic Field Indirect Costs			
Field fencing / gates	$0.00		$0.00
Field lighting		$0.00	$0.00
Player benches / shelter		$0.00	$0.00
Equipment (i.e. shoe cleaning)		$0.00	$0.00
Retractable Netting	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Spectator Seating	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Pathways	$0.00		$0.00
Goals		$4,000.00	$8,000.00
Maintenance machinery		$0.00	$0.00
Marketing and Communications		$0.00	$0.00
Other (e.g. drinking water etc.)	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00
Ancillary costs Sub-total			$8,000.00
Investement without Contingency (Pitch + Ancillary costs)			$1,342,150.00
Contingency Allowance	15.0%		$207,772.50
PM Costs	5.0%		$69,257.50
Total investment			$1,662,180.00

Table 12: Annual Maintenance Costs			
Maintenance costs compared to usage expectations			
Component	Aus. $ cost		
Field of Play Maintenance Costs	under 40 hours	40 - 60 hours	Over 60 hours
Routine grooming	$13,000	$15,000	$17,000
Professional service grooming	$9,000	$9,000	$9,000
Algaecide / Herbicide application	$3,000	$3,000	$3,000
Visual inspection	$2,000	$2,000	$2,000
Field performance testing	$0	$0	$0
Other (please list)	$0	$0	$3,000
Pitch Sub-total	$27,000	$29,000	$34,000

Table 15: Average hourly cost need to meet WOL costs based on hours used per week (for 50 wks. p.a.)			
ical example scenarios to consider offsetting the WOL costs	10yrs	20yrs	30 yrs
Scenario 1: 20 hours a week - Stadium Use (5 hours per weekend day use and 2 hours per week day night training)	$203.22	$181.98	$180.75
Scenario 2: 30 hours a week - Club Use for weekend matches (5 hours a day) and 4 hours training per week night	$135.48	$121.32	$120.50
nario 3: 40 hours a week - Heavy club use and limited school programmed time	$102.61	$92.02	$91.73
nario 4: 50 hours a week - Heavy Club Usage with development program and limited school use	$82.09	$73.62	$73.39
nario 5: 60 hours a week - Programmed Facility with external clubs but no commercial soccer	$68.41	$61.35	$61.15
Scenario 6: 70 hours a week - Comprehensively Programmed Facility with external clubs; Commercial Soccer leagues and Coaching programs	$57.21	$51.11	$50.48

Table 16: Average hourly cost need to meet maintenance & replacement costs based on hours used per week (for 50 wks. p.a)			
ical example scenarios to consider offsetting the maintain and replacement costs	10yrs	20yrs	30 yrs
Scenario 1: 20 hours a week - Stadium Use (5 hours per weekend day use and 2 hours per week day night training)	$37.00	$98.87	$125.34
Scenario 2: 30 hours a week - Club Use for weekend matches (5 hours a day) and 4 hours training per week night	$24.67	$65.91	$83.56
nario 3: 40 hours a week - Heavy club use and limited school programmed time	$19.50	$50.47	$64.03
nario 4: 50 hours a week - Heavy Club Usage with development program and limited school use	$15.60	$40.38	$51.22
nario 5: 60 hours a week - Programmed Facility with external clubs but no commercial soccer	$13.00	$33.65	$42.69
Scenario 6: 70 hours a week - Comprehensively Programmed Facility with external clubs; Commercial Soccer leagues and Coaching programs	$9.71	$27.36	$34.65

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SPORT INSPIRES A NATION

Synthetic Sports Surfaces Create the Opportunities for All Generations

smarter synthetic solutions

smart connection consultancy

Charles Bean Surface Renewal Community Forum 3 December 2025



On behalf of Council I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which we meet today. I pay my respects to their Elders, past and present.

Agenda

6:30pm – Welcome, intro and session rules – KRG Council

6:35pm – Project overview and intro to speakers – KRG Council

6:45pm – Expert presentation 1 – Dr Mick Battam

7:05pm – Expert presentation 2 – Martin Sheppard

7:25pm – Q&A

8:00pm – Close

NOTE WE ARE RECORDING THE SESSION TODAY

RULES/CONDUCT

- Only one person talks at a time - do not talk over another participant, speaker/staff member who is addressing and/or responding to a question.
- Mutual respect - everyone's opinion counts – there is no wrong or right answer
- Keep to time please

DOES EVERYONE AGREE?

Why we're here today

The current synthetic turf surface at Charles Bean Oval is nearing the end of its useful life and requires renewal. Council is seeking community feedback on how the playing surface should be renewed:

- Option 1: New synthetic turf surface
- Option 2: Convert to natural turf

About Charles Bean Oval

History

Transferred to Council in 2013 from Defence Housing Australia - built to FIFA standards as Ku-ring-gai's first synthetic turf sportsfield

Current use

- Community sporting groups (competitions and training)
- Lindfield Learning Village (playground and sports activities)
- Casual hirers for training and sports activities
- General public for passive recreation

Key fact: One of Ku-ring-gai's busiest sport spaces

What's been done so far



Expert reports commissioned - Council has engaged two industry experts to provide independent opinions on synthetic turf and natural turf playing surfaces



Background information provided - Current site usage, booked hours, and indicative cost estimates for renewal options



Community engagement - Survey and consultation period open until 5pm, Tuesday 16 December 2025

Expert presentations

1) Dr Mick Battam and Martin Sheppard will present their findings
2) Question and answer session - Opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification
3) Your feedback - Share your views through the survey or written submission

How to have your say

Submissions close: 5pm, Tuesday 16 December 2025

Online survey - complete the survey at yoursay.krg.nsw.gov.au/charles-bean-oval or complete tonight on paper

Email - Send your submission via email

Post - Ku-ring-gai Council, Locked Bag 1006, Gordon NSW 2072

Thank you

Thank you for being here

Your input is valuable in helping Council make an informed decision about the future of Charles Bean Oval

Let's hear from our experts



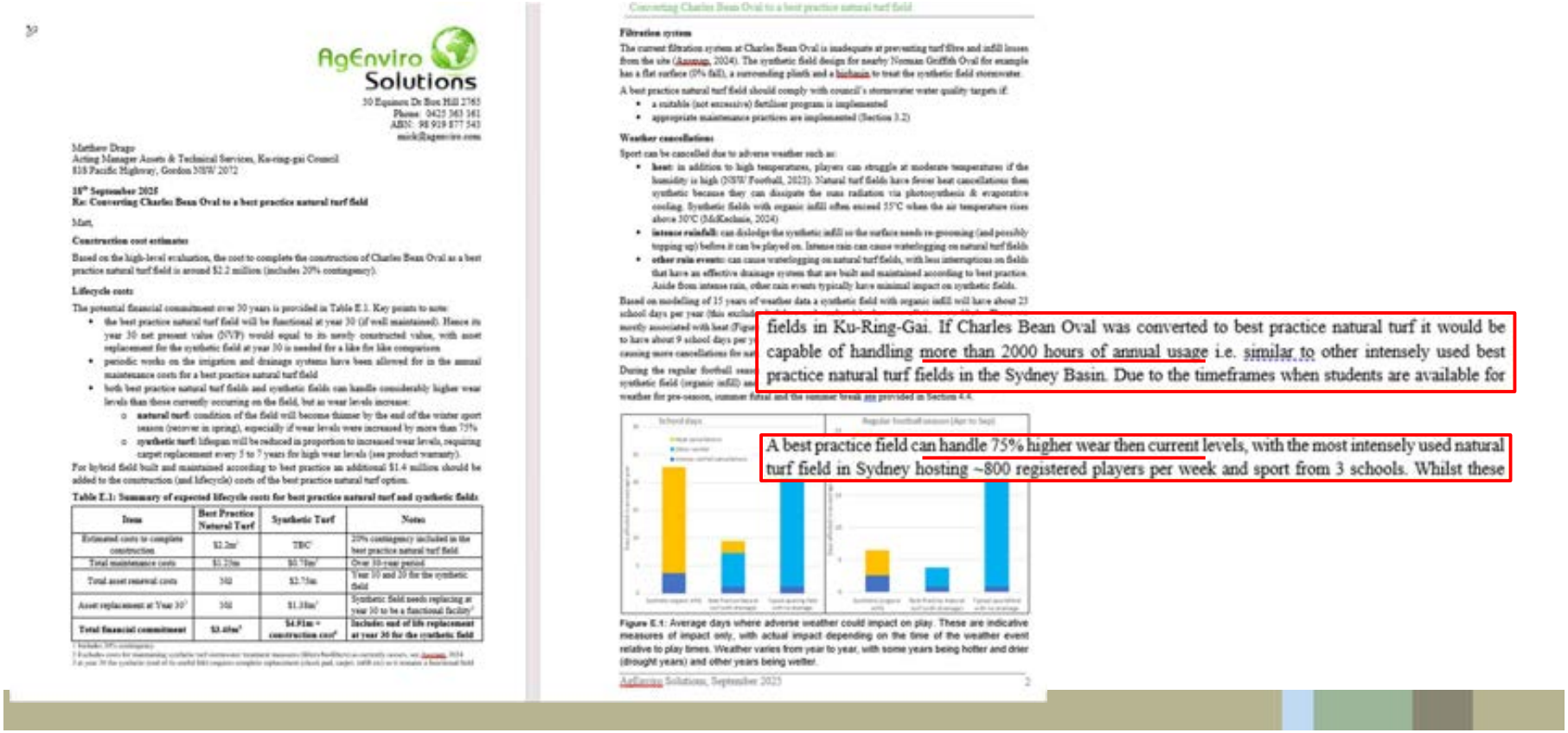
Converting Charles Bean Oval to Best Practice natural turf

Dr Mick Battam

(Certified professional soil scientist and irrigation agronomist)

AgEnviro Solutions

2025_09 AgEnviro memo on converting Charles Bean Oval to a best practice natural turf v8 (18th September 2025)



AgEnviro Solutions

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Matthew Drago
Acting Manager Assets & Technical Services, Ku-ring-gai Council
818 Pacific Highway, Gordon NSW 2072

18th September 2025
Re: Converting Charles Bean Oval to a best practice natural turf field

Matt,

Construction cost estimates

Based on the high-level evaluation, the cost to complete the construction of Charles Bean Oval as a best practice natural turf field is around $2.2 million (includes 20% contingency).

Lifecycle costs

The potential financial commitment over 30 years is provided in Table E.1. Key points to note:

- the best practice natural turf field will be functional at year 30 (if well maintained). Hence its year 30 net present value (NVP) would equal to its newly constructed value, with asset replacement for the synthetic field at year 30 is needed for a like for like comparison
- periodic works on the irrigation and drainage systems have been allowed for in the annual maintenance costs for a best practice natural turf field
- both best practice natural turf fields and synthetic fields can handle considerably higher wear levels than those currently occurring on the field, but as wear levels increase:
  - **natural turf**: condition of the field will become thinner by the end of the winter sport season (recover in spring), especially if wear levels were increased by more than 75%
  - **synthetic turf**: lifespan will be reduced in proportion to increased wear levels, requiring carpet replacement every 5 to 7 years for high wear levels (see product warranty).

For hybrid field built and maintained according to best practice an additional $1.4 million should be added to the construction (and lifecycle) costs of the best practice natural turf option.

Table E.1: Summary of expected lifecycle costs for best practice natural turf and synthetic fields

Item	Best Practice Natural Turf	Synthetic Turf	Notes
Estimated costs to complete construction	$2.2m[1]	TBC[1]	20% contingency included in the best practice natural turf field
Total maintenance costs	$1.23m	$0.78m[2]	Over 30-year period
Total asset renewal costs	Nil	$2.75m	Year 10 and 20 for the synthetic field
Asset replacement at Year 30[3]	Nil	$1.38m[3]	Synthetic field needs replacing at year 30 to be a functional facility[3]
Total financial commitment	**$3.49m[3]**	**$4.91m + construction cost[4]**	**Includes end of life replacement at year 30 for the synthetic field**

1 Includes 20% contingency
2 Excludes costs for maintaining synthetic turf stormwater treatment measures (filters/biofilters) as currently unsure, see Jacques, 2024
3 At year 30 the synthetic (end of its useful life) requires complete replacement (shock pad, carpet, infill etc) as it remains a functional field

Converting Charles Bean Oval to a best practice natural turf field

Filtration system

The current filtration system at Charles Bean Oval is inadequate at preventing turf fibre and infill losses from the site (Jacques, 2024). The synthetic field design for nearby Norman Griffith Oval for example has a flat surface (0% fall), a surrounding plinth and a biobasin to treat the synthetic field stormwater.

A best practice natural turf field should comply with council's stormwater water quality targets if:

- a suitable (not excessive) fertiliser program is implemented
- appropriate maintenance practices are implemented (Section 3.2)

Weather cancellations

Sport can be cancelled due to adverse weather such as:

- **heat**: in addition to high temperatures, players can struggle at moderate temperatures if the humidity is high (NSW Football, 2023). Natural turf fields have fewer heat cancellations than synthetic because they can dissipate the suns radiation via photosynthesis & evaporative cooling. Synthetic fields with organic infill often exceed 55°C when the air temperature rises above 30°C (McKechnie, 2024)
- **intense rainfall**: can dislodge the synthetic infill so the surface needs re-grooming (and possibly topping up) before it can be played on. Intense rain can cause waterlogging on natural turf fields
- **other rain events**: can cause waterlogging on natural turf fields, with less interruptions on fields that have an effective drainage system that are built and maintained according to best practice. Aside from intense rain, other rain events typically have minimal impact on synthetic fields.

Based on modelling of 15 years of weather data a synthetic field with organic infill will have about 23 school days per year (this exclud... mostly associated with heat (Figu... to have about 9 school days per y... causing more cancellations for na...

During the regular football sea... synthetic field (organic infill) an... weather for pre-season, summer futsal and the summer break are provided in Section 4.4.

fields in Ku-Ring-Gai. If Charles Bean Oval was converted to best practice natural turf it would be capable of handling more than 2000 hours of annual usage i.e. similar to other intensely used best practice natural turf fields in the Sydney Basin. Due to the timeframes when students are available for

A best practice field can handle 75% higher wear then current levels, with the most intensely used natural turf field in Sydney hosting ~800 registered players per week and sport from 3 schools. Whilst these

Figure E.1: Average days where adverse weather could impact on play. These are indicative measures of impact only, with actual impact depending on the time of the weather event relative to play times. Weather varies from year to year, with some years being hotter and drier (drought years) and other years being wetter.

AgEnviro Solutions, September 2025 2

Topics

1) Steps to create a best practice field
2) Cancellations (soccer vs school impacts)
3) Carrying capacity vs current usage
4) Lifecycle costs

Provided advice for:

- **2000 sports fields**
- **25 Golf Courses**
- **60 Feature parks (Barangaroo, Hyde)**
- **5 Racetracks (Royal Randwick)**



Authored:

- **Hunter & Sydney Best practice guidelines**
- **Love your garden (26,000 houses)**
- **Darwin ultimate irrigation guideline**
- **Healthy home lawns factsheet**

www.agenviro.com **4 videos**





Acceptable grass cover

Minimal cancellations

Safe

1. even
2. not hard
3. grip

Safe



Charles Bean Oval (Ausmap):

- Rubber infill (recycled tyres): lead, Arsenic, zinc, PAHs

Test the infill for contaminants

- Synthetic fibres: PFOS, PFHxS (banned compounds)

All materials must adhere to IChEMS 2022 instrument

Tender requirements

Safe

4. No player exposure to contaminants

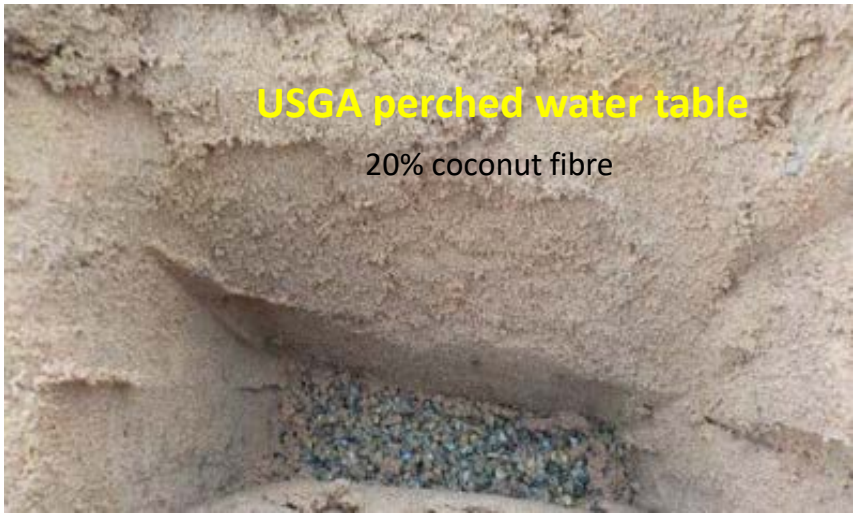
- Natural turf: Asbestos, (heavy metals)

Any imported soil must adhere to AS 4419

Topics

1) Steps to create a best practice field
    a) Suitable soil

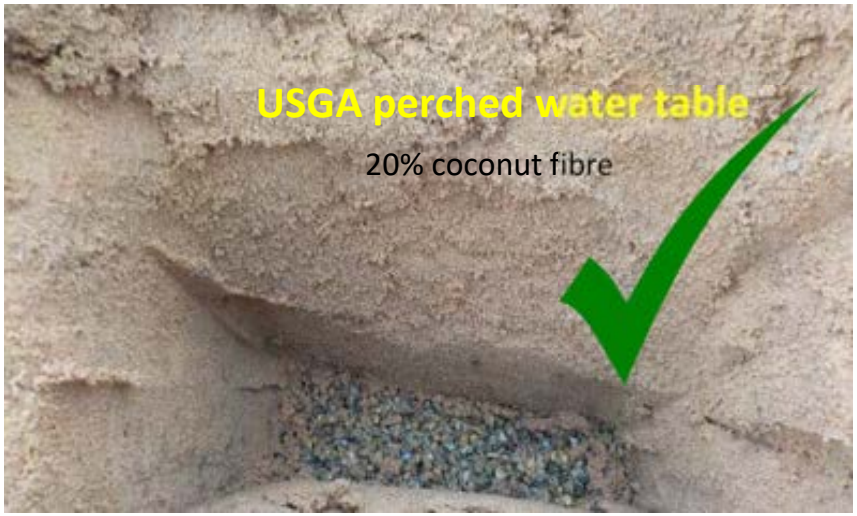



USGA perched water table
20% coconut fibre


Sand over soil (SOS)


Cannot handle >250 players per week
(cannot handle >20hours per week)


Built in 2023


USGA perched water table
20% coconut fibre

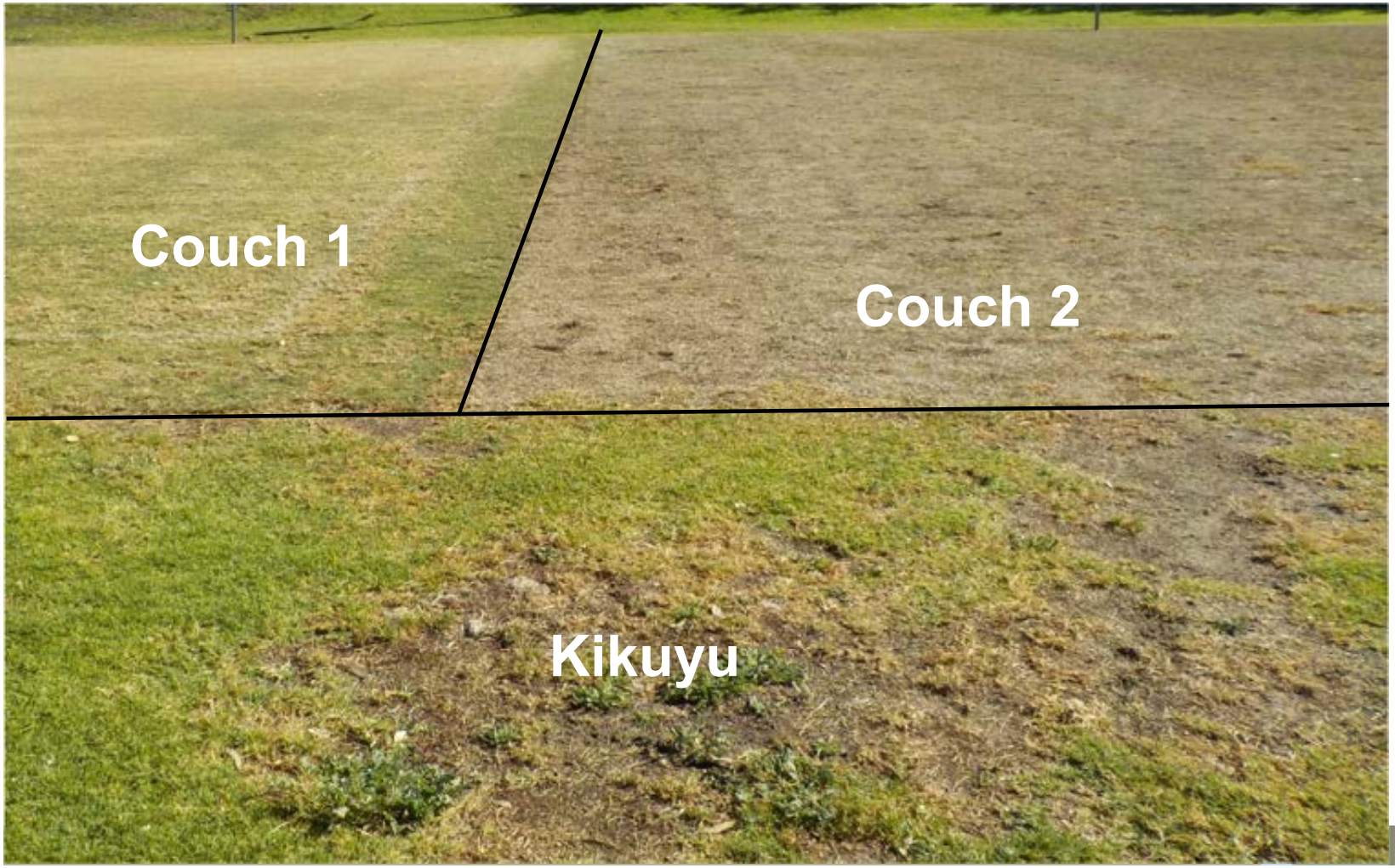

Sand over soil (SOS)

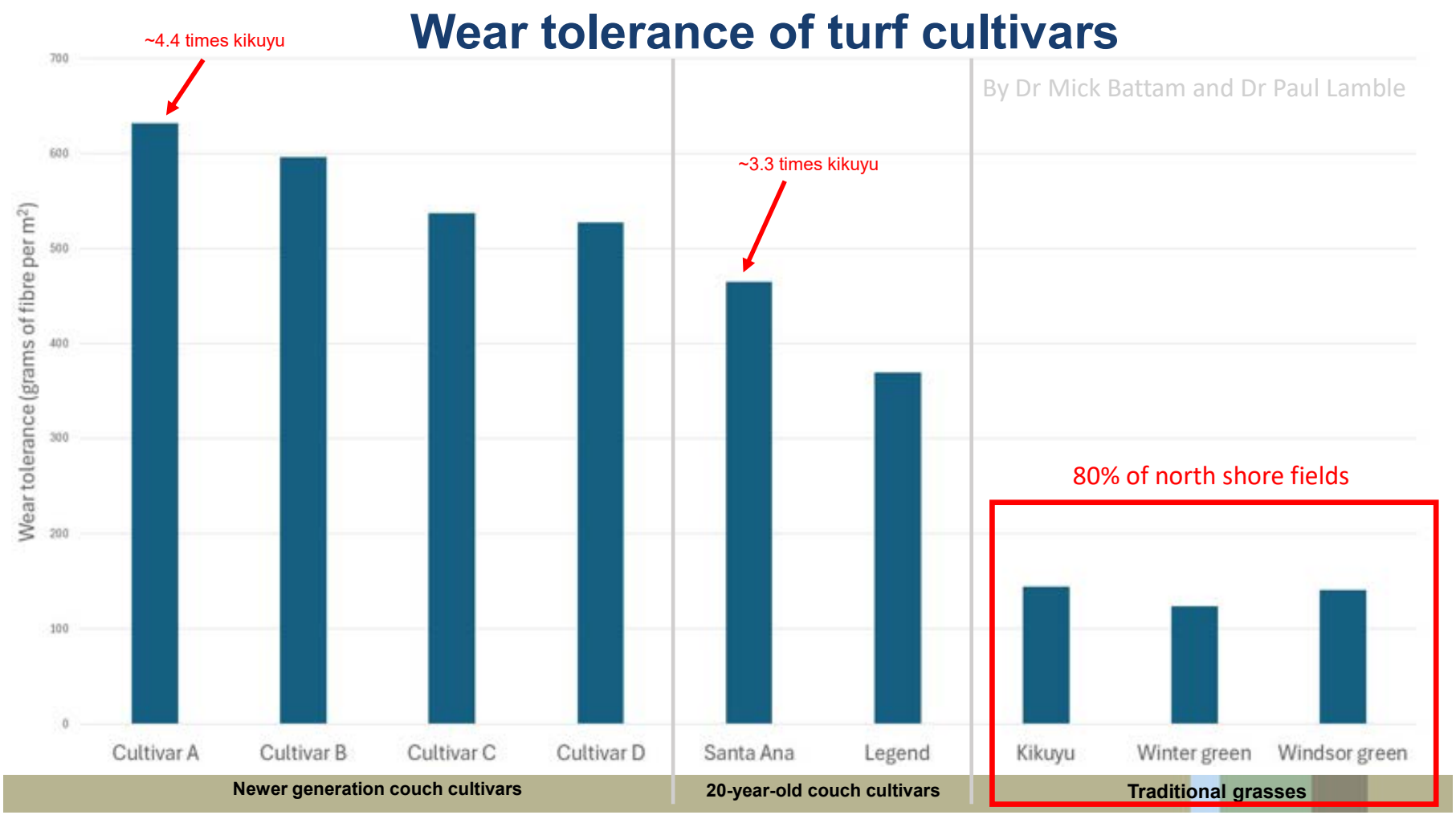

Soil (OM amended)



Topics

1) Steps to create a best practice field
    a) Suitable soil
    b) Suitable turf


Couch 1
Couch 2
Kikuyu


Wear tolerance of turf cultivars
By Dr Mick Battam and Dr Paul Lamble
~4.4 times kikuyu
~3.3 times kikuyu
Wear tolerance (grams of fibre per m²)
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Cultivar A
Cultivar B
Cultivar C
Cultivar D
Santa Ana
Legend
Kikuyu
Winter green
Windsor green
80% of north shore fields
Newer generation couch cultivars
20-year-old couch cultivars
Traditional grasses

Topics

1) Steps to create a best practice field
    a) Suitable soil
    b) Suitable turf
    c) Good drainage



Layering







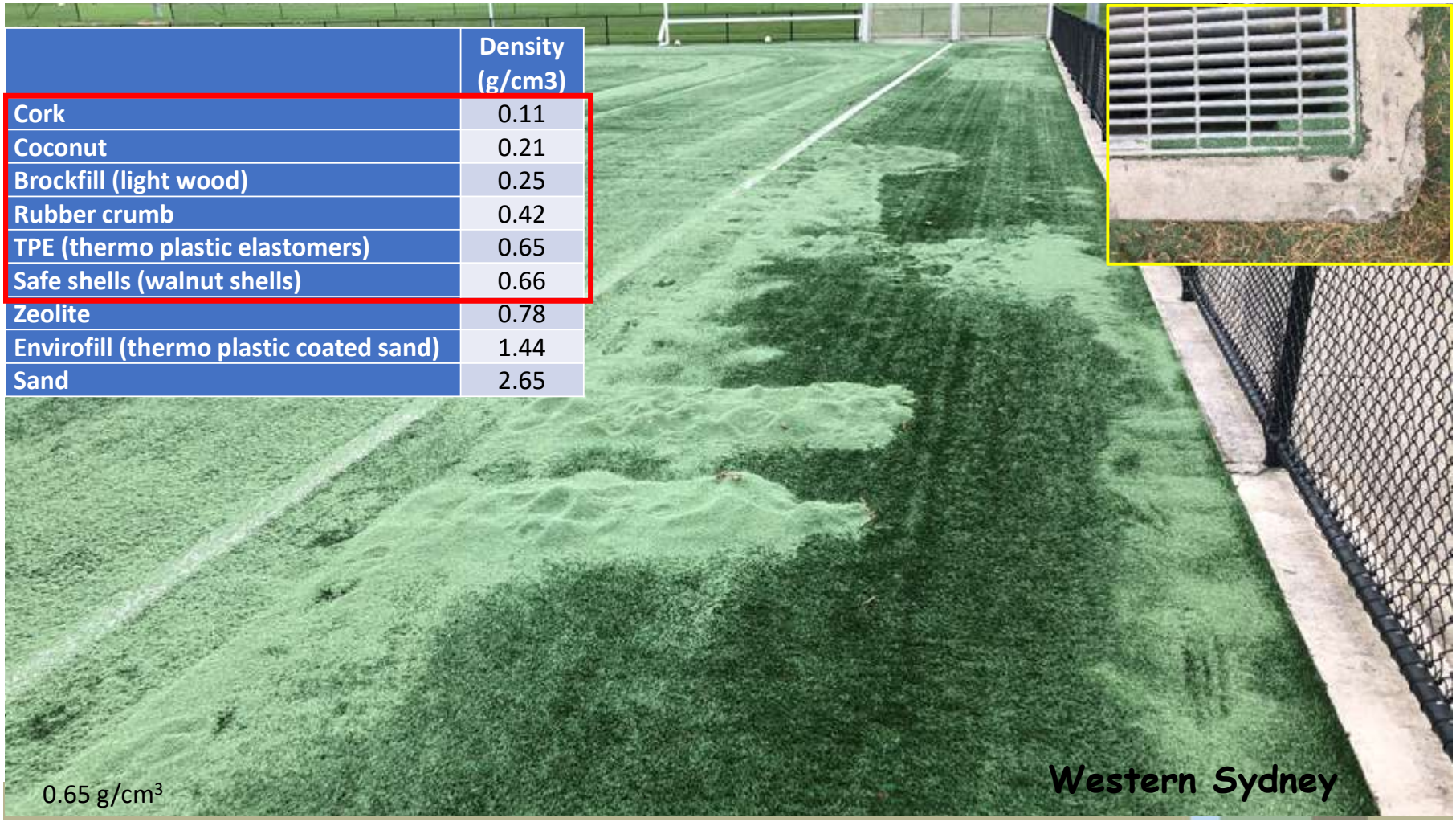
2 m spacing


https://westernweekender.com.au/2024/04/stakes-high-as-panthers-and-tigers-do-battle-in-bathurst/
OAK
OAK

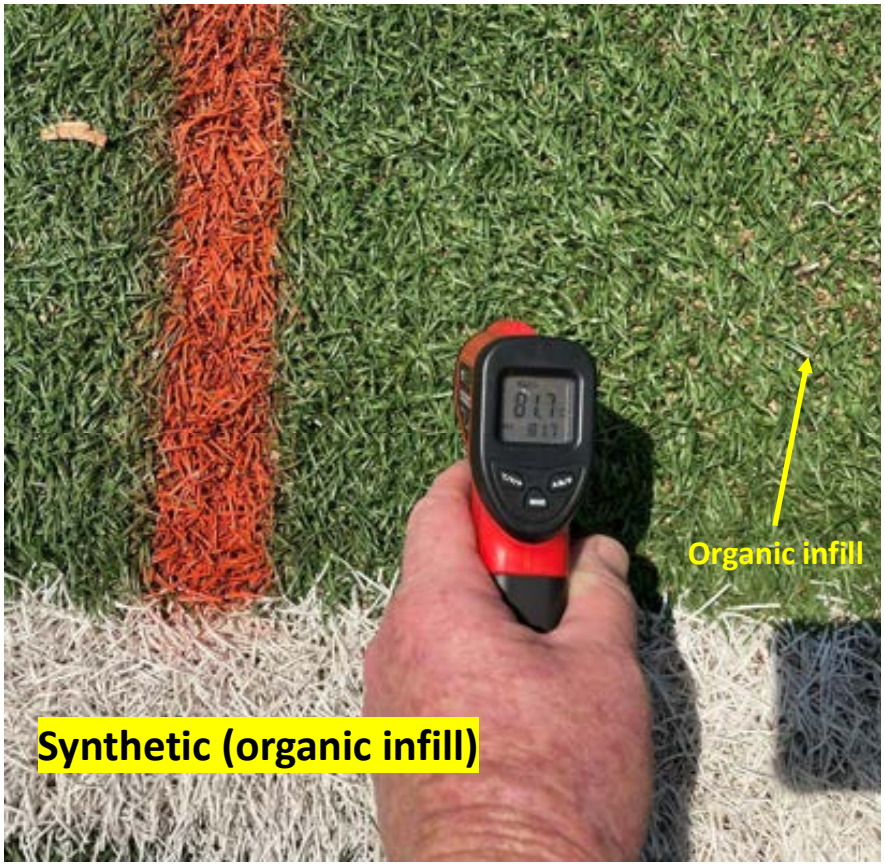
Topics

1) Steps to create a best practice field
2) Cancellations (soccer vs school impacts)



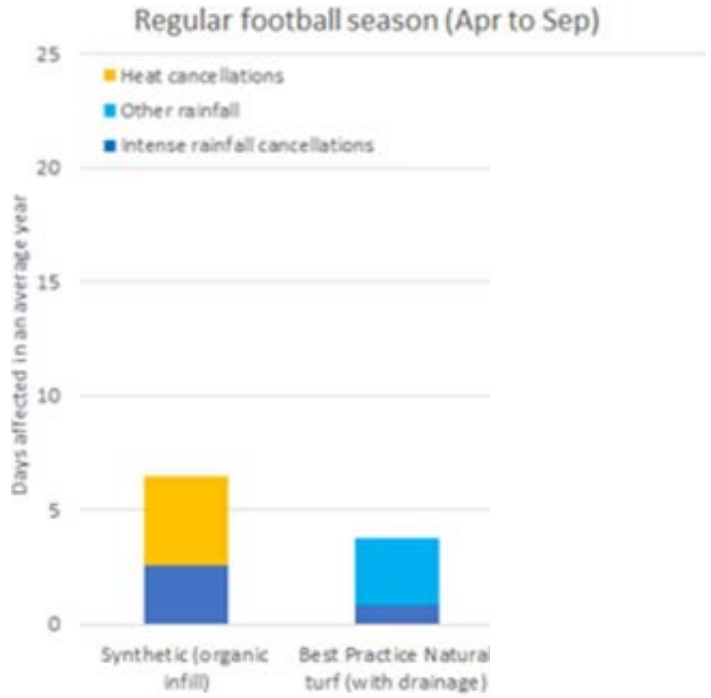

Density (g/cm3)
Cork 0.11
Coconut 0.21
Brockfill (light wood) 0.25
Rubber crumb 0.42
TPE (thermo plastic elastomers) 0.65
Safe shells (walnut shells) 0.66
Zeolite 0.78
Envirofill (thermo plastic coated sand) 1.44
Sand 2.65
0.65 g/cm³
Western Sydney

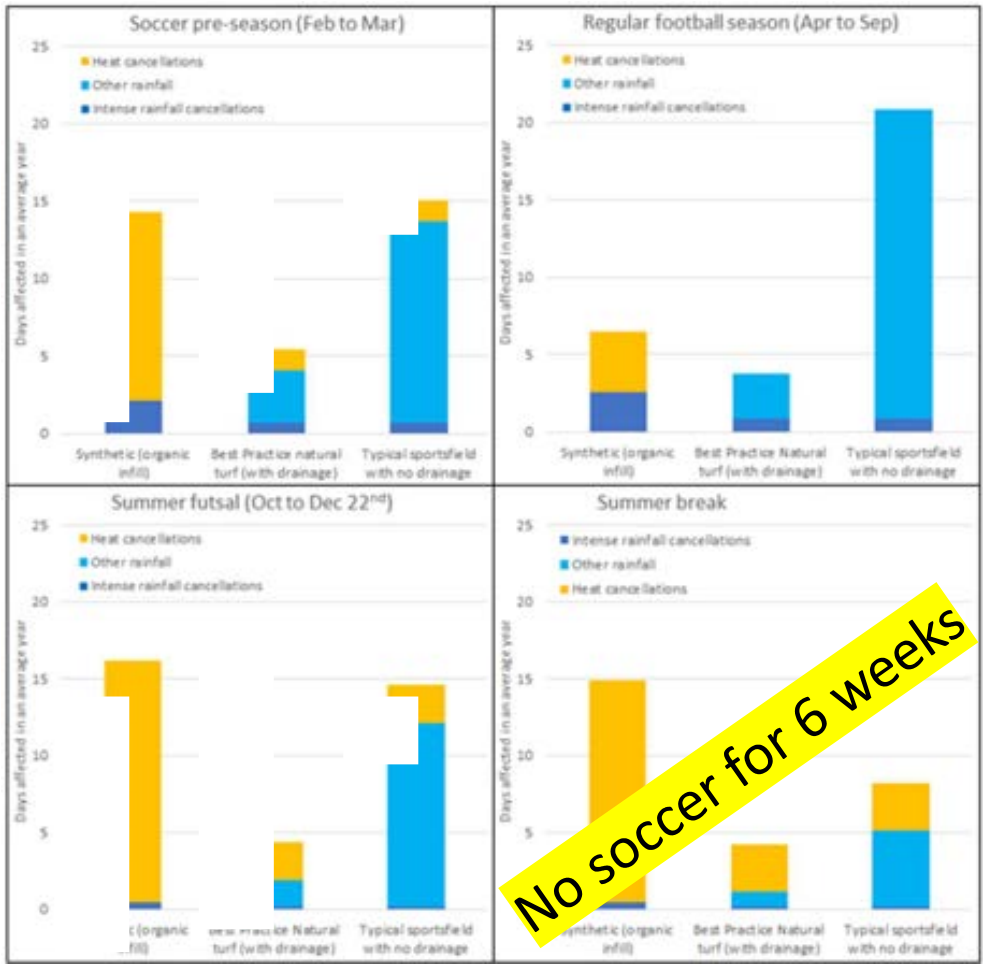




20 years of daily weather data (rain, temp, radiation, etc)

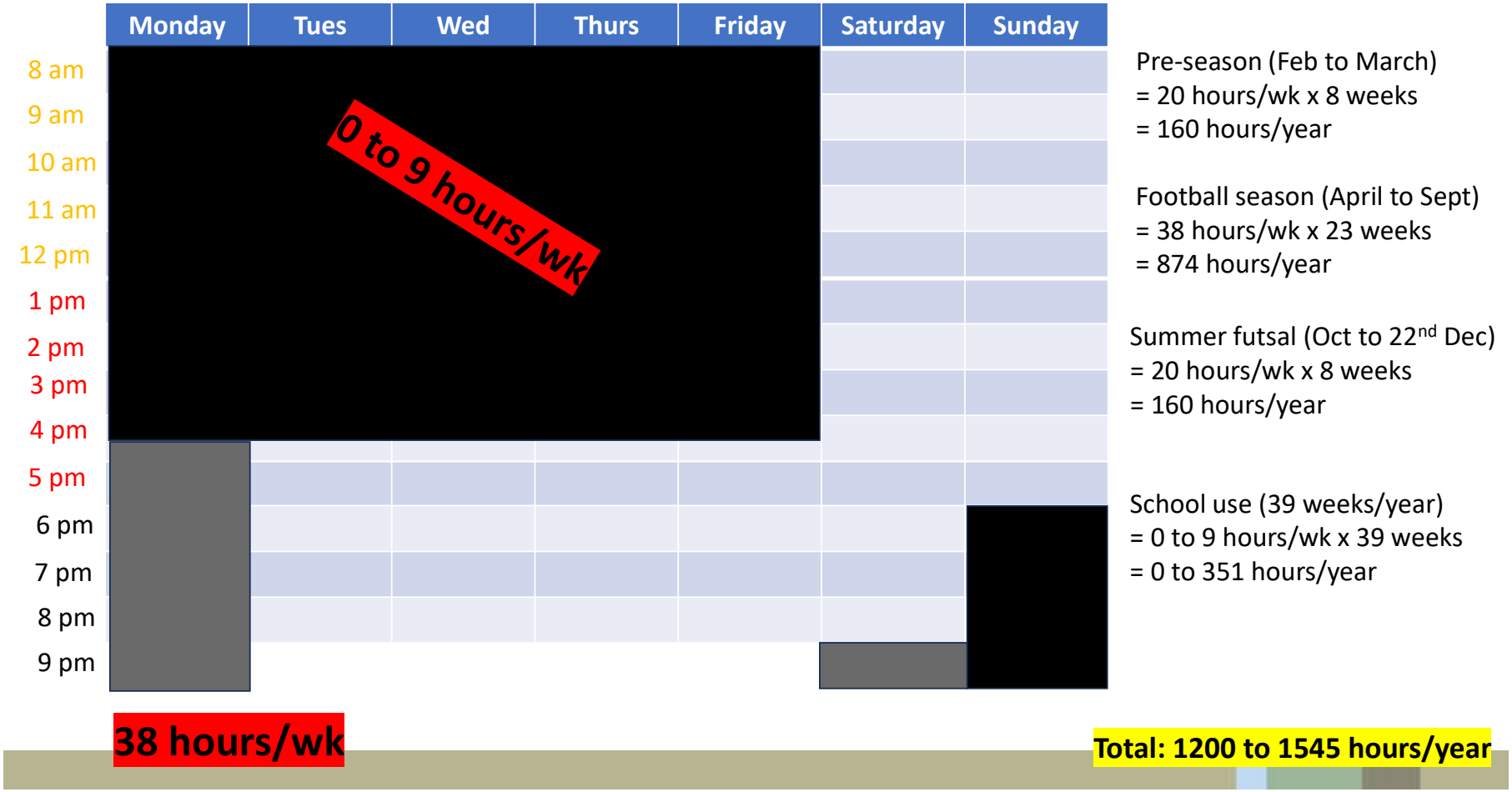
Cancellations

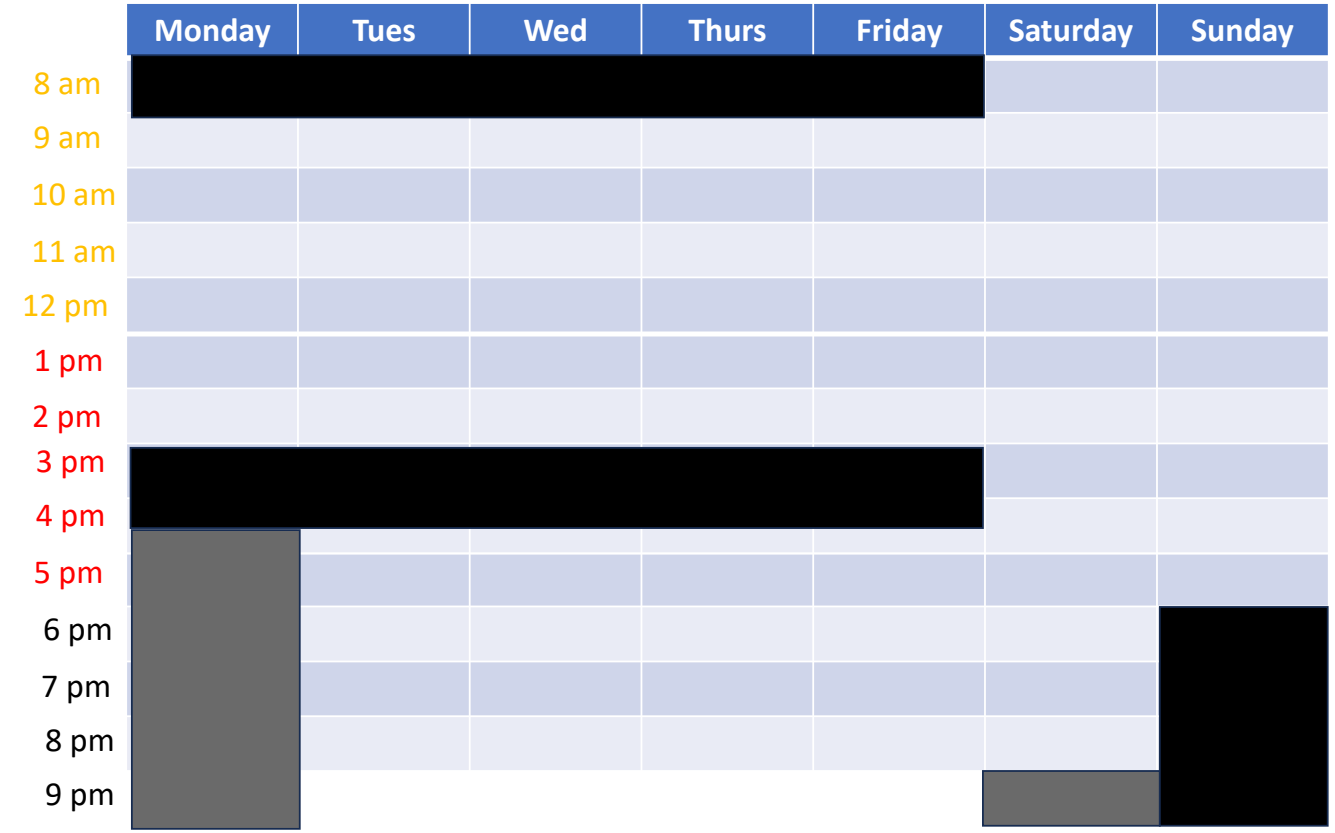



Soccer pre-season (Feb to Mar)
Heat cancellations
Other rainfall
Intense rainfall cancellations
Days affected in an average year
Synthetic (organic infill)
Best Practice natural turf (with drainage)
Typical sportsfield with no drainage
Regular football season (Apr to Sep)
Heat cancellations
Other rainfall
Intense rainfall cancellations
Days affected in an average year
Synthetic (organic infill)
Best Practice Natural turf (with drainage)
Typical sportsfield with no drainage
Summer futsal (Oct to Dec 22nd)
Heat cancellations
Other rainfall
Intense rainfall cancellations
Days affected in an average year
Best Practice Natural turf (with drainage)
Typical sportsfield with no drainage
Summer break
Intense rainfall cancellations
Other rainfall
Heat cancellations
Days affected in an average year
Best Practice Natural turf (with drainage)
Typical sportsfield with no drainage
No soccer for 6 weeks

Topics

1) Steps to create a best practice field
2) Cancellations (soccer vs school impacts)
3) Current usage vs carrying capacity


Monday
Tues
Wed
Thurs
Friday
Saturday
Sunday
8 am
9 am
10 am
11 am
12 pm
1 pm
2 pm
3 pm
4 pm
5 pm
6 pm
7 pm
8 pm
9 pm
0 to 9 hours/wk
38 hours/wk
Pre-season (Feb to March)
= 20 hours/wk x 8 weeks
= 160 hours/year
Football season (April to Sept)
= 38 hours/wk x 23 weeks
= 874 hours/year
Summer futsal (Oct to 22nd Dec)
= 20 hours/wk x 8 weeks
= 160 hours/year
School use (39 weeks/year)
= 0 to 9 hours/wk x 39 weeks
= 0 to 351 hours/year
Total: 1200 to 1545 hours/year



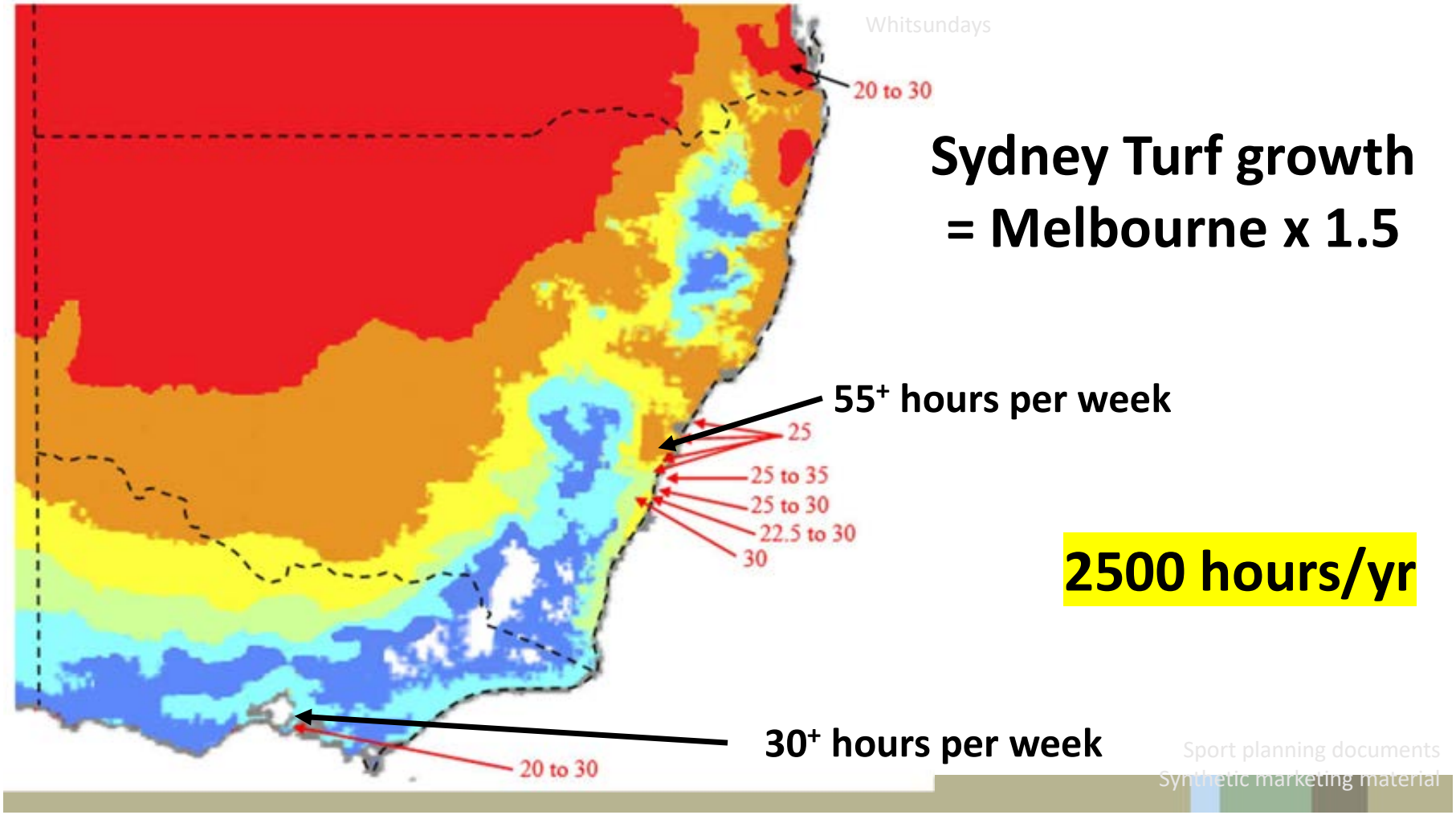
Pre-season (Feb to March)
= 20 hours/wk x 8 weeks
= 160 hours/year

Football season (April to Sept)
= 38 hours/wk x 23 weeks
= 874 hours/year

Summer futsal (Oct to 22nd Dec)
= 20 hours/wk x 8 weeks
= 160 hours/year

School use (38 weeks/year)
= 30 hours/wk x 38 weeks
= 1140 hours/year

Total: 2334 hours/year


Whitsundays
20 to 30
Sydney Turf growth
= Melbourne x 1.5
55+ hours per week
25
25 to 35
25 to 30
22.5 to 30
30
2500 hours/yr
30+ hours per week
20 to 30
Sport planning documents
Synthetic marketing material

Charles Bean (280 to 330 players per week)



Santa Ana couch










New generation couch
Santa Ana couch
www.agenviro.com

Topics

1) Steps to create a best practice field
2) Cancellations (soccer vs school impacts)
3) Usage vs carrying capacity
4) Lifecycle costs

In 2025 dollars:





Latest synthetic guide ($1.6 Million/ha)

Gardiners Park ($3.5 Million/ha): ($2.47Million for 0.7 hectares in 2021)

Norman Griffiths (>$12 Million/ha)

30-year life cycle costs

- 



Resurface

Latest synthetic guide ($1.2 Million/ha)

Moore park ($1.7 Million/hectare): ($1.5 Million for 0.9 ha in 2024)
Blackman park ($1.5 Million/hectare): ($2.5 Million for 1.7 ha in 2024)
Cromer park ($1.4 Million/hectare): ($1.25 Million for 0.9 ha in 2022)

30-year life cycle costs





- **Resurface**

$1.5 Million+



Filter baskets are inadequate

15,000 pieces of rubber in ~ 3kg

3,905 pieces of plastic in two rain events

Norman Griffith synthetic design:
- Flat field
- Plinth
- biofilter

30-year life cycle costs





Resurface Charles Bean	$2.2 Million (includes 20% contingency)	$1.5 Million+
Rebuild after 10 years	$0	$1.5 Million
Rebuild after 20 years	$0	$1.5 Million
Rebuild at 30 years	$0	$1.5 Million
Maintenance for 30 years	$1.25 Million	$0.75 Million
	$3.45 Million	**$6.75 Million**

30-year life cycle costs





Resurface Charles Bean	$2.2 + $1.4 Million (includes 20% contingency)	**$1.5 Million+**
Rebuild after 10 years	$0	**$1.5 Million**
Rebuild after 20 years	$0	**$1.5 Million**
Rebuild at 30 years	$0	**$1.5 Million**
Maintenance for 30 years	$1.25 Million	**$0.75 Million**
	$4.85 Million	**$6.75 Million**



Acknowledgements

Funded by: DCCEEW

Written by: Dr Mick Battam & Dr Paul Lamble

Contributions by:

Graeme Logan (formerly head curator ANZ stadium, Parramatta Stadium)

Peter McMaugh AM (named Sir Walter, turf breeder, built polo fields for Kerry Packer)

Dr Peter Martin (oversaw Wembley stadium rebuild, trained PhD turf science students)

67-page document

PEAK WATER CONSULTING

AgEnviro Solutions


49
hours per week
of football


14
hours per week
of football



Question session is later

Dr Mick Battam
0425 363 161
mick@agenviro.com
www.agenviro.com

AgEnviro Solutions

Charles Bean Oval Synthetic Surfaces Review

Summary for community discussion by Martin Sheppard


I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the lands on which we meet today. I pay my respects to their Elders, past, present & emerging
Adnate.com

Martin Sheppard - My Background...

CONSULTANCY

- *Managed Community Sport and Leisure Facilities* (1982-1997 – UK, CoM 1999-2002)…including all parks and sports fields
- Consultancy advice to sport, government and education on participation and facilities
- Technical Consultant – Hockey Australia, NRL, Rugby Australia, Football Australia, Football NSW, Vic, AFL Technical Group
- Chair – International Association of Sport & Leisure Facilities (IAKS) Expert Circle on Sports Surfaces

EVENTS BUSINESS

- NSC to encourage more people to move, play, recreate and participate in community sport….
- Connect stakeholders who want to encourage more people to play sport

INVESTMENT

- Tech companies to help sport manage better

PHILANTHROPY

- Donations to WSYD Moving
- Children's Cancer Charity
- Brisbane ‘32 Athlete Development Fund



Why we are here?

- Charles Bean Oval synthetic field is at the end of its life (installed 2013).
- Council must decide: replace with new synthetic turf or return to natural grass.
- We were asked to independently assess options and impacts.



Who Uses Charles Bean Oval?

- **Local school** – around 40 hours per school week for PE, sport and breaks. (36x40 = 1,400)
- **Football Association** – 30+ hours per week for training and competition. (30x50=1500)
- **Local community** – casual play, walking, recreation throughout the year.

Consider the hours and the intensity (no of people)

The Decision in Simple Terms

- **Option 1** – Retro-fit as a modern environmentally friendly synthetic football field.
- **Option 2** – Remove synthetic and rebuild as natural or hybrid grass.

- The review compared 4 options on use, cost, environment and community impact



How the Assessment Was Done

- Site inspection after heavy rain to check condition and drainage.
- Reviewed original design and “as built” drawings.
- Measured against NSW Chief Scientist & NSW DPHI synthetic turf guidelines.
- Assessed through People, Planet and Prosperity, and performance lenses.





What We Found on Site?

- Field still playable but carpet is worn and at end of life
- Some water seeping from rock face near pavilion.
- Open surface drains and grills allow litter and infill to reach stormwater.
- Design reflects 2012 standards – does not fully meet today's environmental expectations.
- The usage is exceptionally high





How Much Use Can Each Option Take?

- Natural grass (best case): about 30 hours per week, ~30,000 player hours per year. (25x30x40)
- Current synthetic field use: 70+ hours per week.
- New synthetic design: 60–80 hours per week, up to ~175,000 player hours per year. (50x50x70)
- Synthetic provides around 145,000+ extra player hours annually compared with natural grass.
- If converted back other local fields will have to also be updated to cope with the demand

Reliability and Access

- Natural grass wears out under heavy use and needs rest and renovation.
- Wet weather often closes grass fields, cancelling games and training.
- Synthetic turf is all-weather and far more reliable for schools and clubs.
- Fewer cancellations and relocations = less frustration and more participation.

Financial comparison – big picture

- Natural turf rebuild: about $0.9 million initial cost…plus taking away current top… allowed $0.7m = $1.6m
- Synthetic rebuild (new system): about $1.4 million initial cost (including recycling old surface).
- Over 30 years, considering replacement and maintenance, synthetic delivers a lower cost per hour of use.
- Estimated cost per hour: natural ~$65; synthetic “smart” system ~$49 per hour of use.

Future-proofing: Prosperity (economic)

- Design pavement and shockpad to last 30 years.
- Plan for two carpet replacements over that time.
- Specify systems that minimise maintenance and top-up costs.
- Explore innovative 4G systems with 12-year warranties and reduced maintenance.

Future-proofing: Planet (environment)

- No rubber crumb infill – move to organic infill that does not create microplastics.
- Closed, below-ground drainage with filtration to stop infill entering stormwater.
- Use recycled materials in shockpad and carpet where possible.
- Design for 100% recycling or reuse of components at end of life.
- Retrofit for environmental best practice
- Recycle current carpet and infill

Reducing Local Environmental Impacts

- Increase tree canopy around the oval to provide shade and cooling.
- Select turf systems that run cooler (heat-reducing yarns and organic infill).
- Closed drainage strategy that captures and filter runoff before it reaches drains.
- Use LED lighting and efficient maintenance equipment where possible.
- Increased durability standards
- Increased environmental standards – ingestion, heavy metals, PFAS etc

Future-proofing: People (community)

- Mark out half and quarter fields to support more junior and small-sided games.
- Create warm-up and skills areas with simple line markings and ‘boxes’.
- Provide a walking/jogging path around the field where possible.
- Improve accessibility and wayfinding for people with disability.

Safety and performance

- Field to meet FIFA Quality standards plus extra Australian durability requirements.
- Include a shockpad under the turf to improve player safety.
- Stricter standards for UV stability and yarn strength to cope with heavy use.
- Clear maintenance and renovation program to keep the field safe over its life.

If we went back to grass…

- Would need heavy investment in drainage, irrigation, and renovation every year.
- Could not sustain 70+ hours per week – some users would lose access.
- Would need 5–7 megalitres of irrigation water each year for this size field.
- More wear-and-tear, more closures, more costs spread over fewer hours of use.
- Wouldn’t cope with all year around
- Negative impact on sport of football

Key Recommendation – Surface type

- Retain Charles Bean Oval as a synthetic field with upgraded with contemporary environmental design.
- Replace the old carpet and infill with a new organic-infill system.
- Design specifically to cope with 70+ hours per week, 50b weeks a year and 50 player per hour…
- Ensure the system can be fully recycled or repurposed at end of life.

Recommendations – People (community)

- Enhance line marking for school activities, drills and small-sided games.
- Create a perimeter path for walking and jogging.
- Plant more trees around the oval for shade and comfort.
- Monitor use and participation to demonstrate community benefit over time.

Recommendations – Planet (environment)

- Recycle the existing carpet and rubber infill through a specialist Australian facility.
- Use recycled or repurposed materials in the new system where possible.
- Adopt a closed drainage and filtration strategy to protect waterways.
- Include UHI-reducing features – organic infill, tree canopy, cooler yarn technology.

Recommendations – Prosperity (economic)

- Use long-life components (pavement, shockpad) to reduce future waste and costs.
- Seek systems with extended manufacturer warranties tied to high usage.
- Budget for regular maintenance to protect the investment.
- Track cost per hour of use to demonstrate value for money over the life of the field.

What this means for the community

- A safe, reliable, all-weather field for school, clubs and casual users.
- Space for more kids, more women and girls, and more local teams to play.
- Environmentally improved design that addresses heat, microplastics and recycling.
- A long-term investment in local health, wellbeing and community connection.
- No impact on other sports fields
- A Far cheaper option over the Whole of Life

Questions

Charles Bean Oval - Community Engagement Report

Introduction

Ku-ring-gai Council has undertaken an extensive community engagement process to support the decision-making for the renewal of the Charles Bean Oval playing surface. This report outlines the outcomes of the engagement process undertaken in late 2025.

Executive Summary

The engagement process ran from 19 November to 16 December 2025 with a primary objective to ascertain community views on the future of Charles Bean playing surface. It also aimed to gather feedback regarding parking at the site and any other relevant site-related matters.

The main focus of the consultation was a survey delivered online and available on paper. This was supplemented by written submissions, a meeting with Lindfield Learning Village management, P&C representatives, and the Department of Education, as well as a community forum held at Council Chambers.

The key source of information for the project was contained on a dedicated Engagement Hub webpage. The page contained background information, Frequently Asked Questions, links to relevant websites and publications and, most importantly, two industry expert assessments by Dr Mick Battam from AgEnviro and Martin Sheppard from Smart Connection Consultancy. These reports examined feasibility, costs, environmental impacts, accessibility/usability and other related matters for the two surface options being considered at the site. The expert perspectives were made available through the Engagement Hub and via presentations delivered at the community forum.

The project was widely promoted through a range of channels including e-newsletters to approximately 45,000 subscribers, on-site signage, direct emails to stakeholder groups, Council's website, letters to surrounding residents, and social media posts.

The community engagement project reached a broad audience through multiple channels. The Engagement Hub received 11,399 page views from 4,041 visitors and 913 document downloads. The engagement generated 1,126 survey responses, 41 written submissions from environmental groups, community groups and residents, and 25 community members attended the community forum.

Survey results showed that amongst participants there was a clear majority preference for the installation of Synthetic Turf (83.1%), primarily driven by high-frequency users and the sporting community. Support for Natural Turf (16.4%) was most concentrated among residents and infrequent visitors.

Feedback from **written submissions** showed support for each option. Community forum attendees indicated majority support for natural turf.

Natural turf supporters highlighted its freedom from microplastics, PFAS, and toxic runoff; cooler, safer surfaces; year-round usability; comparable playability with lower long-term costs; and reduced fire and environmental risks.

Synthetic turf supporters noted its ability to enable all-weather, multi-sport use; address local supply gaps; and offer lower maintenance, reduced water consumption, and cost savings — promoting regular physical activity across the community.

The engagement also revealed a community with significant concerns about parking at the site and strong support for Council to negotiate a commercial agreement with the Department of Education to improve parking availability at the site.

Communications and engagement snapshot



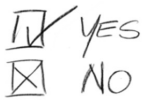
Communications approach and reach

- Letter sent to local residents (500m radius 976 letters)
- Council's website
- Council engagement hub
- On-site signage
- Direct email to sporting, community and environmental groups
- Facebook posts – 27 February
- Engagement Hub page – 11399 page views from 4041 visitors, 913 document downloads.
- Yoursay E-news – 1616 subscribers
- Ku-ring-gai E-news – 43k subscribers.



Community participation

- Survey – 1126 responses (via website and 5 via printed copy)
- 41 written submissions
- 25 attendees at Community Forum held at Council chambers
- Meeting held at LLV with School and PNC representatives and NSW Schools Infrastructure (9 attendees).



Summary of community sentiment

- Survey responses indicated 83% supported synthetic turf, 16% support natural turf.
- 69% indicated that they believe parking to be an issue at the site
- Written submissions showed support for each option
- Community forum attendees indicated majority support for natural turf



Reasons to support Natural Turf

- No microplastics, PFAS or toxic runoff; supports biodiversity and climate goals
- Cooler and safer reducing burns, injuries and chemical exposure
- More comfortable for daily school and community use, year-round
- Comparable playability, lower long-term costs and no 10-year landfill replacement
- Safer near bushfire zones and reduces over-intensive use impacts.



Reasons to support Synthetic Turf

- Enables year-round play and reduces cancellations.
- Higher capacity accommodates more hours users and multiple sports.
- Consistent quality providing a safe, even surface
- Responds to community need with limited local supply and growing demand.
- Lower long-term maintenance, water use and ongoing costs.
- Provides health benefits by supporting regular physical activity and wellbeing.

Engagement process overview

Survey (1126 responses)

The primary consultation method was an online survey via the Engagement Hub website. The survey was also made available in hard copy at Council's Customer Service Centre and at Lindfield Library.

Written submissions (41 responses)

Written submissions were received via the Engagement Hub and via email.

Community forum (25 attendees)

To provide the community an opportunity to gain deeper insights into the options being proposed, a community forum was held on 3 December 2025 at Council Chambers, 818 Pacific Hwy.

Expert speakers Dr Mick Battam from AgEnviro and Martin Sheppard from Smart Connection Consultancy gave presentations examining the feasibility, costs, environmental impacts, accessibility/usability, and other related matters for the two surface options being considered at the site. After the presentations, a Q&A session followed.

Presentation slides and an audio recording of the forum were posted on the Engagement Hub website after the session.

Meeting at Lindfield Learning Village (9 attendees)

A dedicated meeting was conducted with Lindfield Learning Village management, parents and citizens (P&C) association representatives, and the Department of Education. The meeting recognised the school community as a key stakeholder given their proximity to the site and use of the field.

Engagement results

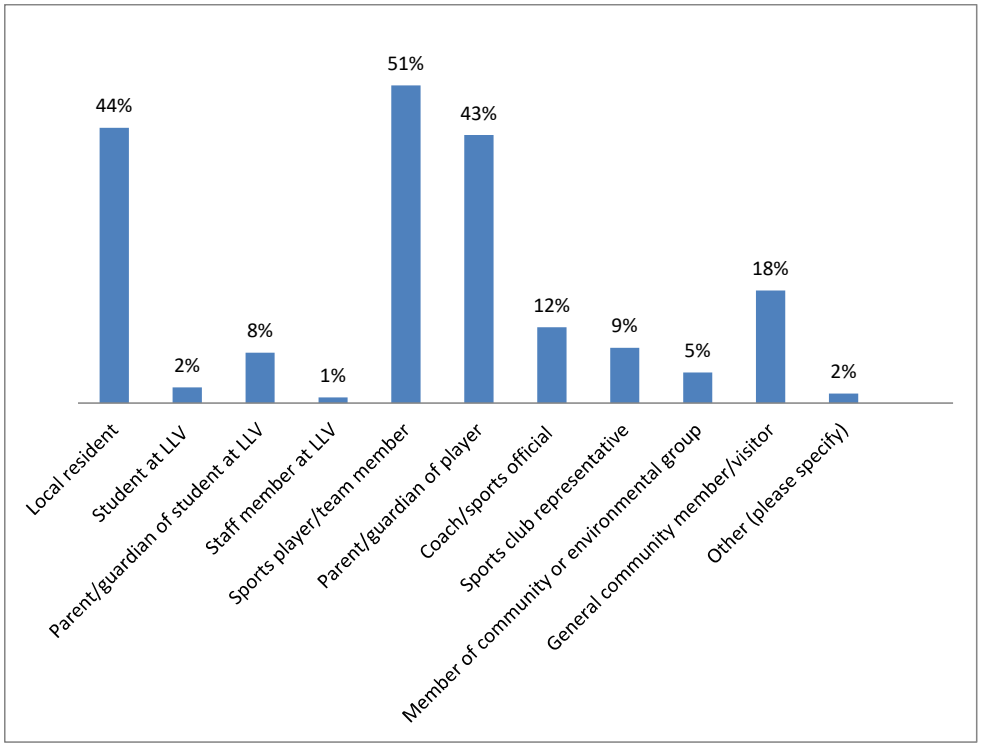
Part 1 - Survey results

1126 responses were received via website and via printed copy (5).

Note - when analysed, 5 duplicate survey submissions were identified and removed.

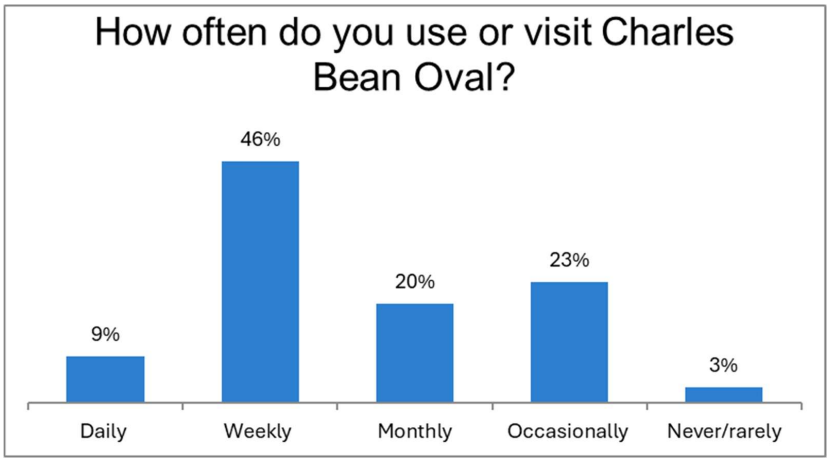
Connection with site

Participants were able to indicate their connection, or connections, to Charles Bean Oval. For example, as shown in the graph below, 44% of participants indicated they were local residents, and 51% indicated they were sports players. As participants were able to select more than one option, percentages do not add up to 100%.



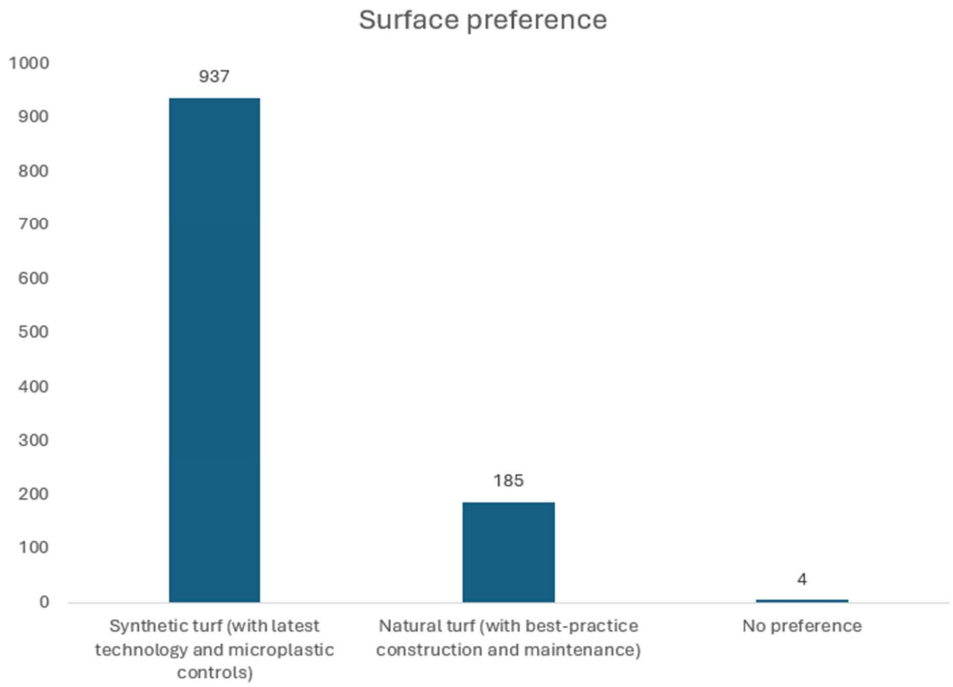
Frequency of use

A total of 46% of survey participants used or visited the site weekly, followed by 23% of participants using or visiting the site occasionally.



Surface preference

A total of 937 (83.1%) of survey participants preferred synthetic turf at Charles Bean Oval, with natural turf preferred by 185 (16.4%) participants. Four participants (0.4%) had no preferred surface.



Surface preference across broad user groups

Analyses showed that preferences differed across broad user groups of the site. For example, as shown in the table below, 94% of people who were ‘sports users’ and 75% of people who selected ‘local resident’ preferred synthetic turf. The total value of groups adds

up to more than 1126 as participants could select multiple connections to the site. As percentages have been rounded up to the nearest whole number, percentages across rows do not always add up to 100%. Counts of people in each group are provided in brackets.

Group	Total	Synthetic turf preference (count)	Natural turf preference (count)	No preference (count)
Sports users (any of “Sports player/team member", "Parent/guardian of player", "Coach/sports official", "Sports club representative")	893	94% (842)	6% (50)	0% (1)
Community members/visitors	202	81% (164)	18% (37)	0% (1)
Local residents	496	75% (371)	25% (123)	0% (2)
Connected to LLV (any of "Student at LLV", "Parent/guardian of student at LLV", “Staff member at LLV")	119	50% (60)	49% (58)	1% (1)

Surface preference of user groups, split by association with sport

Deeper analyses showed that surface preferences across broad groups were shaped by whether or not a participant was associated with sport. ‘Associated with sport’ is defined as whether a participant selected any of the following: “sports player/team member”, “parent or guardian of a player”, “coach/sports official”, or “sports club representative”.

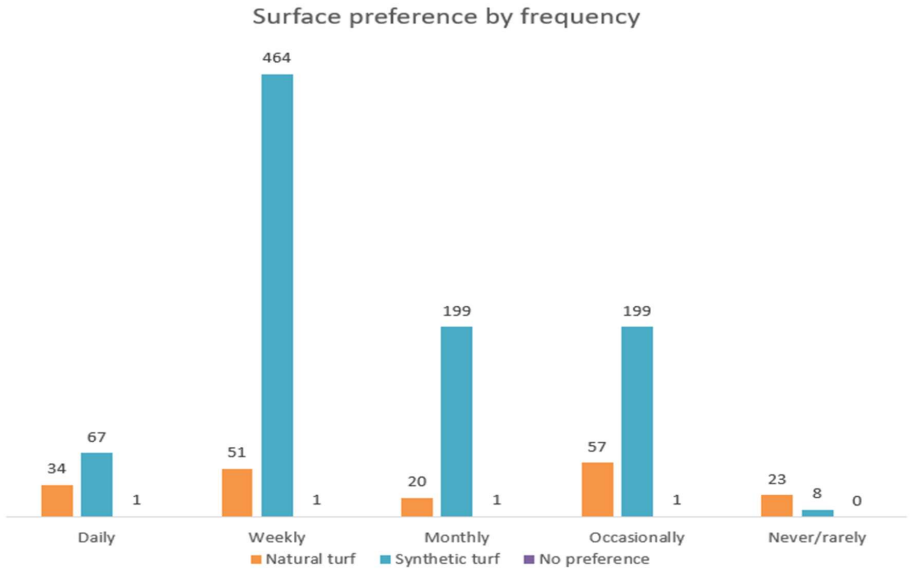
The table on page 8 summarises these findings. For example, among the 330 local residents who were associated with sport, 92% preferred a synthetic turf and 8% preferred natural turf. In contrast, of the 166 local residents who did not have a sports connection, 40% (67 people) preferred synthetic turf, and 58% preferred natural turf.

As percentages have been rounded up to the nearest whole number, percentages across rows do not always add up to 100%. Counts of people in each group are provided in brackets.

Group	Total participants	Synthetic turf preference	Natural turf preference	No preference
Local residents associated with sport	330	92% (304)	8% (26)	0% (0)
Community members/visitors associated with sport	152	93% (141)	7% (11)	0% (0)
Connected to LLV associated with sport	64	73% (47)	27% (17)	0% (0)
Local residents not associated with sport	166	40% (67)	58% (97)	1% (2)
Community members/visitors not associated with sport	50	46% (23)	52% (26)	2% (1)
Connected to LLV not associated with sport	55	24% (13)	75% (41)	2% (1)

Surface preference by frequency

Surface preference varied depending on how frequently people used the site. When looking at participants who visited the site weekly, 464 preferred synthetic turf while 51 preferred natural turf and 1 had no preference. Of the 31 people in total who never or rarely visited the site, 8 preferred synthetic turf and 23 preferred natural turf.



Main reasons for surface preference

Participants were able to describe their main reasons for their surface preference. These reasons have been summarised below with example quotes.

Support for natural turf	Support for synthetic turf
Environmental concerns: microplastics, PFAs, sustainability issues *Quote:* "The microplastics issues associated with synthetic turf are real and damaging to the environment and to the health of the community."	**All-weather reliability:** reduces cancellations due to wet weather *Quote:* "So many games get rained off having a synthetic turf means more games actually get played."
Health and safety: cooler surface than synthetic turf, elimination of exposure to rubber crumb, perception that natural turf is safer to play on, safety near bushfire zones *Quote:* "Natural turf is cooler and causes less injuries."	**Increased usage capacity:** allows for more hours of use per week which supports school/club/community use, supports regular physical activity, responds to growing community need *Quote: "*Synthetic turf offers more hours of play and training over the season"
Community use: welcoming for a range of activities including passive recreation and dog walking, no 'plastic' smell *Quote* "We have been unable to open our windows at home due to a strong and unpleasant smell that emanates from the oval."	**Playing surface quality:** consistent surface throughout sporting seasons, avoidance of holes and divots common to grass fields *Quote: "*Safer than natural grass due to no holes being dug on the surface"
Cost and maintenance: lower long term cost (does not require full replacement every decade) *Quote: "*In the long term it is also more cost-effective as synthetic turf has a limited lifespan and high replacement costs"	**Cost and maintenance:** less maintenance required than natural turf, more cost effective over life of turf *Quote:* "As a synthetic pitch it's one of the best on the north shore. If changed to grass it would require constant maintenance and cost during the winter months in particular."

Parking

General sentiment on parking and parking agreement

69% of respondents felt that parking is major issue for the site, while 20% did not feel this and 11% responded with 'don't know'. Participants could provide further information about why they believed parking was or was not an issue. For those who believed that parking was an issue, inadequate capacity around the site was the most commonly cited reason. For those who believed that parking was not an issue, some participants noted car spaces on neighbouring streets.

In addition to the above, there is also significant community support for Council entering into a commercial agreement with Lindfield Learning Village (LLV) to utilise their carpark for public parking.

Response	Percentage (count)
Yes, Council should enter into a commercial agreement with LLV	80% (896)
No, Council should not enter into a commercial agreement with LLV	6% (67)
Don't know	14% (163)

Parking perceptions by user groups

Perceptions of parking varied depending on the user's relationship with the site. Of participants who were both residents and sports users, 75% saw parking as an issue and 80% supported a commercial agreement with LLV for additional public parking. Of those who were residents but not a sports user, these percentages were 60% and 78% respectively.

Group	People in this group	Sees parking as an issue *(count)*	Supports LLV agreement *(count)*
Both local resident AND sports user **(sports user = any of "Sports player/team member", "Parent/guardian of player", "Coach/sports official", "Sports club representative")**	330	75% (246)	80% (264)
Sports user but NOT a local resident	563	72% (404)	81% (456)
General community member/visitor only	202	68% (138)	81% (164)
Resident but NOT a sports user	166	60% (99)	78% (129)

Additional comments

Survey participants were asked to provide any additional comments. These comments can be seen verbatim in Appendix 1.

Summary of comments by surface preference

Pro-synthetic surface

Synthetic fields offer significantly more usable hours per year than natural turf and remain playable in wet weather when grass fields close for extended periods. A substantial share of local fixtures are reportedly lost each season to washouts. Local schools depend on reliable access for sport and PE, and population growth from increased housing density is placing greater pressure on available space.

The local football club — with a large membership and few synthetic alternatives in the area — relies heavily on this facility. Consistent access is seen as important for youth participation and mental health. Existing grass fields across the area are widely criticised as poorly maintained, uneven, and injury-prone, while synthetic surfaces are considered safer and more predictable.

Although upfront costs are higher, supporters argue that cost-per-usable-hour favours synthetic over time. Prior Council decisions to install synthetic surfaces elsewhere are cited as precedent, with questions raised about consistency of approach.

Pro-natural Turf

Health concerns focus on synthetic infill materials — particularly rubber crumb — and potential exposure to microplastics and harmful chemicals, especially for children. Synthetic surfaces also overheat in summer and contribute to urban heat islands, while natural grass provides cooling, carbon sequestration, and biodiversity benefits. End-of-life disposal of synthetic turf is raised as an unresolved environmental problem, including the risk of microplastic runoff into local waterways.

Many commenters argued children should play on natural surfaces, and that installing plastic fields conflicts with broader values around environmental stewardship. Supporters of natural turf believe modern drainage solutions could make well-maintained grass fields viable at the required usage levels, and that cost comparisons are skewed by historically poor grass maintenance standards.

Issues raised across both preference groups

Parking is a significant concern for both sides, with suggestions for better after-hours access to nearby car parks and improved management of safety around the facility.

Process and transparency concerns are common — including questions about report impartiality, consistency with past decisions, and whether the right community voices are being heard.

If synthetic is chosen, commenters strongly favour modern low-infill or organic infill technology, independent materials testing, and heat mitigation measures.

Broader network planning is called for, rather than site-by-site decisions in isolation. Improved maintenance of all local grass fields is widely supported regardless of the outcome, as is provision of a replacement synthetic surface elsewhere if this field reverts to grass.

General facility improvements — including shade, seating, amenities, and noise management — are requested across both camps.

Part 2 - Written submissions

41 written submissions were received. These came via Council's engagement hub and direct email.

The submissions have been included verbatim in Appendix 2 of this report (noting they have been depersonalised and reformatted for report).

More details of these submissions including responses to key issues raised are addressed in the main Council report and other attachments. Below is a summary of key reasons for support for each surface option and concerns raised in submissions regarding each option as well as common themes and related matters.

Summary of comments on turf options

The themes raised in written submissions broadly align with those expressed in the survey responses.

Natural Turf – support and concerns

Supporters cited cooler, safer surfaces for children, no PFAS or microplastic exposure, environmental benefits including carbon sequestration and biodiversity, lower installation costs with a 30+ year lifespan, and broader multi-use community access. Key concerns centred on limited capacity (maximum ~2,000–2,500 hours versus current 3,753+ annual hours), vulnerability to wet weather causing extended closures, surface wear in high-traffic areas, and intensive maintenance requirements.

Synthetic turf – support and concerns

Supporters highlighted significantly higher playable hours (60–80 per week), all-weather reliability, consistent surface quality, and the importance of uninterrupted sport access for youth health and wellbeing. Key concerns included PFAS and microplastic contamination, environmental harm to the adjacent Lane Cove National Park, surface temperatures exceeding 55°C, bushfire risk given the site's single-road access, a 10–12 year replacement cycle, and increased pressure on already strained parking.

General matters

Across both options, respondents raised concerns about parking constraints, conflicting expert reports, and disputes over realistic usage projections — particularly whether 70-hour weekly estimates account for seasonal variation, school holidays, and heat-related cancellations.

Part 3 - Community Forum

A community forum was held in the Council chamber on 3 December 2025 to provide deeper insight into the proposed options. Widely promoted to the community and stakeholders, the session featured presentations by industry experts Dr Mick Battam (AgEnviro) and Martin Sheppard (Smart Connection Consultancy), covering feasibility, costs, environmental impacts, and accessibility for the two options under consideration.

Twenty-five community members attended, heard the presentations, and asked questions. Presentation slides and an audio recording were subsequently posted on the Engagement Hub website.

The Q&A session heard from a range of stakeholders. The balance of sentiment in the room was generally in favour of natural turf at the site, with issues such as microplastics, runoff, bushfire risk, and playing surface temperature being common matters raised. Sporting group representatives were also present and raised their concerns about the impact a natural field could have on their usage and ability to provide sporting opportunities locally.

Key discussion topics

Costs and infrastructure

- 30-year lifecycle costs and drainage requirements explored
- Comparison of 3G versus 4G specifications ($150,000 difference)
- References to comparable local projects for context

Safety

- Bushfire protocols discussed for both options
- Natural turf's status as Neighbourhood Safer Places (Rural Fire Service classification)
- Synthetic turf behaviour in fire events (melts rather than burns)

Health and environment

- Recyclability of synthetic materials (sand, rubber, synthetic fibres can be repurposed)
- Community requested PFAS and heavy metals testing
- Long-term sustainability considerations

Current usage

- Discussion about field capacity and usage patterns
- Note that 25% of fields don't have lighting

Participants requested additional information on independent verification of cost estimates, comprehensive materials testing for synthetic options, formal bushfire risk assessment from the Rural Fire Service, and feedback from sporting clubs and players who use the fields.

Conclusion

The community engagement process for the renewal of Charles Bean Oval's playing surface generated strong participation across a range of channels, reflecting the significance of this decision to the local community.

Survey results indicated a clear majority preference for synthetic turf, driven largely by sports users and high-frequency visitors who prioritised all-weather reliability, increased capacity, and consistent playing conditions. Support for natural turf was strongest among local residents and those with environmental concerns, particularly regarding microplastics, PFAS, surface temperatures, and the proximity of the site to Lane Cove National Park. Written submissions and community forum attendees reflected a more balanced and, at times, opposing view to the survey majority, underscoring the importance of considering the full breadth of community input rather than survey results alone.

Parking emerged as a significant concern across all user groups, with strong community support for Council pursuing a commercial agreement with Lindfield Learning Village to improve public parking availability at the site.

The engagement has provided Council with a comprehensive picture of community views, values, and priorities. Whatever surface option is ultimately chosen, the feedback highlights community expectations for transparency, independent verification of expert assessments, and ongoing improvements to the facility and surrounding infrastructure. Council will consider these findings alongside the expert assessments and broader strategic objectives as it determines the path forward for Charles Bean Oval.

Appendix 1 - Verbatim survey responses

Please note the following has been removed from the verbatim comments:

- Identifying information (e.g. names, position titles, or email addresses)
- Comments that are defamatory in nature
- Comments that are not in line with Council's procurement process (e.g. unsolicited information regarding procurement of turf).

Answers such as 'no' or 'n/a' have been retained.

Across the responses, there were 10 instances of the response below being used either verbatim or in a slightly reworded format:

> *I prefer a synthetic surface because it's the only option that consistently offers enough usable hours for the community. Independent advice shows that a natural grass field at this site would realistically provide only 20-30 hours a week. The claim of 2 000 hours a year for 'best-practice turf' doesn't take into account the actual conditions at Charles Bean or the frequent heavy rain we get in Sydney. The current synthetic field delivers 60-80 hours a week and remains open when grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly cut training time fixtures and participation across various clubs and schools.*

Across the responses, there were 10 instances of the response below being used either verbatim or in a slightly reworded format:

> *Please take real-world reliability into account rather than relying on theoretical modelling. Even with improved drainage a natural turf field simply can't cope with the combined pressure of school use club training weekend fixtures and general community activity - especially during wet spells. Charles Bean is one of the few fields that stays open during heavy rain and losing that reliability would limit playing opportunities for thousands of users and shift demand onto fields that are already under strain. A new-generation synthetic surface using organic infill and modern filtration offers a practical balance of capacity safety and environmental management while meeting the area's growing participation needs.*

Section 1: Further comments from people who preferred natural turf (176 responses)

No.	Preference as natural turf
1	Natural turf will fit in with the green environment. Synthetic turf can get very hot in summer.
2	The heat of synthetic turf is outrageous and the loss of micro plastics into the surrounding area and waterways is not acceptable.
3	1) It is NATURAL 2) Better heat absorption & natural control3) No “forever” chemicals. No PFA 4) Local grass is an Australian product. Not imported from Italy via Spain with heaps of transport miles.
4	Bushfire risk Smell of rubber Heat time not matching school usage
5	Health and environment concerns - impacts on kids and community
6	I overheat and my shoes get black rubber in them and it is really annoying. I am also worried about my health on the field.
7	My two sons use the ground for school play ground and school sport and im very concerned about the health impacts of them playing so often on a synthetic field.
8	Safety issues. The oval's location is too close to bushland and LCNP to be a safe evacuation point in a bushfire. The radiant heat risk along with the toxins released from the polymers in an ember attack on synthetic turf or bushfire is an unacceptably high risk to children and staff at Lindfield Learning Village and the residents in the area. Closing of the playing fields in hot weather. The 80 degrees Celsius temperatures that synthetic turf can reach on hot days renders the field unuseable for organised sport pr passive activity. Readings of 81.7 and 79.8 Celsius on the so called 'cool cork' oval at ELS Hall Park at North Ryde. On the natural turf oval adjacent to the synthetic turf oval registered 33.4 degrees close to 50 degrees cooler than the synthetic turf. A cricket game was being played there. As Charles Bean Oval is a multi-use field and the daily play area for school students. The dramatic swings in temperature in recent decades could render a synthetic field at Charles Bean an increased health risk as a play area for children on warmer days. The term 'all weather surface' is a misnomer. The new government guidelines have taken a significantly more cautious approach towards the use of synthetic turf. Ku-ring-gai Council should not be choosing to expose both school children and soccer players to a material that is an both an environmental and safety risk. Environmental Sustainability. Having attended the information evening I did more research on the claim that synthetic turf 100%. I did not find this to be the case. The cost of recycling the components of a synthetic turf fields far outweighs the value of doing so even if the claim were true. The transportation cost of shipping a used synthetic field interstate for what is still currently minimal processing. goes against the Council's own sustainabily guidelines. Ku-ring-gai residents want greenspace maintained. Green plastic is not greenspace.
9	Known and unknown health impacts on developing school kids accessing oval daily over 13 years environmental risks heat impacts.
10	Environmental impact of synthetic oval. Heat abrasion injuries drainage issues (no adsorption of animal faesces microplastics issues). Well made natural ovals (if well made) are much better to play on (I play some community sport but wouldn't play on a synthetic surface). We should endeavour to keep natural turf ovals despite weather impacts (Indoor gyms can cover to some extent though costly to build/maintain).
11	Cooler playing surface ability to plant trees closer to the oval for spectator shade. Softer for students to play on. More natural and better for the environment.

12	Micro plastics = No. Heat from surface. Not healthy for young players.
13	To not have microplastic and other chemicals pouring into local streams and rivers. Natural turf is cooler and causes less injuries.
14	If you play on these fields it potentially leads to skeletal and joint injuries because of jarring on hard surfaces. Also the skin grazes from falls or slides is particularly nasty burning the skin. Also I understand there is a new generation of natural turf developed that provides more days of playing than synthetic turf.
15	Want more natural things in the community
16	Lower exposure to the emission of toxins from synthetics. Turf is more player friendly and less of a hazard and less adverse exposure to injury. Cooler in the heat of the day.
17	Synthetic turf is an environmental disaster - microplastics in the environment and water ways make their way into the food chain. No way to recycle large amounts of plastic used. Uncomfortable to play on in hot conditions. More injuries result from synthetic than natural turf.
18	Our residence is located just 30 metres from the oval. Throughout the hot months we have been unable to open our windows at home due to a strong and unpleasant smell that emanates from the oval. As the oval heats up it releases fumes that have a distinct rubber or plastic odour. These fumes are carried by the wind towards our buildings resulting in poor air quality inside our homes. Exposure to these fumes has raised health concerns for us. The smell is not only unpleasant but it also makes us feel nauseated after inhalation. We are concerned about the potential toxicity of these rubber or plastic fumes and the impact they may have on our wellbeing especially given our constant exposure due to the proximity of our home to the oval.
19	I prefer natural grass for Charles Bean Oval. As the oval is used daily by school children health and safety must come first. Natural grass stays much cooler than synthetic turf reducing the risk of heat stress and burns in hot weather. It is also softer and safer for children who regularly fall sit and play on the ground. Natural grass is more environmentally sustainable supporting natural drainage and avoiding microplastic pollution. In the long term it is also more cost-effective as synthetic turf has a limited lifespan and high replacement costs. For a school-used oval natural grass is the safer and more responsible choice.
20	Natural turf is a more responsible and healthy option for all users and for the local environment. Synthetic turf is detrimental in so many serious ways.
21	I am a parent of a Kindy and Year 3 student at Lindfield Learning Village (LLV) and live within walking and biking distance from Charles Bean Oval. We have used the field recreationally as a family countless times over the last 8 years since moving to Lindfield up until recently when we became concerned with our boys rolling in and bringing the black rubber crumb balls home in their clothes and shoes and since learning of the harmful constituents in the current rubber crumb and the plastic turf leaves including PFAS leavy metals (arsenic lead) and petroleum aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Since starting at the school in 2022 my sporty very active children play on this field during recess lunch and PE lessons multiple times a week. My boys play for Lindfield Football Club but do not train or play on Charles Bean Oval. I am one of many LLV school parents and community members that are concerned with the current field and the risks it poses to the health of our primary school aged children who will most likely be attending the school for their 13 years of schooling. This has made us very concerned about what repeat and new issues a new synthetic field will bring. I attended the Council community session last Wednesday 3 December with other concerned school parents to learn more about the two reports commissioned by the council. A natural turf field

	presented in Dr Mick Battam's report will pose no risk to harmful chemicals to our children and community provide a natural cooler surface that will require low maintenance. The improved drainage and planting of a hardier grass species as demonstrated by the success of a number of new natural turf fields recently installed in Sydney is demonstrated to handle wet weather and football games and training traffic and daily school student's use for sport and recreation. Synthetic turf whether it is 3G or 4G (there is inconsistency in the commissioned report by Martin Sheppard – '3G' appears to have been costed for but the more recent and more expensive '4G' option has been presented) continues to raise many issues not dissimilar to what we are already experiencing with the current synthetic surface at Charles Bean which interestingly in 2012 was likely the best technology at the time. The synthetic surface will be prone to heat retention (up to 80 degrees C) and subsequent field closures on hot days the unknown chemicals that will come with the new synthetic surface (PFAS polymers i.e plastics heavy metals PAHs) and their degradation to the environment and complete exposure pathway to our children and the environment) and the fire risk and its location within the flame zone of Lane Cove National Park considering the synthetic field will either melt and release harmful vapours and/or burn. This is not a suitable surface for the school's muster point in case of an emergency. Also sustainability values have been ignored with the field requiring replacing every 10 years.
22	First I witnessed a horrible injury when a young girl badly broke her arm at Blackman park on the synthetic surface. While this can happen anywhere the synthetic surface is less forgiving my experience. But my major concern is around potentially carcinogenic material used in synthetic surfaces and the close association with LLV.
23	Given the oval's location in a green and bushy area near Lane Cove NP it's an odd decision to make the oval synthetic. It would be great to make the oval more natural. Additionally we live next to the oval and it would be nice to have a break from the noise when it's raining.
24	I can see all the fine microplastic 'grains' around the edge of the oval and how easily it can get washed into the surroundings with heavy rain. The bush and water courses around the area are to precious for this to continue.
25	My children have been fortunate to play on mainly natural grass in their sporting careers and I have long had concerns over the synthetic surface at Charles Bean. While it looks green and doesn't get muddy there are parents around me who have also experienced the injuries that synthetic turf inflicts on children and adults and the science behind microplastics in the environment and the breathable particles created as synthetic turf ages combine to be a very nasty cocktail indeed. It does not make sense with the ever-mounting evidence to add to the petrochemical industry's bank accounts when there is a perfectly safe healthy heat-safe option like best practice natural turf.
26	My concern is for the health and safety of the users and the effect of the field surface on the environment. Wear-and-tear of synthetic turf generates microplastics which have a documented impact on people and the wider environment. Natural turf does not suffer from this and also supports under- and above-ground ecosystems which benefit the sustainable environment. I do not believe that synthetic turf is cheaper in the long term.
27	The synthetic surface makes usage very uncomfortable and annoying. I have also found the synthetic materials dispersed in the lane cove national park nearby which carries these plastics and harmful chemicals into an important ecosystem which I find very concerning.
28	My understanding is that the new generation of natural turf has far more resilience and usability than synthetic turf. In fact it provides more playing days per year on average. I am also very concerned about plastic breakdown and chemicals into the groundwater and into Lane Cove National Park catchment.

29	Contributes to mitigation of climate change. Cooler under foot. Dog friendly. Environmentally responsible.
30	The environmental impacts (e.g. urban heat microplastics chemicals) of synthetic turf cannot be underestimated and its ludicrous to consider anything other than natural turf.
31	Being so close to natural bush it pollute water ways It's much hotter than natural turf
32	Less chemicals and better for the environment
33	Environmental benefits and surface is softer than synthetic which reduces strains and injuries
34	synthetic grass/turf shed plastic fragments which are moved in stormwater into creeks and bushland soils. I have photos of this waste material shed from the futsal courts at West Lindfield Sport and Recreation Club. In addition it is alarming that synthetic turf needs to be replaced at 5 to 10 year intervals resulting in vast amounts of plastic waste which most likely goes to landfill. Natural turf has benefits of cooling as apposed to the increased heat which develops over synthetic turf on high temperature days.
35	Synthetic turf hurts to play on with it often grazing players. In the summer it becomes very hot and is not a pleasant outdoor space. It's impact on the environment is also off-putting and as the council would usually put the environment first it's odd that we still use synthetic turfs.
36	Synthetic turf is too hot. Rubber particles from synthetic get stuck to shoes and washed into the waterways.
37	Safety comfort environment
38	Natural turf is more environmentally sustainable a better surface for the kids at LLV (who don’t have any natural turf playing fields of their own) alleviates concerns about hazardous materials within the synthetic turf and is a cooler surface for everyone who uses it in summer.
39	The issues of : heat island effects (with some testing revealing temperatures above 80C) microplastic runoff and the associated long-term pollution Abrasion injuries for users These factors seem to me to render other considerations moot.
40	No plastic involved; better for the environment and bio diversity; better surface to play sports on; better surface to walk on.
41	My son says the heat of the synthetic turf makes it unpleasant to use the area in summer. Synthetic turf contributes to heating of the area and poses unquantified micro plastic risk to the kids.
42	Natural turf when constructed with best practice methods equals turf for uptime without the environmental hazards from microplastics surface heat toxic chemicals and abrasions. This oval is primarily used by children and young people either with school or sporting use. Natural turf minimises hazards to them and safeguards the environment for their future.
43	I have long term health concerns for my children at LLV and the microplastics am chemicals in their shoes and our home every day.
44	Concerns for microplastics heating and climate change with synthetic turf
45	Health and environmental. The smell of the synthetic turf in high heat is a major health issue for my kids.
46	Cooler surface in hot weather & the carbon soak capacity & lack of micro plastic leaching into environment

47	The unnatural turf gets too hot in summer the plastic beads get into children's shoes the turf is hard to run on and hurts my child's back and makes him hot. Microplastics are everywhere and have been identified as the next environmental hazard. Children are more aware of this and might start to be anxious about playing on it. Parents are certainly not happy about it.
48	I do not like plastics going into the environment. Also have concerns about heat
49	The environmental and health cost of synthetic surfaces is too great. I hate my daughter playing on a hot microplastic surface. No idea what it's doing to her long term health breathing that stuff in while playing. Risk of injury is also much higher
50	Access of public space for wider group of locals. Have hear too many comments about impact of heat and injuries on children from locals with children. Synthetic brings health risks and our recent PFAS issues in water supplies needs to be taken seriously how these synthetics affect our health .
51	Less plastic grass is cleaner
52	Synthetic turf causes damage through environmental pollution (microplastics and chemical leaching) increased heat (contributing to the urban heat island effect) and a higher risk of certain injuries for athletes. The materials in artificial turf break down contaminating soil and water with microplastics and chemicals from things like ground-up tires. It also prevents water infiltration disrupts natural ecosystems and can reach extreme temperatures causing burns.
53	I'm concerned about the environmental impact of synthetic turf.
54	We have enough plastic in the world. Grass is a carbon sinks synthetic turf is a lazy way of avoiding your responsibilities to maintain our natural french environment. As a parent of 4 soccer players we don't want our children playing sport on this garbage synthetic turf. We also don't want to walk our dog on it.
55	Weighing the pros and cons of both natural seems like the logical solution long term. Especially with synthetic requiring replacement every 10-12yrs. I'm also concerned about microplastics and their effect on health. This is one of the reasons I have not enrolled my children in sports where synthetic turf is installed.
56	Environmental - ie micro plastics
57	Synthetic turf is already being banned by some councils even to the point of not being allowed on nature strips due to run off. The Netherlands is proposing to phase out all synthetic turf by 2030 due to health and environment risks. To install synthetic turf is just plain vandalism. It is high time that science plays a major role in all policies something we have disregarded for far too long.
58	Natural turf is alive cooler underfoot and much kinder to the environment than plastic turf. Real grass absorbs carbon filters rainwater supports insects and soil health and doesn't create that awful radiating heat you get from synthetic surfaces. It's also simply more pleasant to walk play and relax on. For me natural turf isn't just the greener option it's the option that supports life comfort and genuine connection with nature. Natural turf is healthier for children to play soccer on too. We are in a climate and biodiversity crisis. This is one thing we can do to reduce plastic waste. It's a no brainer to resurface with natural turf.
59	Plastic is bad for environment and the future. The upgrade to natural grass will mean during wet days soccer games will need to go elsewhere to play reducing local traffic and congestion providing more opportunity for local residents to exercise use the lawn and walk their dogs etc.

60	This oval is located very close to residential properties. Natural turf is likely to give them the best long-term benefits for them and the environment. It is also likely to reduce its usage and reduce traffic into this neighbourhood.
61	There's substantial research on the off-gassing of plastics that should concern us about children's exposure to rubber crumb. I have witnessed toddlers playing in it as if it were dirt and my own child tracks it into our home on shoes and clothing after every soccer practice. We must ask ourselves: are we truly prioritising the convenience of synthetic over our children's health and safety?
62	The soccer players block shout ridge all day every day sometimes parking one the road. I would like to see reduced parking use that is better for the environment.
63	Natural turf is better suited to withstand summer heat and produces less pollution compared to synthetic turf. It is concerning that synthetic turf continues to be widely used especially now that we have a greater understanding of the environmental and human health risks associated with microplastics. While I acknowledge that the state government has guidelines recommending synthetic turf in many situations this approach is short-sighted. It fails to adequately address long-term environmental protection and the growing issue of microplastic contamination.
64	I am concerned about the health effects of synthetic turf and don't want to live so close to it. Inhaled microplastics can cause respiratory irritation and inflammation. And my patio is right next to the field at Shout Ridge. I don't think the area can handle the high traffic of synthetic turf especially now that around 100 new apartments have again been built facing the field They will further add to the congestion of the area. There is a lot of illegal parking and more potential for accidents. Also I would like to have a close by park to walk my dog. Currently dogs are not allowed on the field.
65	Natural turf is not associated with the skin abrasion problems of synthetic turf. The microplastics issues associated with synthetic turf and real and damaging to the environment and to the health of the community.
66	Environmental impact and I'd love to be able to run with my dog on a well maintained surface. There is no where I can run with him in a 5-10km radius.
67	We find this field to be pretty much unusable when it does not have a soccer booking. The field is incredibly hot and almost unbearable in summer. The black beads go everywhere; they are an annoyance inside shoes and being tracked everywhere but I also worry about the environmental impact. Parking is an absolute disaster and I don't understand why such a high use field is in this location. If this is not rectified then I would actually like to see the playing hours reduced despite having a child who plays soccer and would make use of this field when he gets older.
68	Heat effect plastics issues opposition to artificial surfaces
69	The fake grass is annoying and the black bits are also
70	Health and environmental reasons. Synthetic fields are harmful to humans
71	Natural is best for soil health and no need for microplastic controls
72	Cooling smell temperature
73	Environmental protection heat of playing surface falls whilst playing connection to nature
74	Synthetic material is toxic to start with. My children have been in contact with toxin due school using the sports field. These toxin came home with them and presents risk to pets and home environment. I can imagine these toxins are no good to the surrounding wildlifes.

75	As a local resident with limited mobility and a dog there are no nearby places to take the dog for walks on grass. The high density living around Charles Bean oval means that there are a significant number of local residents with dogs in a similar situation. My son also attends LLV and finds Charles Bean oval unpleasant in hot weather due to the synthetic surface. I am also concerned for his health with the potential toxic exposure to the synthetic surface and also the effect this will have on the environment especially the national park.
76	Council needs to listen to its representative survey - more people in Ku-ring-gai do NOT want synthetic turf because of the risks and impacts on health and environment. The soccer clubs have too much influence - all our parks need to belong to everyone.
77	Better for environment - plastics that need to be replaced regularly are a major concern Heat effects of synthetics are a concern Player safety effects of synthetics are a concern especially to younger children
78	Health concerns for our youth who spend hours breathing in the gasses that come off this plastic. It really does get hot too. I also don't think it's the best for their knees and I've read reports about the little black bits being full of nasty chemicals and lead. Can't be good for waterways either.
79	Environmentally synthetic turf is detrimental with both micro and nano plastics and chemical leachates and should never be installed for a high-use oval. Synthetic is also not all weather due as on hot days it exacerbates the heat island effect (whereas natural turf mediates it). With increased temperature extremes with climate change synthetic turf will become increasingly unusable. Natural turf and soil is nicer to play on.
80	better for the environment
81	Grass is better for football
82	The smell of synthetic turf especially in summer is quite overpowering. The little black beads end up in your shoes and everywhere. It's very hot. last but not least it's bad for the environment.
83	-Natural turf better for the environment. Less plastics-The oval seems to only cater for soccer and not general use as the synthetic surface is extremely hot under the sun - can't even sit on it -When it doesn't rain for a period of time the surface smells really bad-Turf may assist with dampening the noise to the surrounding apartments - very noisy on game days on the synthetic surface-The immediate area is surrounded by apartments (new one just completed across the road) with many dog owners. Would be more fair for the local residents to enjoy the oval as well considering they have to deal will the parking/traffic issues on game days-A turfed oval can potentially act as a retention area to assist with flood mitigation and reduce runoff/erosion to the nearby national park
84	I'm often there with young children and I don't like how the current rubber gets stuck on their hands and then on their food when they are eating. They also like to play with the rubber. I avoid this oval now because of the synthetic materials.
85	Microplastics and extreme surface heat as well the long term maintenance costs are my main concerns. As a parent of a sports player I want my kid to play sport but not a synthetic field. Sporting codes must adapt by spreading out their timetables throughout the year. Without the extreme heat from plastic turf it is possible to play in warmer months as well. There are many fields in Kuringai and I would rather see more fields maintained for sports with natural turf than concentrating on fewer fields with synthetic turf. If need be council / state government should compulsorily acquire part of the many golf clubs for sports and recreation.

86	Better for the environment Parking issues mean it’s not great for soccer games Local resident affected by parking
87	Synthetic turf is an environmentla disaster - even with controls the kids' shoes are still full of microplastics which also escape into drains creeks and Lane Cove National Park. My children use the oval every day for school both sports and sitting on it at lunchtime so are constantly in contact with plastics and chemicals which continue to discover have long-term ramificaitons for poor health. The synthetic turf is also often too hot to use as the plastic is so much hotter than natural turf. The synthetic surf also needs replacing and can't be composted or breakdown naturally - it will forever sit in landfill and is an enormous amount of waste. Why do we ban plastic bags and recycle our plastics if we are going to create this product which will 100% go to waste at some point in the future and both the crumb and ripped blades will and travel into our surrounding natural environment constantly during that time. I understand that it's more convenient for soccer and the soccer lobby group is very vocal and convincing but they only use the oval part time compared to our school and if there is poor weather they can take a break have a bye it's not woth the convenience of an unbroken sports season to have a huge impact on our environment. I'm strongly against synthetic turf for environmental financial waste and childrens' heatlh reasons.
88	The synthetic grass is not good for our environment. It doesn't cool the area like natural grass it doesn't absorb CO2. The tiny beads of plastic end up everywhere not just in the oval itself. By choosing synthetic grass we are choosing to pollute the local environment with microplastics which is a morally bad choice when this park is so close to bushland and the National Park.
89	Natural turf to allow for all community members and sports to use field. Not just soccer. Increase natural greenery for local residents.
90	I am concerned about the environmental impacts of synthetic turf particularly on surrounding bushland notably drainage into Lane Cove National Park and the Lane Cove River with chemicals and plastics.
91	The plastic crumb is environmentally invasive and bad for all users health. In addition the current surface is much too hot in summer
92	Reduced heat from playing surface the kids bring home so much black rubber from the surface.
93	The environmental and climate advantages of natural turf far outweigh the convenience of a synthetic surface.
94	Feels better to play on
95	Environmental concerns about the synthetic surface
96	The environnemental impact is still unknown (known and being revised) with synthetic turf. Every 10 years the turf is replaced and the old turf goes to landfill. As a spectator the heat is extreme for synthetic. As a player the car of abrasions is horrible
97	It's a good place to walk my dog.
98	Elimination of mircroplastics and the heat impact of synthetic turf especially considering that LLV backs onto Lane Cove National Park.
99	micro plastic hazard to environment and humans
100	I hate the heat island the synthetic turf creates - it is horrible to play on during the summer. I am concerned about the chemicals and waste from the synthetic surface. I much prefer natural surfaces for my kids to play on given their high genetic cancer risk.

101	Reduced injury risk for players and officials
102	better for the environment
103	I am voting for natural turf at Charles Bean Oval because I am so concerned about my child's exposure to daily microplastic contamination as well as extreme heat. Every day my son [name] comes home from Lindfield Learning Village with synthetic turf particles on his clothes shoes and hair. These plastic fragments end up on his hands when he eats lunch are breathed in during play and are brought into our home where our dog licks them off the floor. I shouldn't have to worry about microplastics accumulating in my child's body.Research on microplastics is increasingly alarming - they've been found in human blood lungs and placentas. Synthetic turf sheds particles constantly through friction and wear. Every time children play they release more plastic into the air and onto their skin. Every rain event washes these microplastics into stormwater drains and our waterways. Why would we knowingly install a surface that continuously pollutes our environment and exposes children to microplastics when a natural alternative exists? The heat issue poses immediate safety risks. On hot days synthetic turf can reach 60-70C - hot enough to burn skin. I've seen children complaining about heat through their shoes refusing to sit down and seeking shade (the very little there is) because it's unbearable. During summer the oval becomes unusable during the hottest parts of the day. Natural grass stays significantly cooler. This isn't just comfort; it's about preventing heat stress and burns. Council acknowledges community concerns about 'potential human health impacts from microplastics' and 'localised heat island effects.' These aren't hypothetical - they're real issues affecting our children daily. Yes natural turf requires more maintenance and has wet weather limitations but these are manageable operational challenges. What's not manageable is the health risk to children environmental contamination and unsafe heat conditions. Natural turf is the only responsible choice for protecting our children and environment.
104	Better musculoskeletal outcomes for users particularly young people (my grandson likens it to playing on cement). Obviates the escape of many plastic chemicals and particles into the environment (many of which may well be banned in the near future). Provides a better local amenity. Synthetic ovals are essentially Ecologically Sterile. This may seem trivial but the total lack of soil invertebrates (e.g. worms and insect larvae) adversely affects the surrounding soil any birds or animals that rely on these invertebrates for food (e.g. echidnas and magpies) and those birds which rely on mature flying insects for food (e.g. swallows martins and any of the 'rollers'. All of this challenges Council's green credentials; particularly given Norman Griffiths oval and the external pressure to install additional synthetic surfaces.
105	Better for the health of our children to have some natural grass and not plastic.
106	I have been injured and seen multiple injuries on Charles Bean which is attributed to the synthetic nature of the pitch. A natural grass field lowers the risk of injury for football players. The synthetic pitch is also dangerously hot during the day and the pitch is unusually hard / firm for a synthetic pitch which is a factor contributing to injuries.
107	More environmentally friendly (microplastics and carbon friendly) which would out-weight the occasional unavailability of soccer games during wet weather event.
108	I prefer natural turf
109	Better for the environment
110	I do not want synthetic turf nearby. It spreads microplastics causes abrasions at a higher rate and creates a heat island effect. The location is in the middle of the national park. As much as possible we should be preserving the environment.
111	Safety for users. More pleasant for community in all respects.

112	I'm unconvinced of the safety of synthetic turn (best practise or not).Grass is much gentler to play on - lower risk of injury Grass is nicer to play on
113	Reducing use of synthetic materials more environmentally sound. I know it would be different with the proposed synthetic but the current rubber particles are really awful and get stuck in everything. Also I have concerns about a large plastic/synthetic surfaced area so close to bushland with a fire risk - I don't think this point has been properly addressed as a concern in the information given in the table. Also more pleasant for residents and locals (as we are) to walk on.
114	The synthetic material gives off a very unpleasant and strong smell in warm or hot weather
115	The field is overused. It is the only local field with soccer goals over the summer period but as it is artificial and therefore booked a lot by groups local kids can't use it.
116	It is non-sensical to use something that potentially could increase the risk of pollution from micro plastic in our area. The only long-term logical option is to use natural turf with the conscious aim to reduce/limit usage of pesticides and other polluting agents
117	natural better than plastic
118	Ideal for the environment Kids and adults need to feel the grass under their feet caters for dog walkers
119	Less joint injury on natural turf.
120	Nearby residents suffer from excessive heat from the current synthetic field high-danger traffic due to the high usage and excessive and constant noise and light pollution from frequent games especially late at night. There are other fields that are capable of taking games in the area. Of note the high usage resulting in excessive noise and floodlights at night impact the ability to sell nearby residences and negatively impact their value.
121	Artifical grass is being phased out due to environmental issues that are well documented even speculation on it being voted on is ignorant.
122	Less plastic
123	Better for the environment
124	Artificial turf is a source of plastic pollution for local creeks. It is hot in summer and environmentally damaging. Animals such as birds can't get food like with a grass surface. I agree with your list of cons in the table against artificial turf and I believe the advantages of natural grass greatly outweigh the negatives of the plastic grass.
125	As a soccer player and coach I've seen numerous injuries resulting from the synthetic surface. It's very hard on joints such an ankles and knee. Any minor falls or tackles results in terrible burns that take weeks to heal
126	Whatever the accountants etc. may indicate; it would seem that to not have natural grass in this small area of a dry continent is an affront to posterity i.e. if the numbers for synthetic are 29 and for natural 25; go for natural based on intuition i.e. which involves the measure of the non-phenomenal e.g. the appearance including the changing colours from green to brown; lush to degraded; maybe for children to learn that they can't play football there according to a calendar because sometimes it's too wet/dry or sometimes it might be touch footbal and they could practice particular skills in that context etc. I wonder whether it could be left to grow a little longer than whatever is regarded as optimal for safety - which won't be a life and death situation anyway.
127	Microplastic pollution from infill and fibres causing potential toxicity and ingestion risks across lower trophic species. Increased surface temperature - urban heat island effect

	contribution. No sustainable disposal methods. Have also done my own study and found significantly less bird abundance and diversity at parks with synthetic turf not due to surrounding environment but due to the turf itself being present. Also volatile chemical compounds that can effect human health upon the heat and other dangers associated.
128	Natural turf is just a nicer surface and cooler in the hotter months. I also find the use of synthetic materials abhorrent for a space that should be natural. Insects and birds rely on natural spaces after all.
129	Synthetic turf is harmful to human and environmental health. It has been associated with reduced bird activity/diversity contribute to heat island effects and microplastics seep into nearby systems and the food change (even with controls - think how much trails home in people's boots). In regards to human health the injury risk is more severe on synthetic fields for example more impact on the joints and burns when you fall over. With correct management the environmental and human impact of natural turf is less than synthetic and therefore a marginal increase in cost should be outweighed by these other benefits. I'm a soccer player who may be impacted by washouts if the natural turf is installed but I'd rather miss a game of football than harm the environment and my own health when I play on it as a synthetic field.
130	Environmental concerns- microplastics in vast quantities as well as heat effects. Also Astroturf seems to increase injuries
131	Natural turf ovals is more enjoyable and safer to play on.
132	I put health over anything and believe there is good reason there are removing the synthetic pitches worldwide. I was a kid and grew up playing on grass no recycled rubber laced with chemicals - especially on the hot days when you can breathe it in and taste it! It's disgusting! Our young kids go to the LLv school and this is their only option. Please please change to natural grass! Why does everything have to be fake and man made these days it's detrimental to our health! If a few football games get cancelled for heavy rain do be it! Health comes first!
133	Enviro impact of using plastic Heat Natural beauty of grass
134	Mounting research shows the dangers of inhaling the synthetic turf and the link to cancer. When the wether is hot the toxic fumes coming out of the plastic are unbearable. When the players graze their skin on the artificial turf it always gets nasty infections. It's very unhygienic.
135	Micro plastics and also kids connecting with land and nature.
136	Environmental impact of synthetic fields.
137	Environmental concerns about synthetic turf
138	No more plastic; synthetic gets very hot
139	Environmental concerns player safety ongoing costs
140	Looking at the pros and cons of synthetic turf it is missing the fact that during summer and sunnier days the grass emits a terrible plastic smell. As a resident living in Dunstan Grove I occasionally find myself having to close the windows as the smell is quite overpowering. During my HSC year I would also use the oval to do sprints as it was conveniently close however the synthetic grass doesn't provide a nice grip/surface which I believe real grass would. Real grass would also give a refreshing smell in the air.
141	Having a natural option would bring down the temperature and lower the adverse health affects to those using the ground regularly. The temp at the ground increases significantly on hot days

142	There is more and more emerging research on the impact of forever chemicals on human health. A field that is used primarily by school children on a fairly basis should not be a science experiment for future generations. Please consider using natural grass for the safety of the community - it is a much greater long-term cost to have an unwell society than to maintain grass fields.
143	environmental and health issues connected to disadvantages of synthetic turf
144	environmental and human impact of synthetic
145	The microplastics omitted from the field is really bad and is constantly in clothes carpet shoes and even on the footpaths outside the fields. Strong plastic smells in the heat - like burning plastic especially on hot days. Doesn't feel nice to be on the synthetic. Much prefer natural grass - which will feel cooler on the summer and no smells or microplastics.
146	Synthetic is too hot and contains dangerous plastics which end up in our waterways and houses.
147	Environmental concerns with synthetic turf in a precious bushland location
148	Natural turf absorbs heat and allows the surface to be used for other activities not solely for soccer. It is natural and does not need to be thrown into landfill when it comes to the end of its life like plastic grass.
149	we need to stop using artificial oil based substances AND plastic surfaces are TOOO hot
150	I am concerned about the run-off from synthetic turf and the temperature it can reach in summer. I've noticed that Willoughby Council has had to provide tables and chairs at their civic centre at the Concourse. This is because it is too hot to sit on the synthetic grass. I worry about small children on synthetic grass - babies may ingest the plastics and receive burns on hot days. Natural turf is always the way to go for the environment and the people who will use it.
151	Synthetic turf gets excessively hot on days over 25 degrees has no cushioning and therefore results in more serious injuries to users than natural turf adds to the environmental plastic load in rivers and oceans.
152	I'm concerned about the health and safety and wellbeing implications of synthetic turf for our environment and community
153	Health concerns over the potential toxic nature of synthetic turf
154	Natural grass absorbs CO2, and produces oxygen synthetic turf does not. Natural turf cools the surrounding environment and produces no plastic pollution or forever chemicals and does not end up in landfill at the end of its life like synthetic turf. Falls on natural turf cause fewer skin injuries compared to turf burns from synthetic surfaces.
155	synthetic has excessive heat issues continuous and substantial micro plastic pollution around field and brought home in shoes and socks human health risks from chemical components environmental risks from micro plastics and chemicals. restricted use for other recreational users abrasions and concussions from falls.
156	The black microplastics will go into your shoes and into the house and when you walk they flip back onto your back leg.
157	If not actually playing soccer game this green space is of no use to locals I would use it for passive recreation like a walk or just meeting place to sit and be in but is hot and unwelcoming it is an unbearable heat pump in summer that you want to get away from as it is for the people who live in the apartments surrounding .

158	We cannot continue to introduce pollutants into the environment for convenience or cost. These conveniences have a lasting impact. The old synthetic turf is not recyclable and could possibly end up as landfill.
159	Synthetic turf is hot and hurts when people fall over. bad for environment and biodiversity water pollution with those little rubber pellets
160	I think the pros for natural turf outway all the cons for the synthetic turf. We all know about the issue of run off of microplastics into the environment from artificial turf. It has a short lifespan - after 10 years this plastic ends in landfill. And it is a heat trap on hot days. We need to keep our earth cooler with more grass more trees. We are going to loose canopy in the future with new developments we should at least have natural turf in our council. We are are a council aiming for Net Zero - use of synthetic turf is not compatible with this goal.
161	The benefits of reduced micro plastics heat and reduction in injuries.
162	Environmental concerns and dislike of Synthetic turf when exercising
163	My children attend LLV and cant use the space comfortably in summer. The plastic gives off a toxic smell and gets very hot. They also bring home the rubber pellets in their shoes. The plastic is in run off constantly polluting the surrounding areas.
164	Upfront costs Microplastics
165	1. The Turf fields in KRG have been under resourced for many many years. Finally the much Increased rates will provide asset upgrade maintenance capabilities (according to Council) and this must include an improved Sportsfields maintenance resourcing program and monitored service levels with additional staff on the ground (at least double) to do more work more frequently when turf fields need attention - rather than waiting for them to totally wear out and become unusable to get rebuilt every 20 or 30 years or even longer. So this will assist a natural turf field to be intelligently managed efficiently serviced and adequately resourced. 2. Turf is Environmentally sustainable non contaminated can be spot improved more easily safer cooler more adaptable more useful for general community use rather than just one dominant football group. 3. The adjoining school from K - 12 (many children) is now operational and needs a safe and healthy turf playing field for these children to use. When this field was built the school was not operational so this increased use should reduce the time made available for one particular dominating sport that seems to use it most. They should pay an increased charge for such heavy use and monopolisation and towards repairs. Or share more with the North Turramurra soccer facility. 4. Your comparison figures for use appear very skewed. Not comparing like with like. As rugby use decreases generally for children fields such as Wellington can be shared more with the other dominant code. Easier with additional staff and resourcing as per item 1 above. 5. All weather use is a recent demand that could be better controlled. Wet weather training and fitness activities that don’t rely on fields must be developed sponsored and established.6. Opportunity to build additional turf fields at the abandoned Nursery Site on Mona Vale Road which can now be properly managed and maintained and contribute another resource for varied use at the St Ives mega site including soccer. And what about using the lawn only transmission parks off Warrimoo that could be perfect for smaller junior fields. This will spread the load in the LGA. 7. Continue to encourage major sports code users to establish partnerships with training sites and indoor fitness centres outside Council ownership such as private and public schools and new developments to provide recreation spaces for the community within their mega sites.
166	Synthetic grass is woeful

167	Synthetic = major microplastics pollution over time plus probable chemical leaching. No positive environmental effects only negatives.
168	I'm very concerned about the microplastic.
169	Synthetic ends up in landfill. It is a non natural surface and prevents water entering the soil. It is harder on the players. It is expensive at the beginning and the end.
170	Environmental and health reasons. Also player sport in a natural turf field is far more pleasant.
171	Better for the environment and fauna. Better for players. No hazardous microplastics in the waterways or distributed in the local soils. With increasing temperatures synthetic will degrade quicker and will increase the days that the field will be unusable.
172	Microplastics are already causing havoc with the environment let alone the unknown health impacts to people and children using the field. Manufacturing impact as well for synthetic turf has negative implications for the environment as well. Natural turf causes less injury to field users and is safer for local wildlife
173	I think plastic turf is bad for players and the environment.
174	A natural environment for birds insects and people
175	Environmentally friendly No negative impact h0n health More comfortable to walk or run on Usable for afternoon walks and runs as the Synthetic surf gets uncomfortably hot particularly for retirees aged people grandkids.
176	Environmental and heat problems with synthetic turf. Preference for natural environment

Section 2: Further comments from people who preferred synthetic turf (867 responses)

No	Preference as synthetic turf
1	When it rains the pitch can still be used and this is a major benefit for the kids to have uninterrupted access
2	I can walk the dogs in any weather as I am aging it's a smooth surface with no divots or holes that could cause me injury. My dogs love it too.
3	Synthetic turf allows sport and recreation to be played all year round in all weather conditions for many community groups and can withstand the wear and tear of constant use every day of the year. No turf field can withstand that. So without a field to play and train on soccer on the north shore will suffer and thousands of players will be impacted especially young players. Playing sport plays an important role in the health and wellbeing of young people and to reduce this significantly will impact all of the community soccer clubs on the northshore of sydney. There is no other synthetic turf field in the local area. Please don't replace it. In fact it seems to be in good condition and a suggestion could be to remove the rubber pellets and replace with wood like Blackman Oval. This will be better for the environment.
4	For football players at Lindfield Charles Bean is an excellent field and the most preferred to any grass being available no matter the weather additionally in personal exercise perfect for exercising in periods of poor weather
5	I prefer a synthetic surface because it is the only option that reliably provides enough usable hours for the community. Independent advice indicates that a natural turf field at this site would realistically deliver 20-30 hours per week. The claim of 2 000 hours annually for 'best practice turf' doesn't reflect the actual conditions at Charles Bean or the repeated heavy rain events we

	experience in Sydney. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours a week and stays open when grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly reduce training matches and participation across multiple clubs and schools.
6	My son prefers to play on synthetic turf
7	One of only fields in area with synthetic and is needed to keep playing football and sport otherwise many games will be cancelled. It is necessery for the continued growth of Superleague and football and young kids to play.
8	All weather and better performance
9	I prefer a healthy version of synthetic turf that is capable of handling the traffic from the school and soccer clubs and local recreation. I also think this would be the best surface for all weather. However I do hope that the council will consider the healthiest option of synthetic as I am concerned about the health risks of chemicals microplastics and heat to the users especially children and the impact on the local environment. I am very happy that you are going to remove the recycled rubber fill. Please upgrade as soon as possible so our children are not exposed to the toxic rubber.
10	All weather sport and can play in the rain so fantastic as games won’t be cancelled and kids still get to play their games with no delay which causes a knock on effect
11	There is already limited synthetic surface playing areas on the north shore. There is plenty of natural surface parks available for non football purposes. Already we lose many training and match days if you are not rostered to a synthetic field. Lindfield is zoned for a lot of apartment developments. These kids will also need somewhere to play. Let’s have a balance of synthetic and non synthetic surfaces in the area. So everyone can have a chance to do what they enjoy. Thankyou.
12	I'm a local resident a former [removed] teacher from local schools that used the oval and both I and my sons play soccer with NSFA. Ultimately I would prefer Charles bean resurfaced as a synthetic pitch and purely comes down to increasing (or maintaining) its usability as a resource for the community. In the numbers given on your website Charles Bean currently accommodates 3 times as many hired hours compared to other natural pitches nearby. With more and more people moving into the area I simply don't think the council or the community can afford to lose an excellent all-weather facility like Charles Bean in it's current format. When considering the pros and cons given of each - my thoughts are as follows: Yes organic infill should be used if resurfacing as synthetic for numerous reason. Environmental health issues of using recycled rubber the annoyance of ‘Charles' Beans’ as my students used to call them (the rubber infill) getting dragging through classrooms shoes etc... I believe Blackman Oval in Lane Cove uses something similar (woodchip?) to great effect. You will lose more days to rain and wet weather on a natural pitch than for heat on a synthetic pitch in my experience. Wet periods close ovals early to protect them and then often remain closed for similar reasons. In a wet week the numbers of hours lost and the number of individuals impacted who miss out on training games etc. is significant. Much less than the issue of heat related closures would have. Additionally having a surface that you know isn't going to be impacted by rain is a game changer from a sports organisation perspective. Trainings teaching/lessons games - can all be planned around and go ahead 99% of the time know that you don't need to wait to find out whether or not the oval will remain open/get closed during wet periods. This creates huge certainty for teachers coaches players parents etc. in organizing and planning for their recreation. - Even with best-in-class design I don't believe a natural field will be able to hold up to the level of wear given if current hours/level of usage were maintained on the oval. The goal mouths get ripped up and then can cordoned off to protect them meaning they can't get used.

	up and down the sidelines suffer the same. Then the ground will need to be 'rested' or equally not used during or after long wet periods in order to protect it. Overall this just reduces the usability of the oval. This can be seen in the numbers you've provided on natural turf alternatives nearby. From personal experience as well running at Charles Bean vs. at the only-recently resurfaced Primula Oval it's night and day. After rain the ground still remains damp and boggy. Not to mention it's lumpy and uneven for runners or players even AFTER the the resurface vs. the safety of a completely flat surface provided by synthetic. We need to think about an prioritize usability overall given higher demand and community population.
13	Needs to be able to be used after rainy days of periods of heavy rain as we neee the space for our classes. Can't be something that can be damaged by the elements and unable to be used
14	There are not enough sporting fields in Kuringai to support kids playing sport as it is. The grass fields are regularly closed by Council due to wet weather. We have endured many seasons of soccer where kids had many many games and training sessions cancelled. Particularly for the girls who play on a Sunday - the fields are opened on a Saturday for the boys then closed for the girls as they are too damaged after the boys games. We want our children to be being more active and playing more sport not less. We have an obesity epidemic in this country. Closing one of the few synthetic fields available and converting to natural turf would mean even fewer games can proceed in wet winters. This is nuts. If council want to have even fewer synthetic pitches than we already do then they will need to change their practices around allowing grounds to remain open when they are wet. Let the kids play on the grass. It might get a bit chewed up but can be repaired in spring - or better maintained during winter. If we don't change this and take away synthetic pitches we will just see less kids being active which is an awful outcome for the whole community.
15	All year round playing surface ! Grass wears too much and will not offer a top playing surface for the higher levels of grass roots football Exactly the same the domain in the cbd ! It sits on the carpark and is regularly yellow grass plus gets shut quickly with a bit of rain!
16	I doubt that a natural grass will be adequately maintained. It hasn't been the case for the other natural grass pitches. Turf allows for more regular playing time and keeps the season going even when bad weather hits.
17	I prefer a synthetic surface because it is the only option that reliably provides enough usable hours for the community. Independent advice indicates that a natural turf field at this site would realistically deliver 20-30 hours per week. The claim of 2 000 hours annually for best practice turf doesn't reflect the actual conditions are Charles Bean or the repeated heavy rain events we experience in Sydney. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours a week and stays open when grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly reduce training matches and participation across multiple clubs and schools.
18	the impact of Wet weather and number of hours available has a domino impact on the lower grade teams of all ages. The top divisions will still get to play somewhere or have a replacement game organised. For the lower divisions their games will be cancelled and not replaced because the availability of fields will go to the higher divisions.
19	All year round better area for all. No mud when wet
20	I prefer a synthetic surface because it is the only option that reliably provides enough usable hours for the community. Independent advice indicates that a natural turf field at this site would realistically deliver 20-30 hours per week. The claim of 2 000 hours annually for 'best practice turf'; doesn't reflect the actual conditions at Charles Bean or the repeated heavy rain events we experience in Sydney. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours a week and stays

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22	I wouldnprefer a synthetic surface because it is the only option that reliably provides enough usable hours for the community especially for the local football club. Independent advice indicates that a natural turf field at this site would realistically deliver 20-30 hours per week. The claim of 2 000 hours annually for 'best practice turf' doesn't reflect the actual conditions at Charles Bean or the repeated heavy rain events we experience in Sydney. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours a week and stays open when grass fields are closed which happens constantly due to rain. Losing that capacity would directly reduce training matches and participation across multiple clubs and schools.
23	This should 100% stay as synthetic purely for usage. Sporting facilities across the north shore and greater sydney are under pressure and they should be accessible as much as possible for everyone. Synthetic achieves this - going back to natural turf does not.
24	All weather playing access for sports
25	I prefer a synthetic surface because it is the only option that reliably provides enough usable hours for the community. Independent advice indicates that a natural turf field at this site would realistically deliver 20-30 hours per week. The claim of 2 000 hours annually for 'best practice turf' doesn't reflect the actual conditions at Charles Bean or the repeated heavy rain events we experience in Sydney. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours a week and stays open when grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly reduce training matches and participation across multiple clubs and schools.
26	Soccer is a key an activity for the local community to keep people mentally and physically healthy. There are many turf pitches in the vicinity but they have the disadvantage of:- closure during wet weather- poor surface conditions which leads to the risk of injuries eg twisted ankles due to pit holes- dog fears- cost of maintenance
27	While natural turf is the best environmentally because of the high traffic usage and council's keenness to close fields during rain artificial turf WITH SAND INFILL - NOT RUBBER!!!!! - is the best option on balance. The rubber is terrible - smelly hot messy dangerous to environment and toxic.
28	The field is now an important community facility used extensively throughout the year by community sporting groups for seasonal competitions and training casual hirers for training and sports activities Lindfield Learning Village as a playground and sports activities on weekdays and by the general public for passive recreation.
29	Weather poor investment in turf fields. Growing population that needs better facilities.
30	Able to be used more often and not subject to weather
31	We are quickly running out of surfaces for our kids to play on. If this turns to grass it's only a matter of time before we have to restrict the amount of hour it can be used for which critically impacts how often our kids can play on there. All other councils in the Sydney area are moving

	to synthetic for this reason. It makes zero sense to go backwards with no other synthetic options in this council.
32	I have seen first hand how important community sport is for building bonds and connections amongst both the children and adults in our community. Unfortunately there are too many cancellations of weekend sport due to the weather and poor conditions of the field. When sport is cancelled kids end up at home indoors and most likely on devices. We owe it to the younger generation to be doing as much as possible to help their social and emotional well being and having a facility such as Charles bean continue to be available in all weather is crucial. The parking is a nightmare so this should be addressed too. A parking lot should have been built under the field years ago. We should be trying to encourage developing spaces that bring people together with ease - this includes parents as well as their kids. This will make Ku-ring-gai a great place to live in the future. With the number of increasing apartments in the area better facilities for the community - especially the youth are needed. For too long the focus has been on the environment heritage and ageing population. Without appealing to young families the community amenities will decrease and loose its vibrancy - which means everyone suffers as a result.
33	Too many washouts with natural turf.
34	A latest generation synthetic turf offers the best all year round usage for the kids at school multiple sports clubs using it as well as the wide public. Given the heavy usage of the field a natural turf would not be able to absorb this level of usage as well as withstanding weather conditions resulting in poor(er) surface conditions that lead to closures and potential injury risks due to poor surface condition. In my opinion a synthetic turf provides best balance of optimised usage longetivity and value for money the community can ask for.
35	Want high quality soccer field in neighbourhood.
36	There are very few all weather grounds in Ku Ring Gai. When there is a period of extended rain the natural turf grounds are unavailable and they often get damaged throughout the season. It's important to have some grounds that are synthentic.
37	I believe synthetic ovals are generally less affected by weather and are therefore a better community outcome. Loss of the facility due to weather can cause distress and is unneccessary. The synthetic oval would provide higher usage and therefore increased council revenue.
38	Charles bean is one of they key parts of the footballing community in the north shore and there are already plenty of natural turf fields in our area
39	Our family are keen soccer players. The Bean is used by all our family nearly on a daily basis for training and games from february till november. It is the only synthetic oval in the local council area to provide continual use for games by Lindfield Soccer Club and NSFA. All other fields that are used are impacted severely by poor weather flooding mud - & lack of professional facilities. The strain on these other fields to support year round games will mean that LFC and its extensive programme of encouraging and engaging children across the local area to be outside and play sport in all weather will be crippled. Furthermore given the LFC focus on encouraging and supporting girls soccer the results for the club in 2025 and previous years as state cup female finalists speak to the success of the clubs approach and the consistent and reliable training facilities that have underpinned this outstanding performance for the clubs female representatives from 12 years and older. The local streets are more than adequate for dog walking as is the Queen Elizabeth park that has in my opinion been compromised to facilitate dogs over human health pursuits. Kids playing outside all year is a top priority.

40	Better usages so much rainfall in the area this year and last natural turf has too many cancellations disruptive
41	Sport is great for mental health and having access to synthetic ensures regular activity for the kids and local competitions
42	All weather pitch for soccer season
43	As has been outlined a synthetic pitch would allow more of the community to utilise this field due to the availability of this area during wet weather. Having this option allows many teams to play regardless of the weather and significantly decreases the impact of wet weather on sports and other recreational activities
44	So when the other grounds are closed there's still somewhere to play.
45	It is a sporting field it requires sporting equipment for the kids to play.
46	It is one of the only reliable available fields in the area. I’m confused as to why the is survey is even needed!
47	Having played on a number of natural fields in Kuring gai most struggle to stay at a suitable good playing standard and quickly become mud pits. This results in injuries to those who use it or they are regularly cancelled.
48	Need for all weather surfaces to mitigate lost games
49	It would be backwards to revert to grass when technology allows opportunity too improve standard of synthetic and enable greater usage
50	One of the few all weather facilities available. Desperately needed for community sports one of the best facilities in Ku-ring-gai
51	I used to play for Lindfield fc (not anymore) and keeping the pitch synthetic will have less games cancelled and more football as what it says on the poster. It will also send a safer environment and ground as if you trip and fall it won’t hurt as much like on the grass. Regardless Charles bean oval is a good field to play on when it is a synthetic and hope to keep it stay
52	All weather so more players and teams have the opportunity to train in poor weather
53	Essential for all weather play - without it my kids will lose the ability to play the full season
54	Quality and reliability of use for playing fields.
55	Wash out rounds
56	No wet weather cancellations.
57	Will allow continuous playing time even during rainy days.
58	I saw it before it became synthetic. It was woeful. It would need tremendous drainage to not become a patchy muddy bath after every rain. I'm now at st Ives fc and for the last two years sorely missing Charles bean synthetic thoroughly depressed each season because we never get to play or have to b sure it games from injury ofrom Warrimoo oval patch turf
59	All weather availability and reduced maintenance costs (no mowing watering)
60	Currently synthetic it has enabled my sons soccer team to complete seasons after heavy rain during the soccer season.
61	All weather and there will be less damageto the surface overtime meaning that more games and stuff can be done on the oval. It also doesnt have to be regrown every year. Also it looks nicer and more appealing.
62	The lack of synthetic fields in the Kuringai Council area is a pretty significant shortcoming when compared to neighbouring councils. Synthetic fields are safer for players (flat surfaces that many ovals in our council can't achieve with natural turf) and are open during wet weather.

	Almost 40% of the last two winter soccer seasons were lost to wet weather because there are not enough synthetic fields available.
63	A more reliable playing surface. Most turf fields are poorly maintained and limit access during the winter.
64	With the increasing numbers of Footballers every year the demand for facilities is increasing. With Football played in the winter the synthetic pitches help take the pressure off the natural fields that may need time to recover.The Football community need more facilities like Charles bean and not take away the limited synthetic pitches we currently have.
65	it is a great home field for club soccer
66	More hours of sport available especially given recent wet seasons
67	guaranteed playing option in wet weather
68	Altering it to a natural turf would cos a backlog of games throughout the year
69	The synthetic surface is able to remain open for training and matches when nearby grass fields have been closed for weeks every season. Removal of synthetic surfaces will result in significantly less people (kids & adults) playing regular football throughout the winter season.
70	Availability in wet weather
71	More usable hours of field and greater reliability during wet seasons.
72	Children need to play. They cannot whe it rains on CB; historically the oval has never done well with water when a natural cover. It is beyond e how and why we are thinking of grass; and why does dog walking matter? There is a dog park across the road! Looked at other council ovals lately? Dog holes everywhere and some games halted because dogs dig up and their owners do nothing to repair. We have the worst grounds of any council. My son plays Reps soccer and cricket and have been to most shire's. This oval of grass will be ruined by its own staff in charge of caring for it!
73	Impacts of wet weather greatly reduce the amount of games we get to play throughout the season. Charles Bean plays an integral role in ensuring our sports club can hold sufficient games in order to keep the competition progressing
74	Sport needs more surfaces that can be usable across the seasons - especially winter sports such as Soccer - for all ages.
75	Maintain all weather facilities in the region for children's sport
76	Charles Bean oval along with the limited other number of synthetic ovals available to the Northern suburbs football association has been an absolute season saver for the football community since it's inception. It continues to provide vital match coverage at wet weather times and other times such reason and finals times when grass fields are not available for either wet weather reasons or conflicting hire reasons. Demands for football fields are only growing with increased populations increased participation (female football growth popularity in youth age groups and increased / extended participation for older age groups) and bigger threats to overall greenspace (playing fields) within Sydney. It is imperative that available usage rates for Charles Bean Oval are at least maintained if not increased. Renewing the Synthetic to the latest technology and standards is the only answer that should be considered for this valuable community resource.
77	It is critical to maximize playing/training hours using synthetic. Look at how much rain and rained off turf games have occurred over last 3-4 years.
78	One of the only synthetic fields in the area which means the larger community relies on it heavily in rainy seasons
79	It's an all weather surface that can host many more games than natural turf.

80	In a time where there is such a huge shortage of sports fields available for the surrounding communities i feel it is essential we choose the surface that will improve overall accessibility for everyone. We know during winter after heavy rain most grass fields get canceled this can go on for weeks.
81	Allows for greater usage during winter months
82	Charles Bean is the only artificial grass soccer field in our area. The only field available to play at many times of the season when natural grass fields are closed or too wet and unsyitable to be played on.
83	Fantastic to play on and can easily use in all weather.
84	Better quality surface
85	There is insufficent all weather sporting facilities for winter sports. Converting to turf will further reduce capacity in wet weather.
86	Higher use for soccer and sport
87	With current technologies synthetic turf has now been produced with less microplastics and natural rubbers can be used which are non toxic. One such product that can be used is [name and information on product removed]. Turf is constantly having to be relaid and is also out of action when rain occurs causing sporting clubs PAYING to use the facilities lost competition days and less ex exercise for the youth of this country which at the end of the day is the most important part which takes them away from technology. With the new introduced social media ban having playing surfaces for our children which are playable in all weather ensures they are kept fit and healthy.
88	we have had too many seasons cut short through wet weather
89	As a synthetic pitch it's one of the best on the north shore. If changed to grass it would require constant maintenance and cost during the winter months in particular.
90	Synthetic turf allows the field to be available all year around. It gives much greater access to everyone to use it after rainy days (without the damage that would be caused to grass) as well as the normal ones.
91	Simply the amount of sport that can be played on this surface due to unpredictable weather conditions. We should not be reducing the volume.
92	Why would you replace with a grass pitch that is not playable if it rains. We should be replacing as many grass pitches with synthetic as possible within the budgets the council has to improve playing time not the other way around.
93	It’s great the way it is. More football will be played on it if it stays synthetic. Natural turf requires more maintenance and if it isn’t treated properly it will turn into another average ground.
94	There are not enough sports fields and recreation area that can be used in winter. As weather continues to become more extreme we need more all weather surfaces not less.
95	Playing soccer
96	It is necessary for all year use for training and games. There are insufficient all weather ovals in the district. It’s easy to drop kids off and collect them. Parking isn’t an issue
97	I am a keen Soccer player that plays in the nsfa and personally I very much dislike the state of the natural turf fields that I have played on. The only average natural turf field is montview oval which can still use some work. So many people go to Charles bean to walk around play soccer have fun and more. I always go to have fun and play with mates. If changed to natural turf it would mean limited playing time instead of unlimited and most likely during winter when there's wet weather it would almost always be closed to keep the pitch conditions for games. All of this overrules the cons of natural turf pitch.

98	There simply a gross shortage of sports facilities in the Sydney area and grass pitches cannot meet the demand. Land is scarce and is not going to be made available for new pitches. Housing density is going to increase. Hence the only viable option is pitches that can be played on rain or shine 24/7. On player safety the quality of the grass pitches in the Northern suburbs is appalling and a far higher risk to players than any synthetic surface. Suggestions that grass pitches are softer is anecdotal and unfounded. Synthetic pitches just like grass are a product of the base layers. Any competent constructor can give you whatever bounce you like by adjusting the base. They could do this 20 years ago in the UK. Football (soccer) is the most participated sport in the country and this position will only grow to mirror world comparisons. The concern about microplastics and heat contribution is farcical relatively speaking.
99	Natural turf is great if it is professional quality and perfectly maintained but in reality it constantly gets waterlogged in heavy rain leading to cancellations
100	Natural turf rarely allows for a soccer game to proceed through the season. Usually they are too wet.
101	More use year round in any weather conditions. Safer than natural grass due to no holes being dug on the surface
102	With the increased amount of rainfall it's the only way we can keep playing soccer
103	Synthetic turf give an opportunity to support more football/soccer games during the wet season in comparison to the natural field.
104	Na
105	So many games get rained off having an synthetic turf means more games actually get played.
106	We need more synthetic surfaces on the north shore to help provide consistency with surface availability during the wet winter months. Not having any synthetic surfaces creates a huge problem for all active football players young and old.
107	Better wet weather option for opportunity for games.
108	Charles bean is often one of the only available grounds on rainy weekends during the football season. It has been one of the sole reasons the nsfa football schedule doesn't get fully impacted by rainy weather on multiple occasions. It is also a consistently good field that I and others look forward to playing on because of the consistent quality of the field regardless of weather
109	With the amount of rain Sydney gets if this is converted we will lose another available pitch for wet weather which is unbelively valuable for a winter sport like football. Synthetic pitches almost never get cancelled and means that games can continue as by mid season almost all grass pitches are shut for a majority of the season due to rain. This means that if this is converted all football players around the North shore will be unable to play their favourite sport for weeks and weeks. These pitches are a life saver during winter.It is already tough enough to get an available pitch and shutting down a perfectly good synthetic pitch is disappointing to say the least. This is not even considering the impact of having these pitches available for training which is amazing for people of all ages.
110	Allows children and sports to remain open and to play all year round. The wet weather is worsening year on year and children need a place to play be it club sports or just recreational.
111	With how many people use this field I feel to allow everyone to fully benefit from it the turf field is the best option.
112	We can play at any weather
113	Extended playing hours no wet weather cancellations.

114	With the rain we have experienced recently the grass pitches have poor reliability. Not to mention often poor quality of surface - Synthetic pitches allow us to play all year round on a really high quality surface which makes it much more enjoyable.
115	Charles Bean has been an integral ground in allowing soccer seasons to be completed. The last couple of years have felt like there have been increased levels of rain impacting a lot of grass grounds and their ability to field games. Should one of the few artificial ground pitches on the lower north shore be converted to natural grass that will place further strain on resources and much higher maintenance costs.
116	Synthetic is far more durable and better to play on. Games don't get cancelled when it rains and you can get much more use out of the ground.
117	Quality synthetic turf options for soccer is highly important for the health of the community and engagement in sports. The current facility is high quality and natural turf would result in regular cancellations due to weather at significant impact to available fields for winter competitions.
118	It is modern suitable for all weather perfect for passing style of play.
119	Natural turf games consistently get postponed or cancelled due to wet weather. This allows community access regardless of weather conditions
120	Given the amount of rainfall over winter seasons it is critical that synthetic fields are available for wet weather play to ensure sports are able to proceed and maximise game time across the season. Losing a synthetic field would likely significantly impact all sports clubs due to the reduction in pitches that are available for wet weather play.
121	Allows for more of the community to play soccer as it does not get chewed up less rained out games.
122	Higher quality pitch usable all year round
123	Sports are so important especially during winter and in the rain. With grass fields kids are disappointed every week when games are canceled and the fields become mud pits and can't be even used for trainings.
124	Synthetic turf is important to maintain community engagement with sporting events. Charles Bean serves as the backbone of community sport in the north shore throughout the calendar year when many other natural fields are cancelled due to rain. The morale of kids having their games cancelled last minute is devastating.
125	With the weather changing to a lot wetter conditions year round it is essential you have an all weather ground to ensue use over the year. If the main issue is actual local people complaining about a car parking then as a council you should rally the govt about that. Not change the grounds to suit the minority. As per the next question I've seen more players get injured on regular grounds more than synthetic over the years.
126	Ensures sport is always played on a weekend. If not you'd be forcing sport matches onto already worn our natural grass pitches which would cause even more fees to fix. Sport is so important for health and mental health removing its accessibility is so misled.
127	Synthetic turf is what everybody wants to play on other than people that are interested in cricket... Why would you cater for the minority and reduce the amount of sporting hours played and the entire heritage just to cater for cricket
128	As someone who plays in the NSFA Prems football but also lives 5 minutes away i can visit the oval in any weather and can continue playing if it starts raining. Having this oval turned to turf would prevent this and give me a far lower likelihood of playing games on Saturday
129	Having a synthetic field drastically increases playing hours and keeps our kids as active as possible. With 3 very wet winters in the past 5 years relying on poorly maintained grass fields

	for sport has proven incredibly difficult with 99% of grass fields closed on 6-10 weekends the past 2 seasons. Only by utilising synthetic fields has the full season been possible. At North Sydney United we use our Cammeray synthetic every day of the week from 4pm-9pm for training. On Saturdays its 8am-8pm.for competition games and 8am-7pm every Sunday in winter. On grass that would be impossible without state of the art drainage full time maintenance and the right type of grass. That would cost more than synthetic over time. We have had a synthetic field for 10 years at Cammeray. There has been no evidence of any environmental damage in that time. During Covid the Council left the field open and put floodlights on at night so people could stay active and socialise in small groups. That would never have worked on a grass field as the high numbers would have ruined the surface. No maintenance was required on synthetic during Covid. The spraying of chemicals on grass is dangerous for animals and humans with cases of cancer in dogs at Blackman grass field over the past few years suspected of being caused by pesticides. Official Government studies have proven there is no actual real evidence that synthetic fields damage the environment and all new artificial surfaces have infill made from cork coconut bark or other safe products. Even when infill was made from rubber there was no evidence of any actual damafe to the environment anywhere. The only negative was the heat the rubber attracted. With modern articial surfaces made without rubber this factor is now irrelevant. For the health of the Community its 100% better to have a synthetic surface than natural turf as they consistently allow uninterupted sport every day and night. In the interest of mental health we need kids active and we need adults to be able to have a place to switch off from the pressures of modern life. A synthetic field does this. A natural turf field cannot guarantee it. In Sydney grass fields are often poorly maintained and this leads to a lot of injuries
130	Many games were washed out last season. Weather extremes increasingly make natural pitches either too dry bare and hard or too wet for use. Playing on a wet pitch that does pass inspection still comes with an increased risk of injury.
131	It is one of very few ovals that can be used after it rains in our soccer competition and that would mean we actually get to play the games instead of them being washed out. More reliable too.
132	Avoid wash outs which are a constant problem for nsfa
133	Synth is better
134	Limited synthetic pitches in the area
135	Having the reliability to play weekend sport in our community rain hail or shine is really important to me
136	Every year more and more games are washed out on grass pitches. The population in the area is growing as is winter sports participation. Team sports played on Charles Bean are an integral part of community building. We need more synthetic pitches not less. Grass pitches end up with huge divots. Most injuries are caused by twisted ankles knees etc on grass pitches. If cooling is an issue mature trees should be planted around the field.
137	Synthetic grounds are the highlight for men’s football players. These grounds are great to play on much safer (less diverts less bumps no wet patches) that lead to much fewer injuries. They enable training and playing all year around - which again contributes to limiting injuries (unfit players get injured more regularly). The synthetic pitches are few and far between and we should preserve those we have. I don't see any downsides to having a synthetic pitch only huge upsides.

138	Increased availability all year round. Grass pitches very unreliable especially is recent years with heavy rainfall.
139	Natural turf requires irrigation. With climate change we'll likely have more dry days restricting use of water.
140	In an ideal world we would not need synthetic surfaces. However it is not an ideal world. We need the few synthetic fields we have- and possibly need more. Why? The demand for soccer fields is growing and synthetic fields allow for extended use in a way that natural fields do not. Secondly the weather Take August 2025. As an NSFRA referee I was scheduled for x8 games on x4 weekends on natural turf. Every one of those games was washed out. Clearly investment in the drainage and surfaces of existing natural turf surfaces in also needed.
141	As a local resident and two teenage boys one at LLV I feel it's important that we have a multi-purpose all weather field for them to use year round. Both play / played competitive football and summer soccer. During the winter season there are increasing cancellations due to weather and poor drainage on grass fields with very few synthetic pitches available (North Sydney Northbridge Manly United) My eldest son is now playing in the UK where there are a vast number of all weather pitches. We need to be future ready and enable our players to train and play in order to eventually compete on the world stage.
142	The winter months are increasingly wet and cold so rain events can close a ground for weeks. Additionally when a ground is used during or after a rain event the ground turns to mud very quickly and does not recover for the rest of the soccer season. I have coached and played football in the area for many years and always look forward to playing at Charles Bean - particularly compared to some of the terrible grass fields that are destroyed by June. It allows multiple users children to use it and adults to use it later in the year as well as intra-association matches during preseason that benefits the wider Sydney area. Old Astro pitches can cause issues with player injuries but that is part of risk of any sport no matter the surface. Newer Astro pitches are generally softer and better on the knees.
143	All weather
144	There are so few all weather surfaces that we need the community to keep those that exist. Given recent years rainfall and amount of cancelled games going to turf would see more activity time lost and push more activity onto already over utilised existing natural turf pitches.
145	Keep sports and recreational activities running rain hail or shine.
146	Supports the ongoing use during wet weather. Supports greater capacity than turf fields.
147	Less cancelled games
148	So it's yes can be maximised and sports aren't cancelled due to rain. The area has minimal synthetic surfaces and this would impact severely
149	NSFA need this venue to enable successful all weather access at a great location and to provide year round use of the ground. We need to move forward and enable children and adults to have constant ability to play sport. Going back to Natural turf will restrict constant usage. Please allow upgrade to remain a synthetic pitch for the continual growth of sport!
150	Allows for sport to be played throughout winter when heavy rainfall occurs. Natural turf pitch will likely degrade and create an uneven surface based on its current position (slopes on either side)
151	Less washouts. Far better playing surface than natural grass.
152	During the soccer season too many fields are closed during wet weather. Training for academy teams must happen in all weather conditions and Charles Ben provide this opportunity with synthetic turf.

153	Fewer cancellations so more training and game time.
154	Soccer season is already heavily impacted by the lack of synthetic fields in local councils areas please don't remove this one!
155	Playing in the NSFA competitions and also being apart of the community for the last 25 years I have played on this field when it was natural turf before it was changed to synthetic and the ground itself was unable to be played on when wet. The change to synthetic has made this ground more suitable for everyone at every age and to be able to use it all year round makes it one of the best in the district.
156	good for kids' sport in any weather
157	It's a facility us3d heavily that should be synthetic as turf is incorrect surface
158	So we can always play on it no matter the weather
159	Without synthetic surfaces it means there will be less games during the season due to washed out games climate change is creating more extreme weather therefore without synthetic the season will be pushed back make up games throughout resulting in more injuries and less game time
160	Synthetic turf enables sport to be played more regularly and less dependent on weather. Given sport (whether so social or competitive) is such a fundamental and integral part of early childhood development building connections health (including mental health) and socialising synthetic turf is so important to maintaining these components.
161	Synthetic turf allows for heavy use and with the increased rainfall the turf will required to withstand water.
162	Every year I've played football here this has been the only ground that has been able to stay open for the whole season. Obviously due to large amount of rain we get in winter I think it would be smart to keep this field and keep local football running. With natural turf means more cancellations less practice and less community engagement with the area.
163	Wet weather closures of grass fields significantly impact competitive games and training. Synthetic fields allow greater utilisation and physical activity
164	I can't believe the untruths shared by Mick Battam in his statement on your website. Remember this is the person that compared grass at Norman Griffiths to the MCG. BizzareParking is always availabe if the LLV parking is open. Not a real problem 'best practice' grass recently relayed at Wellington Oval and Samuel King were closed as much as all other regular grass fields this year. Grass won't survive Synthetic is safer. No dog poo no rabbit holes causing ankle and knee breaks better grip on boots in the wet
165	to play football in wet conditions
166	As a local player who trains with Lindfield FC juniors and plays seniors for Kuringai District Soccer I'm 100 % behind keeping Charles Bean Oval synthetic. When every grass field in the area turns to mud in May and games get called off for weeks Charles Bean is one of the already limited pitches that can be used. No cancelled sessions no slipping over on bare patches no waiting for council to re-turf. We get 3-4 sessions a week here under lights instead of cramming onto half a soggy pitch somewhere else. The surface is fast true and forgiving on the knees compared to rock-hard winter grass. I've had fewer rolled ankles and no burnt legs from sliding on dry patches late in the season. Kids from 5 years old right through to Adults train here side-by-side because it's reliable 12 months a year. Replacing it with grass would be a huge step backwards for the whole Northern Suburbs soccer community. We'd lose thousands of training hours and force more clubs to travel miles for decent facilities. Keep it synthetic upgrade it if needed but please don't take away the one ground that actually works

	when everywhere else is unplayable. From a local player who's kicked a ball here for over 20 years: synthetic is the reason I still get to play. Council back the upgrade.
167	With a limit in playing fields we need Synthetic Turf to accommodate the need (Hours). Without it many activities will have to be cancelled. There is no where else to relocate them
168	Greater availability and utilisation for activities which assist in the development sport in the local area. There are many other natural grass options available. The uneven natural surface can be less safe than the artificial one.
169	Synthetic turf is absolutely the way to go and Charles Bean must be kept that way for the following reasons: 1. Natural turf fields require an incredible amount of work to keep to a good playing quality and there is very little evidence that Kuringgai council can do that. E.g Koola Park Mimosa Kissing Point Oval (list goes on) are all terrible playing surfaces even just 3 or 4 weeks into the season despite work over the summer suggesting that the resources are just not there to maintain quality playing surfaces.2. Synthetic is safer especially for sports. Natural turf is prone to holes rough ground and cricket pitches in the middle which greatly impact the safety of sports players during play and can cause serious injury. 3. Synthetic maximises the amount of playtime during the season. Sydney's variable weather conditions in recent years and increased rainfall begs the need for more synthetic ovals for more clubs to increase and maintain playing time. It is of my opinion that all NSFA Clubs' home grounds should be synthetic with other parks being natural turf and prioritised for cricket and other sports recreational use natural zones and dog walking.
170	Synthetic surfaces are the most reliable surface to provide eusable hours for the community. Independent advice indicates that a natural turf field at this site would realistically deliver 20-30 hours per week. The claim of 2000 hours annually for 'best practice turf' doesn't reflect the actual lconditions at Charles Bean or the repeated heavy rain events we experience in Sydney. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours a week and stays open when the grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly reduce training matches and participation across multiple clubs and schools.
171	I play soccer 3 to 4 times a week at this field and if it has been changed to real turf the field will be washed out every time it rains. And if residents were to be allowed to walk their dog on it there will patches of grass everywhere. There might also be dog poop.
172	I really like the field being synthetic so I can play soccer on rainy days without mud and also during the soccer seasons the games on this oval dont get cancled because it is not muddy.
173	Field availability is a key issue given the limited number of suitable fields and benefits of regular community sports.
174	It is one of the few all weather synthetic pitches analysis in kuringai and is need to allow full participation in football during wet periods in the main winter season.
175	Hi use and availability is paramount. With organic fill most of the concerns should be addressed.
176	More playing time. Going back to turf is a big step back
177	limited synthetic turf grounds in the council area should not replace with natural turf.
178	all weather and robust nature of surface. one of few in the LGA that is available when most grass fields are closed due to weather and wear during winter months. And mixed use grass field at west Lindfield (dog walking) and Bert Oldfield Oval Killara are dug up with holes by dogs making use for football running dangerous due to ankle injuries..
179	Play time. Too many games cancelled everywhere else this one at least won't close cos it's raining. That means consistent training practice and games.

180	There are only 4 synthetic pitches across the NSFA. During winter natural turf pitches are regularly closed due to rain. Without shared use of the synthetic pitches competitions would not be able to be completed. Most seasons games are cut short and only the critical comp dependant games are played at the end of the season.
181	I would prefer natural but I know that for this oval to provide consistent service to the community and school it needs to be synthetic BUT it needs to be non-toxic. I see toddlers rolling in this stuff our school children will spend up to 13 years playing on this it piles up like sand and then flows into our amazing bushlands don't get me started on how I have to vacuum it up every day - because this poopoo is tracked through my home....we need to do better. much better.
182	All weather surfaces are needed. The majority of grass fields in Ku Ring Gai are in a poor condition with no or limited drainage leading to constant field closures throughout the winter sports season. Organised sport has so many benefits outside the physical health benefits social and mental health improvements and a feeling of community. When trainings are unable to go ahead due to field closures the risk of injury increases.
183	We have enough natural fields. We need more synthetic fields to be able to continue to play sports. Train kids and be able to stay up with other counties that provide top synthetic field for there children and students.
184	As a winter sport soccer or football rarely encounters hot weather cancellations. Overwhelmingly the reason for cancellations of football games is due to wet weather. A high-quality synthetic field is really the only practical way to maximise usage for key local football team such as Lindfield FC and Northbridge FC. For non-football usage there are numerous other activities that can be done should the school or local residents find the synthetic surface too hot in summer such as bush walking locally.
185	Greater using time / games not called off
186	All weather using lower maintenance
187	Grass fields are often closed during the soccer season due to rain and often the surfaces do not hold up during the season due to usage. Synthetic can handle more games during the season. Grass fields are often damaged by dogs which pose a danger to players. Also dog owners often do not clean up after their dogs which is a health hazard to players.
188	We are now appearing to be experiencing more dynamic weather patterns. A surface which would allow playing to continue in any type of weather seems more practical to me as sporting activities would not require postponements because of bad weather which inevitably require rescheduling of many teams .
189	Synthetic turf on the soccer field would allow children to play safely and consistently throughout the year regardless of the constant changes in weather. Unlike natural grass which becomes muddy and unusable after rain or uneven during dry spells synthetic turf provides a durable even surface that reduces cancellations and injuries. This means more games more training sessions and greater opportunities for kids to stay active and enjoy sport all year round.
190	It's good for the local football community. It helps the players develop their skills and technique.
191	CB is one of the few grounds where children and adults can play football that is not impacted on to any material degree by weather. Most grounds (and all turf) are closed in wet weather when CB is not. It provides a service to thousands of community members from across the LGA not just local to CB. The durability of synthetic also means i9t offers excellent value for

	money due to its return on investment. It is basically a set and forget resource unlike turf fields. Because of its durability it is not negatively impacted on by weather and by heavy use so the surface maintains its integrity. This allows for better quality technical football to be played on it. This allows players' (mainly young players) skills to be developed more effectively and allows better quality football to be played on it. Even if it were to become grass this would make no difference to the parking issues. When open the same number of people/cars would be there so that is a non-argument. Yes the council needs to come up with an arrangement with the school that is common sense. The mere notion of considering changing the field to turf is completely illogical. More and more football sporting fields are becoming synthetic to help support community members health and well-being (including mental well-being). Councils should be developing more of these resources not less. The smoother surface and less potholes and hazards (and the problem of cricket pitches on turf fields) means overall the synthetics are a safer surface than turf.
192	The turf is the better option because it gives people an opportunity to play their sport during the rainy season and because there is a lack of care for traditional grass fields its overall better to have synthetic
193	Supports higher periods of use and useability in wet weather
194	Improved usability when other sites are closed due to rain
195	this is the home field of my football club - UTS FC. all members of the club love having a reliable synthetic field. we know training sessions or games will always go ahead when it rains which is important for players physical and mental health. it is also important for teams to continue to train and play to continue momentum throughout the season
196	As someone who frequently uses Charles Bean to play football amongst other forms of exercise the synthetic turf is what makes it so much more usable compared to other local grounds such as Wellington which on rainy days for example are always closed - Charles Bean currently does not have this issue and it's all weather status makes it extremely valuable for the community who enjoy exercising outdoors no matter the weather.
197	The marginal environmental benefits of natural turf and impact on sporting ground availability seem far outweighed by the utility that the artificial turf provides.
198	During winter soccer season there are few ovals in which our youth and adults can play on when its been raining it would be detrimental to remove one from a very limited number available
199	Synthetic Turf allows for use in all weather conditions allows for the same amazing playing surface all year round. allows places for friends to practice for people to watch games and to socialise with the community.
200	It is an extremely important to the community to have access an ‘all weather’ pitch. In recent years the number of games lost on grass pitches is increasing and the unavailability of games will push children and adults away from playing sport. The societal benefits of children and adults playing sport regularly are beyond any doubt.
201	Charles Bean is the most nothern synthetic ground in the comp (Ntra doesn't get used in our comp) and was the only reason in the last couple of years that we have been able to play during wet weather. We would have had 5+ games washed out otherwise for our team alone let alone all the others that were able to keep playing due to the synthetic nature. Even though berowra is our home ground the rescheduling due to weather has meant we have been the home team and allowed so many of our games to go ahead. Extra tree coverage around the field would be a significant improvement to manage heat at the site and the organic option

	helps mitigate environmental concerns. There's a risk of injury on both natural or synthetic it's a risk everytime we play and the burn heals up at a reasonable rate. Therefore preferance is to upgrade the synthetic.
202	There is already a shortage of synthetic sporting fields in the area. During ongoing wet periods as experienced in recent years and likely to continue given global warming trends it's important to retain the synthetic fields that are already existing. Without these facilities being available large numbers of the local community will have periods where sport is simply unavailable. This will impact local health as well as impact up and coming talented sporting individuals. I believe the impact of losing this as a synthetic field is large whereas the impact to those who would like natural grass is minimal as there are many options for this.
203	The main reason is simply availability of soccer fields during the season. Without a synthetic pitch at Charles Bean so many more game will be cancelled due to rain.
204	I have seen many natural turf fields that have been decimated week after week by weather regardless of the care put in. Access to Charles bean has been crucial to me and friends to play after a weekend of rain or go exercise (running or frisbee). Furthermore I have had incredible memories there playing football that would not be able to happen without Charles bean astroturf
205	Spectating
206	It's one of very few fields where games actually took place every week this year. No point having sports teams if they can't play.
207	Optimal usage time across the year including when wet. Less degradation and mud than natural grass which deteriorates rapidly. Too many injuries on grass fields and too much down time in winter. Lack of other quality playing fields in the area. Cannot believe the council is even contemplating natural grass.
208	to reduce cancellations of games and weather dependency
209	It's all weather and can be used in all conditions
210	I generally prefer natural turf pitches as its a softer playing surface but synthetic is very important as council does not adequately maintain pitches and rain often derails seasons. Less injuries on synthetic pitches aswell due to even playing surface
211	More usage
212	The synthetic turf allows for many more hours of training benefiting the outcome of our games. This is important to the teams who play in Charles bean as the more training sessions the better we will succeed.
213	Ku-Ring-Gai has a shortage of synthetic fields as it is. Weather patterns in recent years mean that access to synthetic fields is becoming increasingly needed. Retaining Charles Bean as a synthetic field is essential for the junior sporting community.
214	Charles Bean is one of very few standalone synthetic soccer fields in the area allowing soccer to be played (training and games) regardless of the weather. Synthetic allows for heavy use and is not subject to the same wear and limitations as natural turf. Too many games and trainings on grass get cancelled due to wet weather during the winter season and keeping Charles Bean as a synthetic field will continue to mitigate this.
215	Over the last few years the soccer seasons have been heavily effected by waterlogged pitches. Up to 50% of games and practice sessions being cancelled. Synthetic pitches are available 365 days of the year. Your study shows that this pitch is used more than 100% more then other ovals and much more than the report from the independent expert says that a grass pitch can handle. Why lesson the number of hours where are these hours going to

	accommodated. Other council grass pitches are in a real state with large holes in the playing surface and minimal grass cover which represent much more danger than a friction burn. Below I am asked to rate player safety in my opinion it is much safer on the synthetic pitch than a poorly maintained grass one!
216	I think that for the sake of the mental and physical health of our community we need facilities like this to be able to maintain constant annual use without weather impacts or ground repairs. This outweighs the environmental concerns in my mind. Rather than just soccer please look at what Woollahra Council did at Andrew Petrie Oval where they play rugby on a synthetic surface.
217	Natural turf surfaces won't work with large amount of members playing football. Too many games/training sessions are called of and this not only kills the community spirit but also it has a major impact on the all players well-being. Sport is an integral part of our community in so many ways but natural turf surfaces in the areas are not only closed most iof the year but they are also unsafe to play after a large amount of players using them in season.
218	I prefer a synthetic surface because it’s the only option that consistently offers enough usable hours for the community. Independent advice shows that a natural grass field at this site would realistically provide only 20-30 hours a week. The claim of 2 000 hours a year for ‘best-practice turf’ doesn’t take into account the actual conditions at Charles Bean or the frequent heavy rain we get in Sydney. The current synthetic field delivers 60-80 hours a week and remains open when grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly cut training time fixtures and participation across various clubs and schools.
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221	Accessibility reduction of water use and council maintenance
222	I strongly support renewing the synthetic turf at Charles Bean Oval in Lindfield rather than switching back to natural grass.1. High Community Use Charles Bean Oval is one of the most heavily used fields in the area recording around 3 753 hours of booked use in 2024 (including NSFA and Lindfield Learning Village).As highlighted in Council’s documents synthetic fields simply deliver far more playable hours than natural turf can handle.2. Reliability and Year-Round Access Synthetic turf provides consistent all-weather availability. Council’s independent advisor Smart Connection Consultancy estimates the new surface could support 60-80 hours of use per week -- more than triple the capacity of a natural grass field. This reduces washouts and closures giving clubs schools and casual users far more dependable access.3. Better Long-Term Value While replacement costs are higher synthetic turf offers a better cost-per-hour outcome because of its much higher utilisation. It also requires less frequent and less

	intensive maintenance (no mowing irrigation or heavy turf repair) easing demand on Council's maintenance resources.4. Environmental and Safety Measures The proposed renewal takes environmental concerns seriously recommending organic infill sub-surface drainage and filtration and recyclable shock pads. These steps help address issues such as microplastic containment surface heat and responsible end-of-life management.5. Strong Community Benefits Keeping a high-quality synthetic surface ensures consistent training and playing facilities for local clubs schools and community groups It also aligns with Council's objective to maximise community use of limited open space and provide strong value for ratepayers.6. Parking and Access Parking challenges are acknowledged in the consultation process. This is a council planning issue. Even so the advantages of maintaining a high-capacity field outweigh these concerns -- especially if Council pursues options like shared access to the Lindfield Learning Village car park outside school hours. Conclusion Renewing the synthetic turf at Charles Bean Oval is a practical future-focused choice that supports community sport maximises field capacity and delivers operational efficiencies while addressing environmental considerations responsibly. I encourage Council to proceed with the proposed synthetic turf renewal.
223	I like
224	We have very few synthetic surfaces in the local area and to lose this one would be catastrophic for soccer players. These surfaces allow for much higher rate of use vs grass and are all-weather surfaces. My club relies on Charles Bean to provide a training and match day pitch for hundreds of kids and adults alike. Without this synthetic surface I honestly don't know how the club and these players would cope.
225	I support having a small number of synthetic fields within the LGA for sports use mainly soccer. They allow for more game days even in wet weather and a smoother playing surface. It seems crazy to me that we are already 10million down on a synthetic field in West Pymble and yet considering converting Charles Bean to turf. That seems like an incredible waste of resources. For a smaller amount of money Charles Bean can be remain synthetic with an appropriate update. I also feel that any of the close residents and the school all moved in after the field was synthetic so they were well informed of the choice they were making. There are a huge number of dog off leash parks available and my kids have trained at turf ovals where many people let their dogs run freely even during training. Having a few dedicated synthetic fields actually allows for a more professional and safe training experience for the kids especially those that are more serious about the sport.
226	The amount of soccer matches played per season in Australia is already a number well below many other countries. If the pitch were to be converted into natural grass there's a high chance significantly more matches would be rained out/cancelled (re - turfing etc.) and hinder the development of thousands of youth players. For many girls teams their competition is already so small that some teams play as little as 10 games a season; by changing this pitch that number would go down further.
227	Much better surface for playing on and the fact it rarely closes is a big benefit. Synthetic provides more playing time for more members of the community. One thing with natural turf which Im not sure has been factored in is unpermitted use this adds up and impact natural turf more than synthetic
228	Able to have games and training in all weather
229	Synthetic turf allows more sport to be played and reduces the frequent cancellations of trainings and games if it was natural turf. With the amount of rain during the football season natural turf would very much limit the ability for soccer trainings and games

230	Football is played here by many players clubs and local teams. As a player and member of the community I would hate to see it turn into a field that would discourage football and lower the standard of safety and play. Artificial turf is easier to play and train on with lower maintenance higher consistency and reliability .
231	We have too few all-weather venues in Kuringgai. So much weekend sport is cancelled because of the poor state of the natural turf pitches. It would be ridiculous to lose one of the few all-weather surfaces that the Council provides. It is essential that Charles Bean be retained as an all-weather venue.
232	It is one of the only few fields that remain open in heavy rain where I am able to train with my team while every other natural fields are closed as there are puddles everywhere. Having it changed to natural turf means less hours of training less games less participation from girls and boys. It is just quite inconvenient. Synthetic has worked in the past and now so I don't see a huge problem on why it has to be changed. Synthetic gives us at least 60-80 hours a week for all ages and teams to train on and play while natural turf will not do that.
233	I would like it to be synthetic as Charles Bean is one of the only fields that never get washed out during the football season. If the field gets turned to natural turf and the weather goes torrential clubs like Lindfield FC will not have anywhere to train or play their games. If the field is closed we lose around 60-80 hours per week of using the great synthetic field.
234	Availability all year round
235	There are plenty of natural turf fields in Kuringai and hardly any synthetic Field availability for sports is already a challenge and would be more so if this field was converted to natural turf
236	More durable through wet season periods. Less cost to maintain
237	All weather nature of the pitch allows games to progress during inclement weather when a number of other fields shut. My daughter also plays NSFA Diamond league and they try and play on synthetic pitches when possible.
238	Synthetic turf enables more football matches and training for players who use the field. Moving to a natural turf would reduce the overall experience for players as the field would be of worse quality and in turn the matches would be worse. Less matches would decrease footballers overall playing experience and hinder their development.
239	Frustrated with regular soccer game cancellations. Ku-ring-gai has very few artificial pitches which results in many of games being cancelled due to wet weather.
240	I have multiple kids who play for Lindfield FC and it were not for Charles Bean we would miss on multiple games and training sessions. My sons play a fairly high level for LFC and the coaching program is very expensive so the reliability of Charles Bean oval is appreciated.
241	It is able to be used in all weather especially in wet weather when other fields are closed. It gives the community a space where planned sports activities can go ahead almost all the time (excepting extreme weather - heat/rain). Hundreds of adults and children benefit from Charles Bean being accessible and useable in a built up area where open space is getting more and more limited. To take such a facility away from the community seems absurd.
242	Can play all year round
243	For the use of football games
244	Availability of the playfield
245	More accessible and reliable. Can play through rain and rarely has closures.
246	Synthetic fields with always be necessary for high level football and to enable physically activity all throughout winter. Natural turf grounds are constantly closed throughout the winter

	and significantly deteriorate throughout the winter. This leads to higher risk of injury lower activity levels and also a lower level of football allowed.
247	Both options pose some questions around environmental sustainability pesticides and fertiliser are also unfavourable for the environment as is excessive use of water to maintain the field. Heat has been highlighted as posing a problem to playing days with a synthetic field however on natural turf field games would also be cancelled during the wet weather as to not ruin the grounds. If Dog walking was allowed on a natural field dog urine and dog waste is a public health risk and creates an unpleasant environment the bacteria can also also contaminate the soil and grass leading to weeds and patches. The synthetic field is better for long term maintenance is a better option for playing surface and performance and much more pleasing to the eye to have a green field year round.
248	We participate in soccer at LFC and washouts occur too often. More synthetic turf improves kids chances of being able to play in wet weather.
249	Means it is never closed.
250	All weather availability. Maximises sporting use. Grass pitches in Kuringai are mostly very poor.
251	There are limited all weather playing grounds around lindfield meaning that in poor weather many fields are unable to be played on. Charles bean is essential for allowing kids to play outside and keep active. But definitely needs to be resurfaced in a sustainable way for both health and the environment.
252	Requirement for a quality all weather dependable playing field in the area. Limited other equivalent facilities
253	We need more synthetic fields not less. Kids need fields to train and play in wet weather.
254	Natural turf would not stand up to the current demands of the synthetic turf. Many more matches can be played when the weather is wet.
255	In recent years the number of days of sport and training rained off across the entire north shore has only increased. Artificial pitches saved the season for thousands of participants. This would not have been possible had the pitch been a natural surface. I'm incredibly surprised that resurfacing CB with natural turf is even being considered. I thought the issue was whether to convert other grass fields like Primula into synthetic.
256	Community soccer is very popular and growing. The Northshore has limited access to synthetic pitches compared to other areas! It would be an absolute shame to turn charles been back to turf. The sport is always growing and more facilities like this are needed!
257	The discussion about the future of Charles Bean Oval needs to be grounded in evidence community need and the realities of contemporary Australian football. Ku Ring Gai families clubs and volunteers invest enormous time and energy into the sport yet every winter the same barrier appears. Natural turf cannot cope with our rainfall patterns our participation numbers or the training loads required across the NSFA community. On average around thirty percent of NSFA fixtures are washed out each season. That is not a minor inconvenience that is a structural barrier to participation development and community wellbeing. Synthetic turf is not a luxury it is a practical response to a very real problem. A synthetic field provides a stable and consistent playing surface that remains open when natural grass cannot. It allows clubs to schedule training and matches with confidence it reduces the enormous burden placed on volunteer administrators and it keeps thousands of young players active instead of sitting at home because grounds are closed. Concerns about surface temperature and minor abrasions need to be addressed with factual information rather than selective commentary. Modern third

	generation systems are designed with advanced infill improved shock absorption and significantly cooler fibres than those used a decade ago. Clubs and councils already implement simple management strategies in hotter months such as scheduled breaks increased hydration windows and adjusted training loads. These are the same sensible measures used for natural turf synthetic courts athletics tracks and any other open air facility in Australia. Minor abrasions on synthetic turf are also frequently overstated. Research shows that most reported incidents occur when players slide aggressively or wear inappropriate gear. With correct football kit and well maintained fibres abrasion rates are comparable to natural turf. Importantly synthetic fields greatly reduce rolled ankles divot related injuries and the unpredictable hazards that appear on natural grass after heavy wear. The environmental argument must also be considered in full. Natural turf pitches require repeated mowing irrigation fertiliser and pesticide use. They demand regular renovation works which involve the import of sand soil and machinery. A single poorly drained grass field can use millions of litres of water in a year of active maintenance. By contrast a synthetic field eliminates irrigation entirely cuts maintenance emissions significantly and provides more playing hours per square metre than any natural alternative. When spread across ten to fifteen years of community use the environmental footprint per player is substantially lower. Most importantly synthetic turf delivers social value. It keeps kids on the park supports inclusive programs for players with disabilities provides dependable facilities for women and girls and creates a genuine community hub.
258	All year use. With a natural turf there will be many more cancellations not only to games but also training and off season uses.
259	This has been a fantastic facility for the Lindfield soccer club and all it members. Both my children have enjoyed training and playing games here which has kept them fit and healthy and has been especially important for their mental well being.
260	Much better safer playing field. Grass fields don’t last the season have poor condition risking injury. Fields are getting more use so need synthetic to support use.
261	More capacity for sport and social engagement
262	Football is no longer just a winter sport. As football is the largest participation support in Australia there is growing demand for use throughout the year. We need increased capacity not less. The increasing urbanisation is putting additional pressure on grass field. Charles Bean is key to addressing this capacity problem
263	If you compared the football ground around the Lindfield Roseville and Killara you will immediately know that we will need to keep the synthetic turf for Charles Bean. Natural turf is affected by weather during the winter and all other grounds are already in shortage in the area. I see different regions change from natural turf ground to synthetic turf ground in the last decade or two never heard they will change the other way around. Given the lower useability of the natural turf it will seriously impact our kids to play football game due to the weather. Also given re-zoning in the area more apartments will be built and so more kids will be living in the area in next decades to come I strongly recommend we should be keeping Charles beans as synthetic turf.
264	There are already too many natural turf ovals in the area that get closed when it rains so losing a synthetic turf oval would drastically reduce the amount of sporting events that would get played over the course of a year.
265	I prefer a synthetic surface because it is the only option that reliably provides enough usable hours for the community. Independent advice indicates that a natural turf field at this site would realistically deliver 20-30 hours per week. The claim of 2 000 hours annually for ‘best practice

	turf' doesn't reflect the actual conditions at Charles Bean or the repeated heavy rain events we experience in Sydney. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours a week and stays open when grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly reduce training matches and participation across multiple clubs and schools.
266	My son plays super league nsfa and it rains quite a bit in the winter and with this oval being synthetic they can still play when it's light rain and it's also a very nice oval I think it should stay synthetic
267	Grass is not an option for such a highly used surface with grass surfaces bare and uneven a month into the season (ie Koola Park)The latest artificial surfaces are more environmentally friendly (ie cork rather than the black rubber) and emit less heat than the present surface and would surely allow the use of the present foundation/ structure and make it a much quicker process to re-surface (ie circa a month). The artificial surface also allows for greater casual use than grass for people wanting to practice/ play on and outside the parties referenced and evident when you look at NTRA and where people prefer to use the artificial surface rather than the grass surfaces to practice their football. The artificial pitch also mitigates water logging and poor surfaces left by heavy rain.
268	All weather availability. Weather patterns are changing and we need more all weather grounds not less.
269	The synthetic field provides more opportunities for continued training and playing during periods of extended wet weather. The synthetic fields also provide a more even surface for play and reduced injuries from uneven playing fields especially with cricket pitches in the centre of grass fields.
270	Field access for sport and recreation year-round regardless of wet weather. Charles Bean is a unique hub for football in north shore and to replace it with natural turf is not sustainable.
271	There is an extreme lack of al weather grounds in the lower north shore and Charles bean oval is an important facility. Both of my children use this oval for school training (Roseville college) and club soccer training/games
272	All weather surfaces are essential to maximise the number of teams that can play community sport and healthy communities are happy communities.
273	I I support a synthetic surface because it is the only option that consistently delivers the number of usable hours the community needs. Independent assessments show that a natural turf field at this location would realistically provide only 20-30 hours per week. The suggestion that 'best practice turf' could offer 2 000 hours a year doesn't reflect the real conditions at Charles Bean or the frequent heavy rain Sydney receives. The current synthetic field provides 60-80 hours each week and remains open when grass fields are closed. Losing that capacity would directly reduce training matches and participation for multiple clubs and schools.
274	We should be developing facilities that enable all year-round use to allow people to be active all year round. Grass will be impacted as it does with all other fields
275	Without Charles bean synthetic this football season would have been horrific and teams would have played less than 50% of their games. The natural grass ovals have not handled the hours or weather and when they were played on quite often left both teams with injuries due to potholes etc.
276	Charles Bean oval has been one of best places to play sports specifically football for many seasons as I have been lucky enough to play on as well as additional multi use training sessions during all seasons. I believe synthetic pitches are more reliable and allow more variety of sports to be played at a greater amount of time throughout the year. The synthetic

	pitches within the area are few and far between making it a pleasure to play there when we have the opportunity to especially at night under lights. Despite the occasional turf injuries including burns it offers a much more reliable and predictable playing surface one that cannot be guaranteed on a grass pitch despite the best efforts from maintenance. During my playing career I have personally seen more severe injuries due to poorly maintained grass pitches and it would be a shame to see one of the best facilities be turned into another grass pitch. More than average maintenance would be required to keep the facility as a highly regarded sports field. Resurfacing the turf pitch in accordance with the updated regulations however will be required.
277	Synthetic gives players a consistent playing surface the better grass pitches are still not mown evenly or as tightly as a synthetic while the drainage at Primula and Roseville Park has improved hugely the grass length on both of those varies significantly. The fully synthetic surface is consistent and available for play all year round
278	allows for wet weather play.
279	Able to use the field more than natural turf which significantly reduces training hours where it is reliant on weather conditions
280	converting to grass would be a disaster. playing time would be severely reduced and playing conditions will deteriorate as a result of converting to natural grass
281	Synthetic is better and Charles bean has always stayed a stlyntheric pitch which can be play on at all weather capacities
282	Synthetic pitch allows more hours of playing time which means more games which means better players (at all levels of the games). In recent years rain for several weeks has severely disrupted playing schedules to extent that teams are barely getting 50% of the season - this is not good for anyone.
283	Increase the time when the pitch can be used in all weather conditions to practice sports
284	Can use it all year round the number and standard of grass surfaces are terffible in this council. you alrady have the base infrastructure there so just maintain it.The way Ku Ring Gai council has stuffed up West Pymble oval how could you even think of going backwards not sure why this is even up for debate.
285	I have played on Charles Bean for 10+ years and the turf being synthetic means you can play far more games on it in nearly any weather. Our Lindfield football team look forward to playing on it each game. As a football player it is a no brainer - synthetic is far far better than natural turf. The idea that natural turf is 'softer' so prevents less injuries is absolutely false. Natural turf will develop divots and inconsistencies over time which in turn will lead to twisted ankles and uneven landings. Also in bad weather and high use of the field it will turn into a mud pit (no matter how good the drainage is) which leads to dangerous slips and uncontrolled tackles.
286	Extended use by community. Playing hours.
287	NTRA is only other artificial turf field for soccer on North Shore. At least 2 dedicated artificial turf fields for soccer required.
288	All weather surfaces are preferable for sport while also cost effective in the long term. They also allow for continuous play versus annual closing down in order to resurface etc
289	Coaches clubs parents players schools all need access to reliable and consistent usable field hours. Community members can't improve their health or skills if they can't get access to facilities. How can sporting clubs develop players coaches if they can't train? The field was converted to synthetic long before the residents in the local area moved in. Switching back to a natural grass field is like going from an i-phone back to a Nokia. With the increase in

	community density you need more facilities to handle the increase in foot traffic. Reverting back to a natural grass field would make Ku-ring-gai Council the laughing stock amongst all councils. A synthetic surface is the only way forward to guarantee certainty reliability and accessibility. The potential loss of accessible hours would be devastating for all local sporting groups if the field was returned to natural grass. WIth open space being so scarce Council needs to base it's decision making on number of users per hour/per square metre of space.
290	Synthetic turf offers more hours of play and training over the season
291	As a football player I'd be the first to admit playing on good grass is better than playing on synthetic BUT none of the grass pitches that we play on are even close to being good. Add the need for maximum hours for training as well as considering the hours we lose from ground closed due to rain and it becomes a no-brainer.
292	Less cancellations
293	The number of hours it is being used is evidence that the current synthetic works and is meeting community demand. Council should be supply and demand conscious in these decisions - it is after all a community facility. If it converts to natural those usage hours either need to go to another field (which isn't really available i.e. - low supply) or total recreation time needs to fall which is counter to public policy health objectives. Whilst ideally the LGA would have adequate supply of well drained natural turf to meet all community needs the reality is that fields like Regimental and Primula are regularly mud-pits and the only backup that is reliably available is synthetic. The last 2 soccer seasons are indicative of the changes we are seeing from climate change and will likely continue. If weather continues to be volatile the value of synthetic only grows.
294	Allows to play in all weather conditions We often have sport cancelled due to extensive rain because there are not sufficient fields that can allow play during wet weather. Removing Charles Bean as an all weather surface will reduce availability even further.
295	Promoting consistant sporting facility with higher standards. Supports local sports especially football and future for Australian sports.
296	The Winter community soccer season for the last few years have been hit hard with heavy rainfall and climate change means this is only likely to continue into the future. The only way our kids have been able to get decent training and match play is with synthetic turf surfaces. It flabbergasts me that we would even consider going back to natural turf. The analysis of utilisation on synthetic vs natural turf speaks for itself - you get three times more usage on synthetic. The commercial arrangement with LLV is a fantastic solution to the carparking issues which I fully support.
297	Synthetic allows the facility to be used pretty much under all conditions. A much needed community asset
298	Natural turf may wear out too quickly.
299	high tech
300	More games and activities for sporting clubs that can be played is better for the community.
301	Due to the ongoing wet weather issues and lack of synthetic turf fields in the area means that many sporting events in the area cannot go ahead on wet weekends. Having the synthetic field at Charles bean means that some games are still able to go ahead and kids can still get out and play.
302	Natural turf pitches in Sydney are very poor and limit the amount of playing time due to closure and recovery from weather

303	Regular Access to sporting field no cancellation of games even playing surface reducing risk of injuries.
304	To have an all year round space with no wet weather restrictions. Plus a surface for sports player to train & practice on a quality surface to maintain competitive skills.
305	so the soccer games are still allowed under the wet weather.
306	There are few synthetic turf fields in the area. Synthetic pitches enable games to be played in wet weather.
307	Seeing how often the synthetic surface is currently used - rain hail or shine - is so important to the sporting community and keeping our children happy and healthy. Watching my kids play soccer there and meet their friends there on the weekends and after school playing sport on a great synthetic surface needs to continue
308	Games can be played in the rain and the field is not destroyed compared to grass. Longer lasting.
309	The synthetic turf has been such a good thing for this facility. My child uses it regularly nearly year round for either casual/social or more formal football/soccer. Many of his teenage friends use it regularly easily accessible via bike for them. I am old enough to have played on this field when it was natural turf as far back as the early to mid 1990s. It was a terrible pitch. I strongly believe given the high use of synthetic at Charles Bean and the few others in the area it is a huge positive for active sport in the area and in fact I would expect that council look to make a few more (not all) synthetic to enable far higher use/hours across the area. Turning back to turf would be an incredibly short sighted and retrograde step in the context of wanting to enable higher participation and activity across all ages particularly youth.
310	The field facilitates loads of weekly training and games even during the rain. A grass field wouldn't be able to facilitate the same volume of people meaning so many people will be missing out
311	Major impact on availability of the field if returned to natural grass due to usage and weather.
312	Allows all weather usage
313	We use Charles Bean weekly for all my kids sports. When it rains it means at least one night per child will have training and then hopefully at least one or two will play a game on the weekends. The other one we use is thompson oval in artarmon which is also synthetic.
314	No loss of playing if there has been bad weather. So many grounds get closed for many weeks in winter Charles Besn always remains open with a synthetic surface. Also teams can also train there all year long. School has kids have daily access even if the weather has been wet the ground is still usable.
315	Quality playing surface that can be used all year round in all weather conditions.
316	Soccer is such a large part of the community but so many fields have poor drainage or limited options for the children if it rains. Would be terrible to lose another field. Thank you
317	I support keeping the synthetic playing field because it gives kids far more access to consistent playing time. It's a well-used space for the community and having a surface that's available year-round especially during wet weather makes sense. The parking concerns seem minimal when considering that natural turf would significantly reduce playable hours. Fewer scheduled games would naturally mean fewer parking issues however more time using the field is more important than parking issues. Using the school parking facilities is also a practical solution. Synthetic fields also provide a level predictable surface. Natural turf can become uneven muddy or slippery increasing injury risk. In the end retaining the synthetic field best supports

	our kids our clubs and our community by providing consistent safe and accessible playing space all year round.
318	My son plays LFC soccer and has been able to attend most training sessions despite the rain. It is so good. These kids spend so much time in screens they must counter this with exercise no matter the weather. Please keep this ground as synthetic keep the kids playing as much as possible.
319	Synthetic allows wet weather play and is more resistent to continuous use.
320	My son always uses it for soccer. It is also important for children to be able to play even in the rainy season.
321	Greater use of the field less cancelled games.
322	its already installed and proved being very efficient . CB IS OPEN ANY DAYS WHEN ALL OTHER FIELDS ARE CLOSED FROM THE FURST FEW DROPS OF RAIN
323	Can be utilised in all weather conditions avoid cancellations of trainings and games.
324	Football all year round with no weather issues
325	Access to Charles Bean esp as a synthetic oval means both our children are playing sport more often each week. They both play at Lindfield soccer and use the oval during the week for training and in weekends for games. I also play some soccer games myself there. Natural turf with rain and overuse will reduce our games and training considerably. This would really affect our mental health and our sporting lifestyle of our family. Games for the whole association and NSFA clubs would be detrimental and reduce capacity. The amount of games would drastically be reduced. We strongly prefer for the oval to remain synthetic
326	I strongly support keeping Charles Bean Oval as a synthetic field. This field is one of the few reliable venues in Ku-ring-gai that remains usable during wet weather. Natural turf on this site can only sustain around 20-30 hours of weekly use while modern synthetic turf provides 60-80 hours. For a community with rapid growth in football participation losing synthetic capacity would significantly reduce training availability increase cancellations and negatively impact every club across the NSFA. Charles Bean has played a critical role in keeping football running during long periods of rain when almost every other ground is closed. Synthetic turf ensures: - More usable hours for all age groups - Far fewer cancellations during wet seasons - Better scheduling for junior and youth teams - A safe and consistent playing surface - Support for the growing football community Changing this field to natural turf would severely reduce capacity and reliability. I strongly recommend retaining synthetic turf at Charles Bean Oval.
327	We need to have synthetic soccer pitch available within Ku-Ring-Gai so that soccer can be played less dependent on the weather/pitch condition once installed/resurfaced.
328	Synthetic turf is weather resistant and therefore a better option for soccer playing all year round.
329	Lower maintenance & upkeep - less cost Reduced water usage hence a better environmental impact Fewer chemicals offers consistent playing conditions regardless of weather ensuring that the community can enjoy the field year- round without interruptions. Availability for use - especially when raining Environmental impact is considerably lower Fewer chemicals for maintenance Promotes greener community
330	My daughter is a member of Lindfield Football Club and I understand synthetic turf is highly preferred by the club to support more hours of use and more players.
331	So the football teams training and matches can be played at any time and not affected by weather conditions

332	Synthetic turf looks good and allows for significantly much more recreational use than natural turf as it drains well and safe to play on and there's no fear about damaging real turf during wet weather. This means the council will save valuable funds if they do not replace it with grass turf it also saves time & money not having to pay staff to drive over and check the state of the grass during rainy weather. As this puts pressure on staff checking the state of the grass in the morning & then communicating to various users asap so they can relay changes to coaches teams and players/parents. It's a why fix it if it's not broke situation and we are all happy with it as it is so better to save valuable council funds for other priorities.
333	All the other natural turf fields in kuringai are horrible to play on. Muddy uneven rained out
334	Demand for the ground will require a more robust surface. Non- synthetic surface will impact quality and quantity of sport in the region.
335	Only field guaranteed to be open - most ovals are in pretty bad condition this is the best in the area. In even minimal rain most are closed for sports the ground also makes for great watching as well. Changing to natural it would just degrade to the same quality as the rest.
336	Greatly increases access to play and use this space.
337	We need all weather playing fields
338	The club soccer will be less comfortable without the synthetic turf and most players prefer the synthetic grass over the natural grass.
339	We need at least one synthetic sports field in line with all other council areas so our kids and ourselves can continue to play sport in the wet weather.
340	Because we need all weather pitches to allow sport to continue in rain
341	My children play many sports - and for those that are on fields outside are often closed when the fields are wet and muddy. It is for this reason that we wanted our daughter to have access to a field that would be open all season. In 2025 we have not lost any playing time on Charles Bean due to rain - this meant the girls got a lot more exercise and our dog did too as we would often walk her during training and games in the surrounding areas.
342	Between my kids and I we use the field frequently. It would vastly reduce our exercise sessions each time the field was shut for rain. For the nsfa charles bean plays a role in enabling make up games for games that have been cancelled on naturL turf fields so having a mixture throughout the council area provides the best of both worlds.
343	It is better for playing on than grass and grass causing a whole lot more issues and with the amount of people at the club it would be dumb and impact the club very badly
344	I want my son to be able to play soccer there no matter of how rainy a season is.
345	Can use in all types of weather to allow training to continue
346	The field is heavily used. Turf will not hold up.
347	Because it is safer for injuries and it won't get rained out for trainings
348	There are very few synthetic fields in the area and the past few years have seen a lot of rainy weekends and many wash outs for games and training which are on natural turf. It's important to retain this decently sized synthetic field to be able to support all those hours of soccer especially that it caters for.
349	All weather and durability
350	Less washout and more games can be paid during soccer season
351	Having used this for many years including watching my children play soccer there for so many years and they still play there as young adults it would be a huge disadvantage to change this oval to turf.. in fact there should be more of these to enable more matches to be played.

352	Much better use all year round. Not enough synthetic in the area.
353	All weather surface provides greater usage. This guarantees greater opportunity of training and games during the soccer season.
354	To allow greater availability for playing soccer
355	The field can be used for all kinds of weather.
356	Only field available for soccer during wet weather and players were able to have games when other matches weee cancelled - important given our recent wet seasons
357	Can continue play/ train in rain (some shade cover would help for hot weather)
358	Synthetic turf is much more convenient as it does not become soft and muddy after the rain and sports gear and clothes stay cleaner with synthetic turf. The oval also can be used more and won't be needed to be closed if it rains as synthetic turf has an advanced water draining system which ultimately leaves to extended amounts of use and play time.
359	Too many wet weather cancellations on natural grass fields
360	Charles Bean is an amazing sporting facility which is able to be boasted about as a member of the Lindfield football club. The synthetic turf is able to last all weathers and is so much better for the sports that are hosted at the oval. Changing it to turf will be a drastic downgrade and almost a joke to the community and sportsmen.
361	The synthetic turf has allowed charles bean to be the most reliable local pitch. The last few years have shown large numbers of washed out games with rescheduled and ongoing games being placed at charles bean. Its even surface provides greater and safer sporting conditions.
362	can be useful for longer hours during wet season
363	The synthetic field allows all year use even during wet weather. The surface is durable and can be used for all sports
364	There is not enough synthetic turf to support high usage and minimise wash out game
365	Natural turf would be a step backwards. In addition school children shouldn't be exercising in an area that will turn into a semi dog park where there is going to be dog waste
366	We play for LFC. Synthetic grass enables players to train and play in almost all weather conditions. A lot of the season gets rained out and synthetic grass enables continued play.
367	A Synthetic turf option simply provides an all-year-round sporting field for both LLV and sporting teams up and down the north shore usable under all weather conditions and rarely subject to closure. Allowing people of all ages to continue to engage in their sport and team involvement.
368	The current setup is great with all weather area for sports. Lots ovals cannot be used in wet seasons
369	Past 2 years there have been too many natural fields closed due to wet weather. We need more synthetic fields to offer alternatives for our kids and adults to play sport.
370	Far more reliable surface during wet winter months
371	More intensive use of the field for young people. Use in all weather conditions.
372	Synthetic turf is an all weather option
373	Charles Bean has been so heavily relied upon as one of only a few grounds that can be reliably used especially during wet weather and when other grass fields have been severely worn down due to the fact that it is a synthetic turf.
374	the only reason that NSFA clubs were able to play for the entire season was because we had an artificial turf resistant to wear and bad weather good for other exercise and is accessible as it very rarely closes no player injuries from pot holes or uneven turf

375	If it was grass there would be less games and training sessions and almost of the other grass fields are in bad condition halfway through the season.
376	too many washout for the nature grass field
377	during wet season synthetic gives me more of a chance of being able to play football throughout raining periods as opposed to a natural turf which can cause closures. Additionally a field like that should not prioritise dog use over human use.
378	It is ridiculous that in today's environment where multi-purpose all year round all weather sports surfaces for inner City living are in such high demand that there are so few options on Sydney's north shore. Charles Bean has become a home away from home for my 3 very active sports obsessed teenage boys. There are several grass pitch options available locally - loyal Henry Edenborough Primula Elizabeth and others. The nearest synthetic options to Charles Bean are few and far between by comparison
379	It's the best surface to play on and allows us to train year round no matter the weather. The use that Charles Bean gets during the winter soccer season especially is second to none and allows community sport to thrive in this area. If people are concerned about walking their dog on natural turf then there are plenty of grass parks around but there aren't any other synthetic pitches that we can use to play on. Also on a safe and even surface soccer players are far less likely to get injured than they would on a turf pitch that has holes and uneven surfaces.
380	I think Charle Beans is the only synthetic soccer field in Kuringgai. We definitely want to keep it as our soccer games always got washout. It's the only field not affected by weather. It's so beautiful clean and neat. We enjoy playing and watching soccer games there so much! Please don't change it to natural turf.
381	More soccer games more soccer training time .
382	There are multiple natural turf in the area. Having at least 1 synthetic sports ground encourages sports and physical fitness activities especially during heavy rain periods.
383	Wet weather access
384	As a football player it is really frustrating to have trainings cancelled frequently with wet weather the synthetic grounds stop this. Additionally it is extremely hard for the council to keep a grass ground in a condition comparable to synthetic surfaces to ensure that the local football stays competitive it's important to have a good and constant surface.
385	I am surprised this question is up for debate. Synthetic surface allow for all weather usage and significantly more hours of usage as compared to natural surface. The issue with most of the natural surface ovals are drainage drainage and the state of natural grass ovals are simply woeful or average at best in addition rain results in constant weather cancelations. Again I am quite surprised why this is even a question. If natural surface was implemented the usage of Charles bean would likely half to protect the grass. Consequently where do the council suggest the users of Charles Bean go?
386	It is important for sports teams to have access to grounds that can be played on when it is wet. Most of the grounds in Ku-Ring-Gai local area close when it rains.
387	Able to use the grounds in all types of weather. That means games will not be cancelled and kids will not be disappointed. Also ground surface is more consistent and better than natural turf.
388	Too many games get rained out on natural grass. Charles bean is one of the few ovals where the kids are guaranteed to get a training in or a game in.
389	With the majority of pitches in council being natural turf it is vital to have access to synthetic pitches for greater reliability during the season. Wet weather throughout the season creates

	major logistical challenges for rescheduling games and reduces the ability for players to participate during the season and gain full registration value.
390	Astro turf is all weather. I appreciate this for soccer and for LLV kids and staff alway being able to use it rain hail or shine.
391	Recreation Needs of the community
392	The usability of a synthetic field in all weather conditions is critical to both enable sports teams to play regardless of wet weather as well as the ability for the community to use the field for recreational purposes in all weathers. The parking problem is easily solved by opening up the LLV car park which lies dormant outside of school hours. The impact rain has on the 3 nearest fields Elizabeth Reserve Abingdon and Edinborough is all the business case we should need to keep CB synthetic.
393	grass is hopeless we need this for football.
394	Natural turf fields are poorly maintained for sport suffer either heat stress become worn or become muddy in the wet. Games are cancelled short notice due to weather. A synthetic option provides reliability for the sporting community and for important tournaments and finals where a reliableoption ensures these events can take place and young players can have these important sporting experiences
395	Winter turf means no soccer. More turf fields not less.
396	Less chance of washout
397	Longer lasting and can use in wet weather
398	Reliability and utility year around. Inclement weather reduces playing time substantially throughout the year. Going back to natural turf seems like a short sighted backwards step for the community and sports participants.
399	The unpredictable weather and the existing balance of natural turf vs synthetic fields. Would be good to continue this balance so that we are able to keep at least some games ongoing.
400	Signuficant liss of playing and training hours with natural turf as already rxperienced through multiple winter football seasons
401	Gets so much use as premier lindfield club oval. Great spectators oval too.
402	All weather access - rain has dramatically affected playability on turf grounds which affects the kids' development.
403	No wash out soccer games and high quality pit b
404	So much more usage each week.
405	I use it everyday and a natural turf would make the oval closed on wet weather which is needed for school and for football
406	There's too much rain there's already too few synthetic surfaces as it stands removing one of the most prominent in the NSFA would not be appropriate.
407	Sport would be lost with less ovals available.
408	Washouts. Maintenance upkeep.
409	All weather surface - limited cancellations for sports games.
410	Our children need a reliable consistent space to play soccer and train as a team. If this field were natural turf their ability to train would be significantly impacted due to weather wear and closures. Regular training is essential for keeping kids happy healthy and balanced; both physically and socially. We absolutely support environmentally responsible decisions across the council area and there are many opportunities to lead with sustainability. However this particular field is a critical piece of community infrastructure. For our kids its not just a patch of

	grass…It's where they develop confidence teamwork resilience and belonging. For these reasons maintaining this field as an all-weather high-reliability surface is key
411	Essential to provide quality playing surfaces for sports
412	All weather
413	Staying active in all types of weather
414	There are no other wet weather options for sport. I'm a mum of 3x boys and all 5 of us use this oval daily. If you put in regular grass you'll be removing a viable all weather option for every member of my family to play.
415	Charles Bean can be used so much during the soccer season as a synthetic pitch. When we had those 2 seasons recently with winter rain it plus NTRA were the only pitches open to play in the Council area for weeks! The arguments made about over-heating and no games on Charles Bean are so much less pertinent than rain games that would have been lost if natural. The NSFA will have the stats. Further no natural pitch in Council area has a true playing surface as Council cannot afford to maintain them to an exceptional playing surface
416	Synthetic has proven to be more available to sports. Our kids need more sports space in our area
417	The council has very few synthetic pitches and this facility is good for high traffic use by LLV and local sporting clubs
418	There are so many natural turf that the soccer world need more synthetic to give the children time to play and run arpund
419	Crucial for the soccer club who are the main users of the field. The club is also an institution/ community hub for Lindfield residents (more so than what the school offers post school hours).
420	I understand the desire for natural turf. I would normally chose this over synthetic however in this instance the community needs an oval for sport that isn't affected by rain. We have seen over the last 5 years an enormous amount of school sport being cancelled due to the condition of natural grass fields. Teams are unable to train and games are called off. It's a disaster. We need a synthetic oval available so that sport can continue no matter the weather.
421	1. Access/Useage. my experience with turf fields are they are prone to closure during wet weather. Synthetic fields tend to not close due to bad weather (better drainage etc). If the availability of suitable sporting fields is reduced sporting clubs will have to reduce the number of teams they can field reducing sporting participation in the community in particular reducing the number of children participating in sport with all the associated adverse physical and mental health implications. There will also be adverse financial implications for sporting and community clubs (reduced membership leading to higher fees). Also the number of hours people can participate in sport will be significantly reduced either for practice or on game day.2. Safety. Having played on turf and synthetic pitches in my expereince synthetic pitches are much safer to play on with significantly reduced likely of injury due to slippery and/or unstable surfaces.3. Availability. There are very few synthetic pitches which the residents of Lindfied/Killarra/Roseville have access on a regular basis. There are a large number of turf pitches - Roseville Koola Wellington Primula QE2 etc ovals4. Health. Synthetic pitches do not require the use of toxic chemical to keep weeds etc down I have been to a number of ovals in the past few weeks eg Roseville and there have been signs up saying not to go on the oval because it have been sprayed with chemicals5. Maintenance. Ongoing maintenue costs should be significantly lower with synthetic fields.6. Irrigation. Although it's been a long time I can still remember when we had water restrictions in Sydney (2003-2009 2019). Synthetic

	fields do not require irrigation.7. Usage. In my experience the use of Charles Bean primarily as a soccer/sporting field is in use pretty well full time between February and October.
422	To support community use of an extremely valuable public amenity.
423	Synthetic turf is the best option for a heavy use field like Charles Bean. Also postponements due to rain etc are minimised.
424	There is a distinct lack of fields that can be used if we have wet weather reducing the number of all weather ovals would be detrimental to kids and adults sport. This oval has very high use due to the school use significant game play and a lot of recreational use.
425	Need more all weather ovals in the area not fewer
426	All weather availability is preferred as other natural grass ovals and spaces are not well maintained by Council
427	During soccer season there are too many games canceled because of weather. KRG doesn't have enough facilities that can remain open in inclement weather to allow kids to play as their matches are not rescheduled. On top of that the rescheduling of matches for others puts a lot of pressure on the NSFA players and parents. Charles Bean is actually one of the few fields matches can be moved to. If converted it would just end up closed like all the other pitches.
428	honestly what the f*** do you think you're doing trying to replace the synthetic? it would absolutely destroy the pitch which is already amazing for various sports mostly soccer of course. and with all the LLV kids on it everyday it would get absolutely ripped out of its surface anyways leading to a disaster. if the reasons for making it a grass pitch include for people like dog walkers what the f*** are you doing? how about just say no dogs on the synthetic ffs . i like many others find this field to be an amazing place to go to so don't ruin it. keep it the same and we don't have to worry
429	Wet weather effects on sports are minimised
430	Enviormentally friendly new technology is available synthetic turf has come so far since the first surface was laid 10 years ago.
431	Up to half of soccer trainings are cancelled due to wet weather during the winter on natural turf. The kids just need a place to play and it's a great field at the moment. Please keep it the way it is.
432	Synthetic turf so that soccer practices don't get cancelled due to weather and teams can still practice and get better. It's also easier to maintain then grass.
433	Synthetic turf is the best by far as games will never be called off and for lindfield we will be able to have training twice a week. If its changed it will ruin training schedules and there will be much more washouts. There is zero way you can change jt and if you do that will be the worst decision
434	All weather play Australian weather very unpredictable and oh so many times have we had council shut playing fields due to rain and as parents we spend good coin on memberships only for them to be washed out.
435	Limited access to synthetic turf in local area put increase pressure on availability of grounds available in all weather conditions- and given the level of use grass surface would be ruined quickly especially given the likely increased social use from surrounding developments with inadequate green space
436	Experience in another council area where natural turf was installed and ground was unplayable after heavy rain. Natural turf was installed at a cost of $2m and was dead in less than 18 months (Gladesville reserve Hunters Hill)

437	It can be used in any weather and is easier to play sports on as natural grass can be temperamental and cannot be played on when raining or after storms. Synthetic fields are more consistent and require less maintenance.
438	Keep facilities open for kids/adults in increasingly inclement conditions
439	More game time for everyone
440	Sport is a fundamental part of kids youth. It is important to ensure they have access to facilities during all weather conditions. Teams that did not have access to synthetic turf fields this year missed weeks of training and many cancelled games. If anything we should be talking about adding more synthetic fields to the are not taking them away
441	Able to use more than natural. Newer synthetic alot more environmentlly sound then older types. Having a synthenthic available overall saves degradation of other fields due to jigher usages. Can be used forultple. Ecents all year round - weather regardless
442	Synthetic turf is important for us and our kids to participate in sport.
443	Wet weather during winter syntheric allows us to still train when all the grass parks are closed
444	This is so crucial and paramount for children's sports in particular football. Without synthetic turf my children will miss out so much football. There is not enough synthetic field as it is in north shore and the one at Charles Bean is only one of the few. My son trains/plays their 4 times a week. PLEASE KEEP IT AS SYNTHETIC
445	All weather. No cancellations compared to grass. Keep kids active not restricted due to weather.
446	More play hours during raining days
447	It is a fantastic ground for football and synthetic alllws you to train and play all year round even when raining.
448	The club couldn't perform any where close to its current level on a grass pitch do e to wet weather closures
449	Not many synthetic grounds around and keeps soccer training alive in our community
450	More use for all. It has served its purpose well for the last 10yrs or so
451	Ensures availability all season round. Super important for the soccer season and for players etc
452	Access will be limited if converted to natural turf due to weather.
453	Change in availability of soccer training sessions due to wet weather on grass with knock on effect of loss of community and ability for kids to train and participate in sport
454	As the size of our population grows we need sports amenity that can accommodate as many people as possible. As for the comments in the Council having to pay to access the school car park on weekend - that is laughable! Pay for what? The boom gate to be lifted?
455	Availability in wet weather and supporting load of number of players and games needed. It is very hard to find grounds for training and games during the season. If it would be grass that will really limit ground availability.
456	We desperately need all weather sports fields in Kuringai. We have plenty of grass fields that always get rained out and then games and training if cancelled.
457	Throughout each winter football season there are many wash out games due to wet weather. We generally play many games at Charles Bean and it would be unfortunate to lose another ground to wash outs which will increase with global warming.
458	Higher use level field for oredictable play

459	The hours of use at Charles Bean (school sports and other) are significantly higher than will be possible with natural turf. Most other parks struggle with overuse and are closed. Recreation has and will continue to be moved to Charles Bean in poor weather as other grounds are closed. Most other grounds in Kuringai are natural. But one or two artificial turf grounds are needed due to high use.
460	We desperately need all weather sports facilities for active endeavours in all weather. We have very limited synthetic fields to train and play on in Kuringai. All other options always get rained out or closed due to rain impact which is devastating for trying to keep adults and kids alike active all year round.
461	We need to have consistency of availability regardless of the weather conditions to ensure optimal opportunities for growth and enjoyment from this facility
462	It's been raining a lot in soccer season and many games have been washed out. It is so important to have Charles Bean as synthetic to play at least some of the games in wet season.
463	All weather grounds are compulsory for keeping ourselves and our kids training and playing throughout the winter. Also great surface that is safe for play avoiding injuries
464	After missing so much soccer due to changing weather patterns on natural pitches so happy kids have access to this facility. Soccer never cancelled. Flat reliable surfaces means less serious injuries even if more abrasions.
465	Kid would have more chance to play sports in synthetic turfs. Would not see unset face. We don't have many synthetic turfs around the council can held the sports which we can not remove this the beautiful play field. please keep it as it is.
466	More ability to play sport on the field during wet weather periods. Better surface for playing sport.
467	Much much much much better for organised sports. Without organised sports this part of Sydney is far less appealing.
468	For soccer need artificial turf
469	All weather soccer training
470	Services the needs for our sporting community
471	Kids needs to be playing and active and this allows more use.
472	Utilisation
473	We need it for club football activities with lack of other synthetic grounds
474	Continuous play and able to play regularly
475	With limited synthetic pitches in our area Charles Bean is a great location for football training and games to be held.
476	Greater use
477	We have very few all weather pitches available for use on the north sure. It enables continuity in adverse weather.
478	Able to use the field in all weather conditions. Grass fields are never able to handle the usage required and always become poor quality and are never maintained to any where near high quality
479	It provides a better experience for playing football - there are no potholes like other grass pitches where players get serious injuries and it allows matches to play in all weather.
480	All weather surface and perfect conditions every time. Always available for use regardless of weather

481	Being able to play football even though it rained the same morning or the night before is amazing.
482	Availability of sustainable play fields for soccer at all weather conditions we need more artificial turfs soccer fields
483	Wet weather more useage better surface to play
484	All weather all purpose. Provides a back up when natural turf wash outs experienced. High quality surface leads to less injuries
485	Huge reduction in availability due to wet weather if it's natural turf. We have few fields in the area that don't get closed and Charles Bean has been essential for keeping sport going.
486	It provided a smooth surface to play on.
487	Synthetic is great and ensures kids get to play sport all weather. This is very important for kids and their mental health
488	Natural turf ovals are closed too often during periods of rain
489	We keep building units and increasing density so we need places for our kids to play outside. With natural grass in a wet season the kids can't play.
490	Can play in all weather the synthetic ground is one of the nicer ones in the NSFA
491	We get significantly more use of a synthetic pitch because the pitch is not closed and remains in good conditions all the time irrespective of weather
492	Bad weather already rains out half the options for recreational activities. Real grass is not suitable for the increasing weather events occurring across the year from drought to storms.
493	Soccer season; more access to sports in wet weather
494	All weather availability consistency of bounce natural pitches just arent looked after well enough in NSW install sprinklers to combat surface temperatures
495	More games/ training hours and all weather
496	Field availability is a real challenge for young females playing sport. Charles Bean provides a reliable surface with many surfaces rendered unusable following boys/men's soccer on damp/wet Saturdays with female soccer scheduled for the following Sunday.
497	Allows soccer games to go ahead - if not synthetic half of the season usually cancelled. Affects mental and physical health of children.
498	Improved playing surface and better number of hours playing time Can be played on regardless of weather
499	Synthetic turf provides enables a superior amount of usage and should be the preferred option.
500	It is a far superior and more reliable surface for playing football. Without a synthetic option at Charles Bean 100s more games each season dont get played. The 6aside competition would also not be able to exist as a grass field cant handle that volume of use.
501	So soccer can be played in all types of weather on a safe well maintained pitch
502	To have a field that is open for football during and after wet weather when council closes natural turf fields.
503	Maintain playable access year round despite weather
504	Synthetic will allow sport use during all weather compared to the limits of natural turf. The ground is already synthetic so it's not removing or replacing existing natural turf or damaging the local environment.

505	It is outrageous to suggest making Charles Bean natural. The NSFA is already short of field options to use due to extensive wet weather conditions in winter. If you took CB away too that mean kids sitting at home on screens when it rains rather than getting out and about.
506	Very few all weather sports fields available in area by this Council. Lane Cove Council manage to maintain a minimum of 2 synthetic grounds at Blackman easily.
507	Provides better utilisation of this community resource than any other surface. Relieves the pressure on many other fields particularly in wet weather.
508	This will impact training and games for many young athletes.
509	The benefits of a new synthetic turf greatly outweighs the benefits of a natural surface given the high usage of the field for activities. My main concern is the long term condition of a natural surface given which in spite of regular maintenance can still degrade as the sub-grade is exposed and worn away. This is a vital field for the suburb for soccer players in the area and continues to be used year round. In addition the other natural fields in the area are of extremely poor quality and has contributed to an injury I suffered last year.
510	Synthetic surface provides far more useable hours and all weather access which are key attributes given the volume of teams utilised Charles Bean.
511	There are limited synthetic turf ovals in northern Sydney councils often close natural turf ovals with a small amount of rain so that football is too often cancelled.
512	Because I hate being on grass full of mud and that is poorly maintained like other Kuringi-Council ovals and I miss heaps of my soccer games across the season which is good for my exercise.
513	It's obvious. I will personally invest in getting a different election result in Kuriangai if this stupid plan goes ahead. Kids need to play sport even when it rains else they will have mental health issues. Don't destroy this oval.
514	There is a severe lack of synthetic fields that the public can use. On the west side of Lindfield many are waterlogged with as little as 1 day of rainfall even in summer.
515	If you remove the synthetic and replace with natural grass there will be washouts and the kids will not be able to play on it anywhere near as often. Playing surface will also be considerably poorer.
516	Increase use and consistency for development and participation in physical activity in sport. Reports and hours show the field is used x3 more than turf. This will change if the field is moved back to turf as current reports do not consider seasonality and when fields need to be used for football training and seasons. Let's maintain best class facilities in one of Sydney's top local government areas.
517	Because Charles Bean is such a busy pitch I feel synthetic would stand up to those demands better than natural turf.
518	Certainly around availability and reduced concerns around environmental issues if using non rubber fill.
519	Increasingly volatile weather already has seen high numbers of washouts of grass fields during the soccer season. Artificial pitches are essential to providing sufficient pitches to meet demand (as quotes they provide approx 3x the playing hours of grass fields). The flat and even surface also greatly improves the quality and consistency of play helping young player development whilst reducing injury risk (knees and ankles are frequently injured in poor grass surface games). The urban surroundings of this pitch do not look suitable to turn it to a grass field
520	Better quality surface for players and less game cancellations following wet weather

521	During wet seasons Charles Bean is one of the limited synthetic fields that allows the soccer season to continue. Despite not having a huge difference in booking hours the number of hours actually used must be significant due to washed out games on natural turf fields. Changing to a natural turf field would have a really huge impact on the NSFA football competition.
522	We need more hours for sport
523	Availability of play it is one of the few fields in the football association that can be played on dying rain and poor weather. Safe and level ground for play ie not pot holes that is always evident on turf fields. My children have also enjoyed this field as their school oval and it means that they have always had a great ground for lunchtime play that is always open
524	Limited all weather surfaces in the area. Season interrupted by wet weather significantly already each season and would be more so without Charles bean as a synthetic pitch.
525	Less field closure for weather issues. Can sustain more games per week. More reliable and safer playing surface.
526	I just don’t like natural turf and I’m used to Charles bean being astro
527	In the last few Winter sports seasons sports that traditionally don’t use synthetic turf (I.e. AFL) have been unable to play due to wet weather impacting weekend sport on natural turf ovals. We have been fortunate to play at a Super League level having most of the season’s games played on synthetic turf. This enables a full season of play and also facilitates and maintains player conditioning for the season including allowing training to take place.
528	I believe looking at the hours spent on both this turf and in comparison ot the natural turfs its obvious the necessity of at LEAST 1 artificial pitch and none better than the home ground of Lindfield FC. Being able to have 2000 hours compared to 1000 on natural is a huge advantage not only for sport games (especially when theres long periods of heavy weather if we rely on natural pitches more they will be even more ruined) but also for recreational activities such as for LLV (of which i have no affiliation) and for local residents wanting a nice local sportsground.
529	This has been a great surface for many years. Still looks and plays great despite recommendations. It would last much longer. Another synthetic pitch would be great
530	It is one of the only few local grounds that are synthetic and allows for more playing time during wet weather when all other fields are cancelled due to poor drainage and risk ok injury taking it away would be a detriment to the wide community that use it
531	It is the only consistent field to play at with all year goals and good turf. If it is natural turf then I fear the football players in the community will no longer have a consistent place to play. I am a goalkeeper and regularly get abrasions from the turf however that is par for the course when playing on any football field and doesn't need complaining about in the opinion of somebody who regularly gets these abrasions. I believe that the flatness of the field and the quality of the astro-turf if anything reduces the chance of injury as there are no unexpected divots or tufts of grass all injuries come from the football itself.
532	1. All weather pitch2. Reliability of the surface3. Open when other fields are closed4. Jewel in the crown of North Shore football!
533	This is the one of the few viable wet weather field in the area. It is vital to keep this as a synthetic field
534	All weather surface
535	Synthetic turf is much much better. It’s become a cornerstone of the community. If it gets changed I’ll just use CHS which is already overused. Remember that ‘natural grass’ isn’t actually better environmentally as it turns into mud and becomes unusable for humans and all

	other animals. National parks are good for animals but mowed grass isn't actually natural. Keep it synthetic!!!
536	All year round
537	Synthetic turf is the only way to address chronic under supply of grounds in the Kuring gai LGA. The latest population growth and Kuringgai Council's own acceptance of the new State Planning rules makes it inevitable that we need more grounds or higher utilisation or existing grounds. Removing the existing synthetic turf and replacing with the natural will only deteriorate the utilisation percentages of the ground putting more pressure on the remaining Council infrastructure. I understand and appreciate Council's decision to have a formal review process. From a personal perspective though I cannot justify wasting even one minute of Council resources for something that at the end is so obvious and so beneficial to the overall Community. Surely Council has better alternatives to waste its time and energy. AT least I hope that this consultation process will eliminate the need of future similar forums as the end decision will be crystal clear. Only vote is for the new generation synthetic turf. Nothing else is acceptable going forward. Thank you again for allowing us to express our view.
538	The oval is a fantastic asset to the community. Don't cave in to dog walkers.
539	Games are never cancelled
540	Wet weather affects our season enough we can't afford to lose another synthetic pitch
541	This oval is not suitable for grass particularly with the lack of maintenance by council of most of its facilities.
542	All-weather usability and higher usage yield.
543	Synthetic fields can handle 3 or 4 times as many hours of use per week and isn't closed in wet weather. There is already a shortage of fields in the district and losing access to Charles Bean will impact all players in the association- not just those playing at Lindfield. With fewer synthetic fields there will be more cancelled games - and more players opting out of sport altogether due to the cost of playing not being reduced when fields are closed.
544	Its a no brainer synthetic trumps natural grass on maintenance frequency of use and most other metrics better surface to play on too
545	The synthetic surface allows significantly more sporting activities to be played in all weather conditions that the natural turf surfaces do not allow for. The more recent synthetic surfaces are continually upgrading their ability to support a more environmentally suitable solution and do not require the level of pesticides and maintenance needed with a natural turf finish.
546	Without this the amount of soccer my daughter will play will drop by over 50% based on the past 3-5 years weather experience with natural turf fields my daughter is one of 5 children suffers mental health issues soccer is her main outlet and support for this and having Charles bean as a regular fixture in most weather has been a Godsend.
547	Multiweather useage
548	There is a shortage of grounds for soccer and to lose a ground that is playable when grass fields get closed due to wet weather would mean less soccer being played.
549	More Kids need more excersize and time off screens. This Oval is a fairly small space considering the number of people who use it. The Turf Equivalent would need to be 3 times the size and Space is at a premium for population growth homes. Turf pitch games get rained off all the time ane the council does not allow make up games. We lost 7 games because of wet turf pitches last year. Charles Bean is a fantastic public asset that gets lots of use and wears really well we can play soccer in all weathers. I'd like to see a more used space per sq

	meter anywhere. These pitches are far safer than the uneven pot-holed turf pitches I have played on.
550	Without synthetic fields the soccer season suffers immensely as every winter is now our wet season in Sydney. Families already consider changing winter sports because of this. Reduced access to all- weather synthetic fields such as CB will only exacerbate the situation.
551	We are an area with less synthetic fields than many others. We are trying to get people playing sport yet councils close grass surfaces as soon as they are wet despite the huge fees we are paying to play sport which aren't refunded. My son regularly loses half a season of soccer. Yet my mother who plays higher level misses zero. If councils aren't going to let grass surfaces be used the. Make them synthetic. Then more people can use them more frequently. Yes there are upkeep costs - but that's why we pay fees. They don't require mowing so they also have less maintenance. I see plenty of people walk their dogs on synthetic so that as a reason for grass doesn't hold. Parents are getting sick of paying increased fees for less game play in most codes. I've also seen more injuries on grass than synthetic on poorly maintained fields with broken ankles the most common.
552	Throughout the year training (both as a player and as a coach) was cancelled several times sometimes leading to 3-4 weeks without training due to the grounds needing to recover for long-term health. Additionally the oval is used for several purposes and natural turf would reduce its versatility.
553	I play in the NSFA women's soccer competition during the winter. There aren't many synthetic fields in Kuringai so having a few all-weather options in the mix amongst the mostly natural turf options is extremely helpful in periods of prolonged wet weather. In my opinion especially for the women's comp - because we play on Sunday we're often disproportionately impacted by wet weather field closures as fields that are borderline on the Saturday get torn up by the men's games and are then closed for Sunday. Regarding player safety in my experience a quality synthetic field can be much safer than a muddy or imperfectly maintained natural pitch.
554	I would have thought it obvious. In fact it appears obvious to 95% of KuRingGai residents. Which begs the question what is the motivation behind the other 5%?The Norman Griffiths project is an absolute embarrassment to the council.
555	there are only 2 synthetic field in KRG council area and the NTRA mainly used for Northern Tigers and limited time to public. with off soccer season and wet weather not much time for both adult and kids to play.
556	More games
557	The community is in need of an all year all weather sport field as there are few yet the numbers show an ever increasing interest in playing sport and using ovals. Synthetic would help ensure more hours of usage is possible.
558	Charles bean has always been my favourite ground to play on. There is nothing better knowing that the game will not be cancelled. It is a privilege to play on Charles bean. I have had some great soccer memories on that synthetic grass and it would be a real shame to ruin the magic of that ground
559	Given wet weather it's imperative Charles bean remains synthetic it would turn into another mudpit if it was made grass
560	Many hours lost during the winter from rain on natural turf. Wear and tear grass does not last a whole season.
561	Extended useability due to all weather accedd

562	It's a key field for sports and has been essential during the recent wet weather periods for ensuring sport can continue. the benefits linked to mental health of not stopping everything when it rains is very important.
563	We need facilities to allow the increasing population to exercise and maintain or improve their health. An artificial surface provides this option for many more people to access those opportunities to play sports on a regular basis - even when bad weather would stop them for using other outdoor surfaces
564	We need synthetic pitched to maintain the quality of the association to train on and to allow people to play during not ideal weather. We do not need more grass pitches Charles bean is an asset to the area as a synthetic field and it would be a massive mistake to change it to a grass field.
565	With increasingly rainy seasons leading to hundreds of cancelled sports matches having Charles bean available into the evening even in poor weather is critical to keeping games of football going. The fact that other grounds are so often closed because of rain earlier in the week proves that turf cannot drain sufficiently
566	The synthetic turf allows for games being held which would otherwise be cancelled for rain for existing damage or for someone's highly subjective assessment of possible damage. Cancelled games are not just lost game time - they are very disruptive to the social cohesion of the team the interreacting as among all the teams and for the entire season. Often this is the only social sport played by the team members. Also its intrinsic nature is to play against many other teams - which is highly relevant to promoting community and social inclusiveness and cohesion (particularly under challenge in this digital-focused world).Some seasons have lost 6 to 8 games and lost finals series as a result of games cancelled due to ground unavailability. This seriously impacted players' willingness to continue a commitment for another season. Not all team members can play throughout the season - due to health work study or family commitments. Due to this reduced number of possible games per player cancelled games have a greater adverse effect greeter than just looking at it from the perspective of the team for the season. Make up matches are highly problematic. They are typically arranged at short notice and to be held at hours not available to some players - e.g. due to shift work weekend shifts study commitments family commitments or career commitments.
567	It's a high quality surface currently and is used constantly on evenings for training and weekends for over 12 hours a day. There is no way a grass surface could support that.
568	NSFA only has 3-4 artificial turfs to use
569	the kids can play all year round and it looks nice no drainage issues like other ovals
570	Able to use in various weather types
571	Kids need to be outside and playing sport - there is a huge health crisis because there is not happening. Council regularly closes natural pitches during rainy periods. Synthetic fields are able to be used all the time - they are crucial to the health of our children and young people.
572	Grass fields in the krg council are typically poorly maintained (in comparison to the quality of a synthetic fields) and reduce the overall quality and experience of sports. Synthetic fields are quite clearly more enjoyable maintainable are in higher demand and can be used much more frequently. I've personally never been to Charles Bean and not seen it being used by aspiring footballers. If this field is made grass again I am certain it will infrequently be used outside of organised team sport and all that will happen is the demand for other synthetic fields in the krg council will soar. I would be thoroughly disappointed to see Charles Bean become a grass field again.

573	To maximise usage. Turf is subject to constant weather washouts. When rain occurs it usually takes days to dry out which results in game and training cancellations. The amounts of washouts on grass fields in Sydney is huge. Players play high registration fees but due to constant washout do not receive value for money. During the season the pitch deteriorates affecting players especially children developing their skills.
574	Synthetic turf guarantees the community benefits from guaranteed use of the oval all year round regardless of the weather - for organised sport and the rest of us.
575	We have missed a substantial number of games over the season due to wet weather. Charles Bean is one of the few synthetic ovals we've had access to.
576	There are limited synthetic pitches in the Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai Councils so when wet weather closes the natural pitches winter sport is cancelled. By changing this to a natural grass field availability will be decreased and sport participation will be decreased.
577	All weather
578	With respect to the environmental issues this winter season which has just finished saw my U13 son's team games cancelled a lot due to grass fields being closed by council the minute it rained. It was very unmotivating for the players because the synthetic fields that were available were prioritised for the higher divisions teams so that they did not miss out on their games. I think the council needs to take into consideration the number of synthetic fields that are available across the council area the number of football clubs that function in the council area and the percentage of games that needed to be cancelled this season compared to other councils (Manly Warringha for example). This research also needs to be included in the decision). Why not renew Charles Bean as a synthetic field and then spend money on putting in a mini bus service that would run every 30 minutes to the field at specific peak times alleviating the need for additional parking or using the schools parking.
579	Lower maintenance cost more effective usage less sport cancellations
580	There isn’t a grass field in Sydney managed by council that is well kept enough to play a quality standard of sport. We will lose time on field and increase demand on other faculties in the area.
581	An all weather playing field is critical to ensure continuity of sports even when it rains. Ku-ring-gai already has a lack of all weather fields so changing Charles Bean to natural turf would compound the issue. There are heaps of natural turf fields across Ku-ring-gai - hands off our synthetic fields!
582	Please keep it synthetic it’s a great pitch to play on and great for use by all community members
583	It has to remain synthetic due to the many extra hours of usage it provides and ensure that sports can still be played even in wet weather and the ground remains in good condition no matter the usage unlike natural turf fields.
584	This surface is heavily used by many members of the community. It is reliable and safe and never closed. It is a vauable asset.
585	Need a mix of grass and synthetic fields for sports games. Charles Bean is only synthetic in our area.
586	At a time when the Federal Government is stating 1.2 million additional dwellings need to be added to handle Austraia's growing population to remove a high use community asset in favour of an asset that can not be used as often and is susceptible to weather would be a perplexing decision. It would be akin to removing solar panels from all houses in favour of

	using coal power instead. It would be a major step backward by the council should they reverse the decision for the ground to be synthetic.
587	Each football (soccer) season we have seen increases in wet weather that hamper clubs ability to get kids playing. Charles Bean offers a consistent playing surface and option under these conditions that greatly assists with this. For our more important games it represents the most 'senior' field and in doing so allows NPL1 games by Northern Tigers and others to take place with much less risk of cancellation. Having a synthetic field allows games to be planned and scheduled further out with certainty and reduced last minute rescheduling or cancellation. There are a number of dog focused fields close by like Primula and Queen Elizabeth. Charles Bean being a synthetic field with solid access makes it the pinnacle location to play for football. What really needs focus is a switch away from rubber marbling to cork in addition to consideration for one of the latest hybrid surfaces that attempts to get the best from the combination of soil and microplastics which reduces knee strain negates rubber absorption in goal keeper knees manages the radiant heat of hot days much better and reduces the overall amount of microplastics released overtime.
588	Synthetic surface with microplastic control will benefit communities as will allow more play time irrespective of weather conditions
589	With the increase in popularity of soccer we needs facilities that can be used all year round independently of the weather. Kids miss lots of hours of fun development and healthy sport because the current natural grass fields across the council don't have proper drainage. Changing Charles Bean to be natural grass will just add more pressure to other fields reducing the hours they can be used and will add more frustration to all the community playing sports on them.
590	The last 2 seasons have been crazy wet. My 2 boys and I all play soccer and if not for synthetics surfaces we would miss out on half the games in the season.
591	There are limited all weather surfaces (synthetic) within the NSFA competition area. As such it is not unusual for multiple games per year to be washed out and subsequently cancelled due to the cut off date for field recovery for cricket. As such to loss of this field would make it even more difficult than it already is to ensure that a full season (and finals) is actually played for other than the top divisions.
592	Greater usage for football than turf pitch
593	Our district has such limited amount of synthetic pitches we actually need more of them not less too many fields become rain affected during the winter season as it is and a majority of natural pitches are of such poor quality already
594	Synthetic is able to be used year round and isn't closed due to wet weather - an enormous problem for sports in the ku-ring-gai area. Additionally being next to apartments further increases the usages of charles bean meaning if it was a natural turf it would be almost impossible to maintain good condition.
595	Lack of pitches available in winter due to wet weather
596	Given the wet weather it's integral that the association has as many artificial fields as possible to allow sport to continue
597	It makes sense we cannot have another filed that closes every time a dog pisses on it Primula and others have already caused so many issues
598	Less cancellations. Cost of sports memberships and training are really high so ensures we get value for money. Not enough reliable sports fields which will be made worse by the TOD and SSDs

599	Needed as a wet whether option. There aren't enough in the community. As effects of climate change increase we need it even more.
600	More usable less maintenance. Councils do not look after natural fields appropriately and therefore waste if natural as not usable for far greater time during the year.
601	Community sport thrives when the facilities that support it are reliable safe and able to serve the community for the longest possible hours. A field should function consistently safely and efficiently. For many councils and sporting organisations the debate over synthetic versus natural turf can appear complex. There are environmental considerations differing community perceptions and substantial long-term investment decisions involved. But when the debate ignores the fact that synthetic fields are minimal are we considering a fair and balanced overview of the issue. A synthetic football field provides significantly more value usage reliability and equitable access than a natural turf field especially in areas with high football participation high rainfall such as Ku-ring-gai and limited all-weather options. A well-maintained natural turf field can support only 20-25 hours of weekly use before the surface deteriorates and injury risk rises. High-demand sports like football can exceed this limit with just a handful of teams. In contrast a modern synthetic surface can safely accommodate 60-80 hours per week with some councils allowing more than 100 hours. It is particularly frustrating to see council documents use phrases such as 'limited general recreational use (e.g. dog walking)'as an argument against synthetics when over 30% of Ku-ring-gai is bushland or green space and only ~9% is sporting fields with synthetic representing less than 1%. The suggestion that a synthetic field meaningfully limits recreation is simply not grounded in local reality. There are many places community members can walk their dogs including but not limited to the 21 designated off leash areas.
602	Why not. No real grass.
603	More usage
604	Obesity and especially childhood obesity is a huge problem . Councils should be maximising availability of all weather sporting facilities to assist this . This is more important to society than minor environmental factors Local council has not had a good record of maintaining turf fields
605	Games get forfeited far too often with material turf. And it's too important for children to be able to play their games
606	It's easier to maintain and will enable the Oval to be used no matter what are the weather conditions
607	I am currently the Treasurer for St Ives Football club and I see the impact of not being able to provide suitable football pitches for our 1000 or so members. Over the last few years now we lose at least 50% of our matches and training as the current grass pitches do not cope with the wet weather. I believe we need more of these artificial surfaces and to lose an existing artificial surface would have a negative impact in being able to provide suitable playing time and surfaces to our active players.
608	If you decide to go to natural turf so many soccer clubs will have to find new playing/training grounds. It will affect thousands of people. In the winter time school kids will mess up the grass and it won't be able to be used for any trainings.
609	We are already finding it hard to complete all the fixtures in the football calendar so it's vital to keep Charles bean a synthetic pitch to continue the growth of soccer and give kids a place they can play on in all weather conditions
610	Usability during wet weather

611	I understand the human factor for synthetic and the impact of microplastics however the annual usability far outweigh any other factor.
612	To enable all weather playing fields and allowing for this popular and world game to thrive in the area. The appetite for people to play (and pay) should allow for suitable solutions to be found.
613	Given the volume of rain events seem to be increasing synthetic fields are more valuable to ensure sports can continue
614	Wet weather during soccer season limits the fields available for games and training. There are only a few synthetic fields for NSFA to utilise and loosing one would severely impact the limited game time available in wet weather. A synthetic field is a must.
615	A better option for pitches in high demand and can be used regardless of weather
616	Charles bean is the premier sports field in lindfield primarily because of synthetic turf. The other fields mentioned in the council report Wellington and primula are of significantly lower quality and are consistently closed due to weather. The synthetic turf of Charles bean is the single biggest reason for its consistently high usage and thus should remain synthetic.
617	We are a growing population with reduced access to places to exercise. We need our youth and older populations being physically active.
618	Doesn't get rained out as much more usage. Also more usage means less pressure on other grass surfaces.
619	Synthetic fields can be used in all weather conditions. Technology in field construction and has advanced significantly in recent years including but not limited to Natural Infills that are safe and environmentally friendly and efficient. The use of a synthetic field can be 12mths / year with heavy foot traffic and can be used for multiple sports. Maintenance is also more cost effective than grass.
620	- Consistent playing surface much more enjoyable to play on as a player- No holes or other dangerous hazards on the field. Less chance of sustaining an injury- Less washouts game will still go ahead in wet weather conditions. With Sydney experiencing more extreme weather in recent years there has been more grass fields washed out even those with drainage- Don't experience the same issues at other grounds which are shared with dog walkers. Dogs often run off-leash disrupting training sessions and owners don't pick up after them. - The field can sustain significantly more hours than grass fields provides the opportunity for the field to be used for friday & saturday night fixtures and extensive mid-week training.
621	Synthetic turf provides so many more playable days than a natural surface. Recent years have graphically demonstrated this with our extended wet winters which are likely to continue.
622	Better field quality
623	Community health is supported by sports fields. Having a greater capacity sports field means the community is healthier.
624	We have very few artificial grounds which are needed to play top level competition. Charles Bean is an incredible asset that mustnt be taken away by making it yet another grass pitch
625	Kids (and adults) will get more use and sporting activity with synthetic surface.Winters weather has become wetter in recent years causing many wash out games on grass - synthetic will allow for games to be played.
626	There are already limited sporting fields in the area. Because it is synthetic it allows multiple teams to train on the ground irrespective of the impact of current or recent rain. The other issue is that a natural grass field will not cope with the same load of training. At North Ryde Sc we play in a combined over 55s competition that includes local teams. Our 2025 season was

	heavily impacted by wet weather yet Charles Bean and the other synthetic grounds remained playable.
627	Why would you go to grass that is not all weather? It will tear up.
628	Due to lack of fields in the area we need as many of them to be all weather purpose
629	The synthetic oval ensures it is usable for the hours required. By converting to grass a large number of sporting individuals would miss out on using it effectively. It would also increase the number of times it was unusable due to wet weather.
630	The all weather ability to use
631	Greater all year round use
632	The sheer amount of hours of play lost if it became grass
633	It is our only field in the area that is synthetic to ensure a playable field during wet weather
634	As a previous player with O35 women with Lindfield FC (soccer) and now with the women 045 team with Kissing Point I know first hand the challenges to find Grounds. Charles Bean has so often been a saver that has allowed us to train or play (keeping old women fit and connected with the community). Losing this ground would add immense pressure on other fields that are simply not available.
635	Wet weather optionality Skills development for players unlocked faster on reliable consistent surface Growing population requires growing number of ground availability with grass becoming a wet weather issueThe oval becomes a community hub when All Age Men (Lindfield FC) play with small crowds gathering to watch games. The current technology is outdated and newer technology can mitigate some existing concerns
636	So ppl can continue to use it as it is
637	The field can be used all year round the surface is nice and flat gives a true bounce
638	Given the amount of closures during the winter months training is not feasible on so many grounds. Charles bean is always open. It also allows for cup games and rescheduling of games to reliably be played during the season to keep football happening! I've trained here since I was 10 years old it's always a great field to play on. It allows so many young kids to get out and train. It's been a big part of my football and health development. If we want kids to be able to develop they need access to grounds. No matter how good the grass pitch is the amount of people we have playing on the fields will still turn it to dirt during the winter and it'll be no different to the other grass pitches we have in the area. Making the pitch grass in response to a failure to plan parking is a cop out of a reason and reflects incredibly poorly on the governments planning for the area makes you wonder if they always wanted a grass pitch. The pitch is so important to the local area and making it into a grass (mud) pitch only reduces the amount of kids getting out there and playing sport which should be the priority.
639	Why would you change it???Engaging and enabling young and old to be part of organised or casual sport especially during winter when the cold and rain makes it harder to get motivated and fields are often closed should be a high priority for all levels of government. Having a synthetic field enables more sport to be played at more times. I have seen and participated in organised and casual sport on Charles Bean at all times of the year in all weather in winter and in summer. It is a great facility offering year round all weather access to a sporting field
640	Allows for triple the usage which provides social and physical benefits to the community.
641	Weatherability. Training and matches rarely cancelled is good
642	Allow play in wet conditions
643	To give all year round access to football fields especially in period ofwet weather

644	Kuringgai has limited synthetic playing fields across the council area - NTRA rarely available to anyone but the Tigers and West Pymble a debacle whilst expensive we need another synthetic turf in our municipality (not removing the current ones). parking whilst limited (annoying that council never allocated parking who would have thought that you need parking near sporting fields!!) I think council needs to gain access to dept of Ed parking spaces
645	The old grass field was poor and unable to sustain the wear and tear of local residents and sports participants
646	Access to synthetic fields in the area are crucial to keep sport running. Ku-ring-gai council have already proven that the upgrade of other facilities (such as Norman Griffiths oval) is not able to be relied upon and there has been a lot of decisions made for political gain without the best interests of the community in mind. The impact of adding a few extra square metres of grass space to a community that is literally surrounded by bushland and national parks for walking and other leisure and recreational use is negligible. Player safety is also a major concern for overused natural turf fields. Uneven playing surfaces cause just as many injuries as synthetic surfaces and as a teacher that worked within the community at Koola Park for PE lessons students were injured due to the inability of the council to successfully maintain fields.
647	My son is able to stay active and participate in his training at Charles bean oval even in wet weather. So many cancellations occur on grass fields that it’s crucial to have synthetic fields available for use. If there are no synthetic fields then many many weeks of the winter season would be completely cancelled. Pretty much no point signing up to play sports anymore if no fields are usable.
648	Charles. Wan is one of the few synthetic ovals for soccer. Reliability in wet weather and good surface for quality games.
649	It's open when nothing else is many many training hours and sessions and games will be lost if synthetic is removed.
650	Access to all weather playing fields provides life long health benefits to the community. I see how often other local playing fields are closed due to weather. Some seasons Primula and Queen Elizabeth are closed up to 50% of the winter playing seasons. Also training is impacted by constant closures.
651	Synthetic offers best option for community for amount of play that occurs on it the amount of wash out games that occur during the season on grass pitches we need to have synthetic pitches around to enable games to still occur when grass pitches are closed due to rain. Very few synthetic pitches around as it is.
652	Can be used all the time so many games get washed out give the kids a run.
653	Ku-ring-gai needs more multi-purpose all weather pitches to accommodate the increased wet weather and enable kids to play sport. Unfortunately council's grass fields are not maintained in a satisfactory way to enable this to happen. With current technology in synthetic pitches I believe we can mitigate some of the environmental impacts.
654	Utilisation is critical for health and well-being
655	Ability to use the field in all weather conditions
656	More playing time less wash out less damage to the field during wet season. The quality difference between a flat and even synthetic vs an uneven lumpy muddy natural turf after heavy rain is something the expert have missed in their report. The real number should be 3700 quality hours for synthetic vs 1000 quality hours plus 500 average quality plus 500 poor quality hours for natural turf. Natural turf has its place but we need more synthetic so toward

	the end of the football season (when natural becomes poor quality) we all get to have a quality field to finish the season.
657	The usefulness of the synthetic field is unmatched given the wet weather issues in winter. It makes it a much more usable surface when all other local fields are closed. Kuringai has very few fields open when its wet so this has been a very important option to allow people to be out and active during this time. This will become even more prevalent as climate impacts make thunderstorms and events much more frequent as we have seen recently.
658	Current and projected usage requires field capable of 50 plus hours a week.
659	Natural turf fields can't maintain consistent quality throughout the season. They deteriorate with heavy use often require closures during wet weather and simply cannot handle the high level of activity demanded without significant degradation. A synthetic field provides consistency and a premium quality that natural turf can't maintain over the course of a season.
660	The oval is the only one in KMC that is available to use during wet weather. Grass is nice but it is not suitable for the high use soccer needs for this oval - FIFA standard grass pitches are very difficult to maintain. The oval does not have a cricket pitch so long periods of play in summer is not an issue for a synthetic turf.
661	Synthetic turf allows for more consistent play throughout the year regardless of wet weather conditions which can render natural grass fields unusable for long periods due to waterlogging or excessive wear. This enhanced resilience means sports and community events can be scheduled without the risk of interruption maximizing field availability Weather Resilience and Consistency Synthetic turf remains usable during and after wet weather avoiding closures for rain and muddy conditions that would damage grass fields or render them unsafe. As a result clubs schools and community groups are able to reliably schedule practices and matches without fear of cancellations maximising community engagement and ensuring continuity for organised sport and recreational events. Resurfacing synthetic turf ensures a safe even playing surface reducing risks of slips and injuries that increase as synthetic turf ages or becomes uneven. A fresh synthetic surface provides excellent grip and ball performance consistency which is often lost as natural grass fields degrade due to overuse or adverse weather.
662	It is the hotspot of football activity and always has goals with nets year in and out. Only con is that it is busy. Playing surface is good and if it was to be converted to grass that would be a shame because the amount of games that are played Charles Bean with grass would get worn down very quickly.
663	While I am not a strong supporter of synthetic grass playing fields the lack of decent well maintained natural grass fields within the association severely limits the amount of playable minutes every season and every synthetic field compensate for minutes lost due to weather and the associated field closures.
664	Synthetic grass makes the gameplays more consistent which is essential for high level football.
665	Absolute no brainer! One of the most used pitches on the north shore we have lost so many games to rain in recent years on all the grass fields it is completely astonishing that there is even a consideration of changing this ground back to turf. Take the politics out of this and use common sense. Look at the demographics forecast for the north shore! A higher population means more demand for facilities- WTF would you reduce - massively - the numbers of hours that can be used by this facility? Utter madness to even consider the possibility.

666	Lindfield soccer club is growing with new members each year and we need the oval at full capacity.
667	A synthetic surface is fundamental to the community getting maximum use out of the area ensuring our community can stay active is critical to combating obesity and other serious illnesses which far outweigh the downsides of these facilities
668	The all weather consistency providing much needed grounds for the thousands of kids and adults in NSFA that play football and much higher playing hours. Also the consistency of the pitch making it a great low maintenance playing surface enhancing the enjoyment of the game for all players.
669	Synthetic Is much more usable and all weather round turning it to grass would mean many matches wouldn't be able to be played as it's a Siccer Field and Soccers a Winter Sport the weather is unpredictable and as a player coach and referee losing this artificial field would mean the loss of many trainings and games. Synthetic is better as the field won't be closed won't have a need for maitenence and is better for player conditions and safety.
670	Growing population in Upper North Shore with high energy individuals should reduce incidences of adventurism if focused towards activities such as sports. Having all weather synthetic turfs should alleviate that pressure
671	The synthetic surface allows better quality for young players to learn playing on smooth surfaces and allows games in the wet winter season! We need more synthetic. Grass surface is only good if we have the budgets and resources like the multi billion English premier leagues to maintain it!
672	There are lots of other dog walking options in the local area but only limited all weather playing fields on the Northshore. Check out the technology used for the Blackman Oval and Thompson Park as they both use cork rather than rubber. Both of those fields are excellent to play on.
673	Synthetic provides a safe (less rolled ankles no rabbit holes dog holes) consistent level surface. It isn't closed after a tiny sprinkle and is still at its best at the end of the season. The amount of playing hours required in the lga is only growing according to kuringai's own accounts. It would be a waste of rate payer money to remove a high usage quality pitch and replace it with something that will not have any scope for more playing hours.
674	Play in all weather conditions
675	No brainer especially after rainy seasons that we all experienced and the weather is only going to get more extreme
676	The need for a safe high quality field for use year round is essential for an enjoyable & successful season. For far too long have we had to put up with crappy waterlogged field whenever the slightest bit of rain comes. Why on earth would we decide to move away from one of the only useable fields in the area.
677	It provides an all purpose field in all weathers.
678	It's a no brainer Grass will not last and be maintained to a quality standard required to play football Synthetic allows play full time
679	Natural turf will not meet community needs with continuous weather changes and wetter winters
680	Synthetic provides an all-weather training and playing option and allows competitions to continue when other turf fields are unplayable. We live in an environment where even modest amounts of rain can make grass fields virtually unplayable. Many games are called off in a season because decisions are made to protect grass fields which is a source of frustration for

	players fans parents clubs and associations. It puts our teams at a disadvantage when playing other clubs that do have access to all weather fields and can practice more regularly. The Northern Suburbs have so few all weather field options - to take one away seems madness. You might as well cancel soccer in the area.
681	More hours of use and less soft council closing the fields cause of a little rain
682	Wet winter weather causes about 1/4 of scheduled soccer games and training to be cancelled. It is imperative we have some all weather fields to accomodate sport after rain. At least some games can still be played.
683	Charles bean is one of the only pitches which remained playable through the wet season this year. Changing it to turf will not only limit its playable hours a week but impact access to sport within the LGA during wet weather. The council should focus its efforts on improving the many football pitches that are in disrepair instead.
684	Without investing in more playing fields our council needs fields which are able to stand up in longer playing hours. Natural grass will only continue to present scheduling challenges and limitations when rains or other maintenance is required.
685	There are very few playable grounds when games are washed out. Changing this to grass will make it even worse.
686	Because as soccer players it allows us to train on good surfaces that are do not damage our foot wear and allow for general better training sessions and overall mood. In addition Charles bean as a synthetic oval houses many memories and it being renovated and change will prove a big loss to us especially super league teams that use that oval on a daily basis.
687	Ability to play soccer during wet weather
688	There is not enough all weather ground for our community and kids as is we should have more synthetic pitches not less.
689	My daughter plays soccer on this field and it is a fantastic set up for the game. It means that that the game can be played in most weather conditions. Also it is the only synthetic field in the area.
690	Synthetic turf provides increased playing capacity and insures soccer has access to a facility year round without the need to sacrifice using boots and also without losing considerable usage to wet weather (or periods of drought). Lindfield Football Club a main user of the facility have almost 2 500 members who rely on this field being available all year and being able to withstand 60+ hours of usage a week. Council should be looking at ways to increase usage and physical activity in a world of increasing obesity and sedentary behaviour. The operational challenges presented can be overcome through proper collaboration and whole of picture approach. Please do not let this obstacle detract from the amazing facility council and the NSFA have invested in so greatly.
691	The grass is fine and astro tirf would be better then a grass pitch because the grass pitch will be hard to maintain and would not be able to play on a wet day
692	availability during wet weather. Charles Bean has saved so many soccer/ school activities. It is the envy of surrounding suburbs parents/players/spectators. The ground plays more evenly and promotes better play/ fewer injuries. Without it our daughter would not play regular sport or practice on the field. especially when wet.
693	Significantly higher use potential. The availability of synthetic fields in wet weather enables sport to continue. This is important for physical and psychological wellbeing of the community.
694	Must maintain for sports. We already have very limited facilities and available playing hours. Critical to have sports facilities for wellbeing and fitness.

695	Honestly disgraceful that they would consider changing it back to natural turf. One of the best synthetic grounds in Sydney shocking that they would even think about it.
696	Charles Bean Oval should remain a synthetic pitch because it guarantees safe reliable and year-round access for the entire community. Unlike natural grass which becomes muddy uneven and unsafe under heavy use or bad weather synthetic turf stays consistent and durable no matter how many teams train or play on it. This means schools sports clubs and local residents can depend on the oval being open safe and ready to use every day of the year. Keeping it synthetic protects the space from overuse ensures a higher standard of play and allows more people to enjoy the oval without disruption.
697	Synthetic grass allows year-round use and is resilient to wet weather and a high volume of use and traffic. Knowing I can use the field after heavy rain and watch my son play on the field when all other ku-ring-gai fields are closed for weeks after heavy rain is invaliable and a great community asset. My son and I would otherwise be on screens indoors after any rainfall.
698	Sadly there is no evidence that Ku-ring-gai (or any of the local councils) are capable of maintaining turf sports fields. This winter many grounds were closed week after week often with little justification. This caused great disappointment to many children. It would be great if one or more of the turf fields could be upgraded to ;best practice natural turf; and this could be monitored. It would help if some rough cost comparisons were given.
699	All year round ability to train and play. Kids never get their sport cancelled. Regardless of what is said grass fields get flooded and deteriorate.
700	Allows for wet weather games which is already sparse in the league a good quality field
701	I don’t believe the expert report that natural turf will have as much time of use as synthetic. Councils around Sydney close turf fields at the first sign of rain. The field needs to be synthetic so our kids get outside and playing sport.
702	Consistent all-weather access to sport and exercise space.
703	Consistent playing surface and minimal cancellations
704	If it was turf you'd get a third of the use due to rain plus additional uncertainty and stress. Can't imagine you're contemplating going turf
705	The field currently as turf was mostly unusable anyway as it flooded and was also water logged. We are short on playing fields with the growing community therefore make perfect sense. Given this job was started and agreed upon should now have no reason why it doesn’t go ahead. We seem to be stalling for no reason.
706	Natural turf can’t handle the usage. Synthetic allows much higher usage and all weather usage.
707	I have been countless training and game days where all grass fields in the area have been There have been numerous training sessions and game days where all local grass fields were closed due to wet weather. Charles Bean has helped mitigate these disruptions by providing a reliable surface and accommodating previously cancelled games. To ensure players have a consistent in-season solution that supports performance and adequate recovery time it would be unreasonable to replace the existing astro pitch with another grass field. Furthermore creating quarter or half fields on the astro surface should not be considered. This approach has already caused significant damage at Northbridge Football Oval and risks doing the same here. There are no issues with junior players understanding cones for line marking so this should not be a concern.
708	More soccer to get played.

709	Given the intense requirements for the playing surface a natural turf pitch simply won't be able to handle the usage. The council does not have the ability to manage the pitch and maintain it to withstand the requirements and demand. Natural turf pitches quickly become damaged and as per nearly every other pitch in KRG they become holed and cause significant injuries.
710	Having an all weather ground is crucial to Northern Suburbs soccer.
711	Need more synthetics in the area not less.
712	more regular use of oval- use of oval during wet weather - Reliably good pitch conditions/quality. – No concerns about walking through dog faeces
713	The usefulness of Charles Bean as a synthetic surface oval cannot be understated. While other fields in Ku-Ring-Gai experience regular rain abandonments and closures Charles Bean is almost consistently open regardless of the weather. While heat skin abrasions of young children and potential for inhalation of chemicals the removal of synthetic surfaces reduces bad weather sporting access to thousands of nearby housing and regular sporting clubs. With the new addition of the units surrounding Charles Bean there are hundreds of new families some consisting of younger children who will require access to an oval or park nearby to attend to Australian Health Guidelines. If the field is converted to grass combined with the now regularly occurring monthly rain average records these families will have no access to a regularly open sporting venue. This is a similar issue that will occur with the sporting clubs who regularly use these facilities such as UTS and Lindfield the removal of Charles Bean will further limit the already low access to bad weather sporting venues throughout the season.
714	Allows year round use better quality sports and greater flexibility
715	Synthetic is absolutely necessary to keep the ground open during wet weather.
716	Few synthetic options locally. When wet weather hits enables many kids and adults to continue playing siccer
717	We need a balance of grass and synthetic in the local area to allow games to go ahead when the weather is bad. It would be crazy to turn it to grass and counterproductive with the usage. Please don't change it and keep as synthetic
718	To support football competition.
719	It means more sport can be played tear round with minimal upkeep required relative to a natural turf.
720	Synthetic turf allows for significantly more hours of usage less cancellations for rain and more utility for use for sports other than football which should be it's primary use given the significant demand for playing football in this area.
721	Making one of the most highly used fields in the north shore significantly less usable has to be the stupidest thing I've ever heard of. Charles bean turns into a home ground for many clubs when it rains. Why change the pitch when you can fix the parking pay the school to open their parking and even charge people using it
722	Grass pitch is simply not a viable option. Unclear how this is even remotely being considered. Only rationale possible is to minimise capital cost and plan to ignore maintenance required to provide a grass football pitch of remotely adequate quality. Simply not remotely believable that a natural turf with best practice construction and maintenance would be installed. Importance of factors would appear highly subjective. If player safety relates to kids getting a carpet burn then this questionnaire appears highly suspect.
723	Access to reliable safe playing surfaces is of vital importance for local community. Charles bean is an absolutely essential part of the north shore football community - there is no single natural surface no matter how advanced that has been able to standup to the unpredictable

	sydney weather. A mix of authentic and grass surfaces across the district is critical to making children and adults alike can pursue healthy recreational and organized activity across the year.
724	The current facility is one of the best in Sydney and turning it to grass would ruin it for such a big football club. The amount of junior and senior teams that can use the ground is brilliant for the community. Grads would deteriorate before the season begins
725	The north shore needs fields that can remain open during times of wet weather and maiming a high quality consistent surface. Too many of our fields are shut for extended periods of time due to even the slightest wet weather. These fields are then consistently used prior to being fully dried out which causes a significant uneven surface which is both poor for soccer and other sports. Refer to the performance of the fields at naremburn oval which now has a poor surface only a few years after a complete grass surface refresh
726	It much nicer to play on synthetic. The turf grounds are rubbish even when just re turfed . Uneven cricket pitches etc More likely to get injured on turf . It never gets rained out so get to play each Sunday which I need for mental health . In the off season I exercise there and play 6 aside at cammeray which is synthetic or Cromer which is also synthetic. Shame Charles bean to have a 6aside comp there !! It's seems to have much less maintenance than a grass pitch which have council workers almost everyday on them (Roseville park is always getting worked on)
727	Sports need wet weather options. If you take away one of the few synthetic fields even less games will be played.
728	The amount of use we get for sport is amazing. It's the best facility in the district by a country mile. We've spent all this money getting it artificial and to go back would be outrageous.
729	The artificial surface with natural fill at Blackman Park Lane Cove is a great example to follow. More play up- time less health impacts for users less of a heat island
730	No issues with weather flat surface and can be used for longer periods. Also don't need to worry about holes dug in ground by wildlife and dogs that can break your ankle if running a stepping in one
731	Kids sport is cancelled so much due to wet weather. We want kids off screens and to prevent obesity promote a healthy lifestyle and for mental health but you cancel half the season and kids lose momentum motivation and love of sport
732	Natural turf won't survive the winter and end up a mud bath and council can't upkeep natural grounds well enough
733	To allow more hours of use especially during wet weather
734	There is a lack of synthetic turfs in the area as opposed to the number of natural turfs. The synthetic turf is extremely beneficial for wet weather games or just keeping it in good shape making the community look better.
735	The economics of 'per hour use' is compelling. The certainty of utilisation. The latest synthetic technology. Council has approved more and more places nearby. People have to have useable amenities - natural turf will not satisfy this.
736	Synthetic turf allows games to be played after there has been rain where many other grounds are closed. To change this to turf would mean more games cancelled and disrupts the entire season.
737	Lack of facilities in Kuringgai already for community sport with proposed increase in population pressure will increase on existing ovals
738	Will give maximum training time and game time for players during wet seasons

739	The main reason for my preference is due to the fact that Charles Bean is constantly available for use no matter the weather allowing to be a reliable facility for community engagement such as the community football that takes place all throughout the year. I think back to a time during Covid when visiting it became almost a daily ritual.
740	The greater area lacks resources to support the number of sports participants and councils are too quick to close grounds when it raining. Even though I love natural grass unfortunately for this residents effected this is an essential piece of infrastructure and must remain synthetic
741	There are already not enough synthetic pitches in the area to cope with demand.
742	During the wet seasons so many grounds are not usable whereas charles bean keeps the season going and football goers happy
743	All weather playing surface
744	To get kids outside and playing even when poor weather is around.
745	This is one of the few usable fields in the area all year around. The soccer community misses out on so many games throughout the season due to limited availability of wet weather fields. This is probably the best field on the north shore to play on please don't ruin that. The soccer community is growing and this is beneficial for health wellbeing and a sense of community for people of all ages. The removal of the synthetic turf will negatively affect the local community in so many ways.
746	More use during the wet weather compared to constant grass fields closed.
747	Synthetic allows for more people to have access to the outdoors sports and recreation across more hours and weathers. To put grass down would dramatically reduce the accessibility and likely not withstand the high amount of activity clubs will put the surface through. Additionally synthetic fields play a role in reducing sporting knee injuries by providing a solid and consistent surface. Player safety is a must.
748	I am stunned that council is even contemplating taking a backward step and returning to natural turf. We don’t have enough fields as it is and as a consequence field usage is more than natural turf can cope with and that ignores the impact of torrential rainfall. Even with synthetic pitches the NSFA struggles to complete seasons due to washouts. We need more synthetic pitches not less! Tell Lindfield Learning Village to focus on educating their students rather than petitioning for a grass field. This discussion is beyond stupid. Finish Norman Griffiths and then convert Primula Montview Berowra etc to synthetic.
749	As a former passionate soccer player and a now 6 year senior referee for Northern Suburbs Football Referees Association (NSFRA) I feel completely taken aback and appalled to say the least that this is being considered for one of two huge reasons. 1. Rainy weather is far too frequent during the football season and within our district we only have a simple handful of grounds that are synthetic Charles Bean being my closest and most convenient field to go to if I want to hang around to kick a ball but also the severe increase in the number of games that will be postponed and possibly cancelled will be through the roof if natural turf is laid. The second reason I’m appalled by this is what happened to Norman Griffiths? As members of the public and lovers of football we were promised an upgrade to the ground in West Pymble which to be frank looks like the trenches of WWII and now not only has the council brought up this ridiculous idea of laying natural turf at Charles Bean but the upgrade to Norman Griffiths has been called off simply because the council’s priorities have changed.
750	There are very few synthetic fields in kurringgai we have limited places to play during wet weather. It would be good to have more not to take them away.

751	Average teams currently lose approximately aMonth or more worth of games due to field closures in wet weather eg peak soccer playing season. Local club fees are ridiculously high and there's no refund for ground closures. NSFA desperately need more synthetic pitches to keep up with demand
752	More playing time especially in wet weather
753	The amount of games and training we miss due to the frequent closure of turf fields during wet weather.
754	hard wearing all weather surface needed to meet heavy sporting and training needs
755	To be able to continue to use when it is wet. To keep a flat surface regardless of weather or traffic
756	Important in improving grassroots football that we have facilities like Charles Bean to develop players in all weather conditions.
757	As stated by NsFa - this ground has been used throughout the raining season and so multiple clubs across NSW will lose that if it changes to grass
758	Greater weather-proof and wear-proof use overall. This directly leads to:- Increased quality of training & games due to even surface - Offers a surface that is competitive/comparable with other clubs and football association offerings especially for top tier teams - Decreased risk of injuries due to even surface - Less exercise cancelled during rain weather events that are becoming more prominent not less. This makes a material difference during soccer season for performance and team wellbeing.- Avoiding the need for rescheduled or moved sessions which would likely just increase load on other council grounds including those that are used recreationally/dog walking. I can’t speak from the perspective of a nearby resident but I note that recreational walkers and dogs are still regularly around enjoying the surrounds of the field.
759	I live at Charles Bean. I need it synthetic for my life. It’s my life and I can’t live without it. Not kidding.
760	I have a child who is vision impaired and the upkeep of natural turf pitches in the area has been abysmal. Also he and his sister play Div 1 and the reduced play due to wet weather is considerable on natural turf. Soccer is primarily a winter sport therefore the heat aspect rarely comes into play/
761	Synthetic turf is available all year round and attracts more hirers. This allows more revenue for council and hirers are happy.
762	The reliability of the synthetic is insanely valuable as a football player. Having consistent training is why players gravitate towards our club. It rarely ever needs to be closed only on the one off 38 degree gameday (preseason) or the worst storm of the year. Its a beautiful thing knowing training will be on. It alos creates an ideal surface for football increasing the quality immensly and when I say immensly I mean it as a player with 18 years experience in football and having played casually internationally and now cometitive butt local. The quality achieveable is only matched by professional club grass fields which a community oval cannot achieve.
763	Greater usability and durability all year round for people to play sports and exercise on.
764	With the ever increasing population on the North Shore it is imperative there are enough grounds for all residents to play sport. Having synthetic grounds increases the hours available for residents to use the field. Returning to a grass field is a giant step backwards.
765	Wet weather soccer.
766	Synthetic is slightly preferred due to it being used under rainy conditions but natural fields can provide a better feel on the ball and reduces injuries and grazes from the astroturf. If constant

	maintenance (few times a week) is available on the natural turfs it would be preferred. However there are limited synthetic fields in the area which is why synthetic is preferred.
767	Charles Bean synthetic surface offers all weather playing ability every weekend for soccee. And also for galadays and for trainings during the week. Schools use it for knockout soccer games with the secure knowledge that games will go ahead no matter the weather. We come from another suburb which us sadly lacking in synthetic surfaces. So many of our trainings and games are cancelled on a weekly basis due to wet weather.... please keep this as a synthetic surface. It's so important to maintain optimal sports facilities for our kids (and adults) so that sports can be played for fitness and fun plus social and mental health on a weekly basis. Not to mention obesity rates and for the development of our Matildas soccer team in the future. Synthetic doesn't need irrigation or watering either when water preservation is an issue due to drought conditions.
768	We can play soccer all year round
769	It would ensure the kids and adults can play during winters when we seem to have more wet weather.
770	Too many games and trainings lost in wet weather with natural turf
771	All weather allows training and games to proceed in wet weather. A lot more durable
772	one of the only good synthetic terf fields in the area I’ve been playing on this pitch for years and without it would not have the opportunity to progress as a soccer player especially as playing on synthetic is vastly different to play on grass pitches. charles bean is also one of the only synthetic pitches of its large size in the area making it great for matches. additionally it is one of the only synthetic pitches that holds female games as usually the men’s games get priority.
773	As a former player in Kuringai and now a father of 3 children playing football the amount of field closures during the season at the discretion of council is a disgrace. Happy to collect rates yet equally as happy to close the field for use at the first drop of rain. Kids need their outdoor activities especially their training and weekend sport and to take that away due to inept decision making by councillors is extremely poor.
774	Keeping Charles bean synthetic will allow the community to keep playing soccer all year round. Losing a synthetic field would make it difficult if not impossible to play all allocated games for certain teams and clubs particularly as we have a lot of rain events.
775	The is limited sports and community amenity. Fields like Charles Bean need to be able current and project increased demand.
776	We need more artificial fields in the area not less. There is already a lack of sports fields in the area a converting this back to grass is just going to make it usable to less kids. Grass field result in lots of canceled games over winter and are usually mud by the end of the soccer season.
777	This is the best synthetic turf in the association.
778	Sport is so weather dependent it is better to have an all weather field.
779	Having the synthetic field has given reliability and assurance for a playing surface for football games and other recreational. With many other fields getting closed and needing grass upgrade believe Charles bean should stay synthetic
780	It’s a crucial facility for community football
781	Synthetic turf allows more hours of football to be played. More hours means the field is more accessible to players of all ages.

782	Anything other than a synthetic surface would be completely ridiculous. Sydney rain results in about a quarter to a fifth of games being cancelled at weekends on natural turf - to contemplate anything else than synthetic would be taking us back 30 years and utterly ridiculous
783	Without the synthetic surface our soccer season would be greatly impacted. As it is we loose many games to wet weather and if we are lucky some games get to go ahead if at Lindfield. To lose Lindfield as well would guarantee fewer games for all the nsfa region making an already expensive sport even more so. We need more of these fields not less. We want to encourage future generations to be active? This starts in childhood and the habits we form. More kids less access to reliable open space seems short sighted. For sport in the north shore this would be a big backward step. Understand resident concerns but oval predates most of those new builds. Not even a grass field would fix the stupid planning that allowed development to go through.
784	Limited all weather feels for what is one of the largest participation sports in the country and growing for girls following Matilda's effect
785	Absolutely crazy to think it would be considered returning to grass field. As a long term soccer player we are all desperate to get onto Charles Bean due to its synthetic pitch. 90% of all natural turf grounds are useless within months of the season starting. 2 players in my team had devastating injuries due to holes in the ground at grass/mud fields last year. We need far more synthetic fields not less.
786	We cannot afford to lose this field during soccer season (which is also a very wet season)!!!! This is a beautiful soccer hub that would be a massive loss and inconvenience to all the football clubs in the area
787	Synthetic pitches enable the production of higher quality football supporting continuous play time by avoiding wet weather concerns. It is great for the mental health of young people to have this quality surface present where boots can be worn year round and play can happen in and after any weather.
788	Limited number of all weather pitches in the area.
789	Maximized usage and access in all weather
790	All year all weather use
791	Charles Bean oval is an essential part of the facilities available to football players in the North Shore. This is clearly demonstrated by the very high number of booking hours. It is simply impossible to replace those hours on other grass fields without causing significant impact to those grounds and the amount of actual playing time. Football is a demanding sport played by more than 18k people in KuRinggai it is the largest outdoor participation sport and whilst I agree that the parking situation is chronic the loss of this field would be an absolute travesty and have significant long term impact to our community.
792	Please go and visit other councils we are being left behind. We have the worst facilities. Without Charles bean oval being synthetic it limits its use. The worst thing about Charles bean is one toilet. Council instead of wasting everyone time and money converting Charles Bean get some facilities and seating and make it a community space. Go and look at the inner west they do it so well. I love people just walking past with the dog watching soccer. The community needs to play sport even when it rains we have NTRA another neglected space by council and this. Take this away and community sport in a wet season is impossible. Our community also deserves better. Every other region I visit for soccer has a stadium for football and the facilities are improving. We have half spaces and hills with limited toilets and facilities. I pay my rates to

	you with disappointment and it is not just soccer. It is everything roads cycleways parks. We came from the inner west and the community spaces are amazing.
793	It is one of the few grounds that is able to remain open during what are becoming wetter winters. It is able to handle more use than current natural turf fields can.
794	It's a soccer field and synthetic is the best option since it rains often and heavily in Sydney multiple games would be cancelled. Ruins the game overall if not maintained to standards like A-league pitches which it probably won't be. Irresponsible dog owners will start coming over and leaving poop all around our pitch making it smell bad.
795	There is a significant lack of fields available to the local community that remain open through periods of bad weather. Charles Bean offers a rare opportunity for children to continue to participate in sports through winter. Charles Bean is clearly heavily used (reflective of hiring hours) but this is not a fair reflection of usage hours. The stats referred to hiring hours and do not reflect the time that the facility was actually available. This year my children missed weeks on end of training on natural turf fields because their training fell on a Monday night and grounds were frequently closed after heavy weekend use/rain. We received no refund despite the considerable lost use and I understand the club receives no refund from council. A synthetic field also provides a better facility for aspiring players to perfect their skills as it is quicker and more consistent than turf. Finally mixing sport and animals does not work. I am a parent and a dog owner and I am appalled at the condition of ovals such as Killara Park which allow shares use. The park is full of holes and excrement creating a danger for players in both summer and winter. It is just a matter of time before council is faced with a law suit following serious injury.
796	Extremely important for NSFA football and casual usage when rainy days are so frequent throughout the season. One of the few synthetic pitches in the lower North Shore.
797	There are no grass pitches in local soccer up to standard.
798	More reliability with games and training less ditches and dog poop for higher quality games
799	To ensure training and games can proceed regardless of the weather. Most grass fields end up closed for weeks leaving kids without a training or game day field to use.
800	As a Lindfield FC soccer player Charles bean is a key field for our club. The synthetic pitch allows us to train and play all year round which is important for engagement and satisfaction levels.
801	Avoid games being washed out Safer field to play on
802	If we lose more synthetic pitches it will become harder to for sports competitions to arrange fixtures / training
803	Significant increase in playing hours and number of people
804	The quality of grass fields in the council area doesn't keep up with demand with soccer in the area. Without synthetic fields NSFA wouldn't have been able to complete its season last year before grounds were handed over to cricket. There needs to be more sustainable playing fields not less.
805	The surfaces around which are grass are often closed due to wet weather and significant wear and tear on the surface
806	Year round access with less cancellation of sport due to wet weather.
807	Well grass under perfect condition is ideal we hardly have perfect conditions here. We have so many players and so few fields that we have to do everything we can to use every square setting we can to provide playing fields. My previous club had a turf field and we ended up only

	getting to play about 60% of our games which was terrible. We suffered many injuries due to the lung period between training and games due to weather.
808	Synthetic allows for sport all year round and the ability to play when other fields have been rained out
809	More playing time. Less maintenance . Infill in synthetic is not environmental y damaging. Natural surface while nice is not durable for continuous use and pesticide is environmentally damaging. Heat is not an issue as soccer is not played in summer. No one sits in tne middle of an oval on a hot yo have picnic whether grass or synthetic surface.
810	It is an all weather solution. If it's natural grass it will be another frequent wash out ground like the rest in Ku-ring-gai. Honestly a mind boggling idea to change it to grass.
811	To allow all weather access
812	Constant availability consistent quality of surface
813	Allows sport to continue in wet weather and allows games to play
814	Completely ridiculous to turn it to grass! There are so few places to play soccer in th area. I can’t believe council would do this
815	Limited number of fields in the area for sport and recreation often other fields are closed during wet weather. Synthetic allows greater use and is more robust.
816	More usage opportunities
817	Maximise usage of the field in all weather condition.
818	Wet weather availability of fields for the NSFA competitions is of paramount importance for the integrity of graded competition and the participation of players of all ages in ungraded organised sport.
819	At school we should be able to use it every day and not be off cause the grass needs to grow back and there's cause of its high use rate
820	All weather play is possible. Also Turf pitches in Kuringai are generally very poor.
821	There are few all weather grounds available and with the inevitable rain and need to reschedule games it’s is imperative to have access to all weather grounds.
822	Its a high usage field tgat creates a sense of community & belonging.
823	Due to weather conditions (hot summers and wet winters) maintenance of a grass pitch has proven very difficult across Sydney with very few councils able to keep up with promises of enabling disruption free sports throughout the year. Too often grass pitches are closed or if open hazardous to play on. To name a few hazards include holes rock hard surfaces from prolonged dry periods water logged pitches. The council must be aware of this since during the last two seasons Charles Bean and NTRA have been in much demand even not able to meet demand.
824	Current grass fields are unsuitable to sustain current sport demands. The removal of this field will further reduce the ability to play during the soccer season resulting in less sports leading to obesity and other factors.
825	The impact to children being able to play train for sports is massively impacted by wet weather. The quality of the synthetic is better for improving the quality of the players. There are limited facilities of this type in the council area.
826	Improved skill levels for kids - all year use for weather
827	All weather surface no degradation over the time making it dangerous for players.
828	Available for use far more than grass pitches. At least 2 x more in my personal experience.
829	It can be used in all weather

830	There are too few synthetic pitches in the area. There needs to be more as grass pitches are unreliable in our climate; far too many days lost to rain. The environmental impact of one synthetic pitch is negligible compared to other losses of habitat (eg privately held synthetic tennis courts) and is far outweighed by the community benefits. This is borne out by the heavy usage of Charles Bean; the area needs at least 2 more synthetic pitches it 1 less.
831	Charles Bean has been a great all weather all year round recreational asset. Changing to a natural surface would inevitably reduce usage and increase costs (financial & water etc) and likely increase injuries caused by poor surfaces (as we see on other natural turf surface in the area e.g. QE Reserve). Overall we need a better mix of synthetic and properly maintained natural fields.
832	there will be more days available for play.
833	All year round use grass will NOT handle the usage. Its a joke the council is even considering this. Woeful representation of the community. This gets used EVERY SINGLE DAY by a lot of residents natural turf will turn into a mud pit and kill local football. Why can the rest of the world see this not this council. Wake up
834	There are only a few of these grounds within the local area they get used year round because of the service weather impacts grass fields and as well as making the grass surface unstable. The turf option gives a better playing and training experience and results in a better outcome for players of all ages
835	Charles Bean Oval is already one of the highest-use most reliable fields in the area. It was built to provide a high-capacity all-weather playing surface and it has fulfilled that role for years. According to the survey the surface is now at the end of its normal lifecycle and needs renewal not removal. Having played there recently myself I would suggest that the surface whilst possibly not up to FIFA standard could withstand a few more years of use. Regardless downgrading it to natural grass would significantly reduce access for the community.A natural turf field on this site would realistically support only around 20-30 hours of use per week. The current synthetic surface supports more than 60 hours and remains available during wet weather when most grass ovals across Ku-ring-gai are closed. Replacing synthetic with turf would cut usable hours by more than half and increase cancellations bottlenecks and pressure on nearby fields that are already struggling with poor quality and overuse. This is happening at a time when demand for open space is rapidly increasing. NSW Government rezoning and higher-density housing in Lindfield will add thousands of new dwellings many with no private backyard space. More families will rely on local fields for sport and recreation. Removing an existing high-capacity synthetic field directly contradicts the needs of a growing community. The broader field network cannot absorb the loss. Natural turf ovals nearby such as Mimosa Koola Tryon and others - are frequently closed degraded after rain or already oversubscribed. Norman Griffiths Oval is being upgraded to synthetic precisely because the current grass network cannot cope with demand. Taking Charles Bean backwards to grass would increase competition for limited turf hours and reduce opportunities for training junior participation and women’s and girls’ football which already struggle for space. Replacing a functioning synthetic base with grass also creates avoidable cost inefficiencies. The drainage and profile under the existing field are designed for synthetic performance. Renewing the carpet is straightforward lower-risk and maintains current capacity. Re-engineering the site for high-end turf would be more expensive and still fail to deliver the same hours or reliability. Charles Bean has proven itself as a workhorse field for the community schools and clubs. The consistent safe all-weather access it provides cannot be replicated by natural turf on this site. With increasing density growing participation in local sport and a natural turf network already under strain

	keeping Charles Bean as synthetic is the only option that maintains access supports community needs and ensures long-term sustainability. Renew the synthetic don't replace it with grass.
836	This oval is used daily by schools local sports businesses local sports clubs representative sports clubs and more. We cannot take away one of the VERY few sporting fields suitable for year round use. I don't believe the council truly understands the impact this has on sporting clubs and small sporting businesses and most importantly young people's health!
837	Provides a good surface for playing football allows more gane time during the year. Alot less exposed to wet weather cancellations. Allow the community to participate alot more. No limit on game time
838	As a long term resident and soccer player we get many many ground closures of the natural turf grounds in Kuringai when it rains. Charles Bean is an exception and allows games and training to continue in spite of the weather. In addition to this - given the limited numbers of soccer grounds in Kuringai there is simply too much traffic on these grounds with traing and games weekends and every night to sustain a natural turf pitch. Converting to natural turf at this stage would be an act of sabotage to the football community..
839	Grounds are already very limited and we need to maximise time on certain grounds to reduce demand on others. Not all grounds can be synthetic but some need to be to manage the demand. Removing one already synthetic ground will have a flow on effect to other grounds and sports. Keeping synthetic
840	Turf without proper drainage becomes a mud pit kids can't play. The residents with have their dogs running around - who will clean up the mess.
841	I strongly support the renewal of the synthetic turf surface at Charles Bean Oval Lindfield rather than reverting to natural grass. Key reasons for support:1.High Community Usage o Charles Bean Oval is heavily used with approximately 3 753 hours of hired use in 2024 (including by the Northern Suburbs Football Association and Lindfield Learning Village). O As noted in Council's engagement documentation a synthetic surface enables significantly more playable hours than a natural turf field. 2.Reliability and Accessibility o Synthetic turf offers all-weather usability: Council's independent consultant (Smart Connection Consultancy) calculated that a new synthetic field could host 60-80 hours per week more than triple the typical capacity estimated for natural turf. O This means fewer cancellations due to weather or field recovery ensuring better access for community sport school PE and casual users.3. Long-Term Cost Efficiency o While synthetic turf has a higher replacement cost in the long run its cost-per-hour is more favourable due to the high usage rate. O Synthetic turf also requires less regular maintenance (no mowing or heavy irrigation) which could reduce the ongoing burden on Council's resources.4.Environmental & Safety Considerations o The renewal plan takes environmental concerns seriously: experts recommend using organic infill below-ground drainage with filtration and recyclable shock pads. O These measures help mitigate potential microplastic runoff heat-island effects and other environmental risks.5.Community Benefit o Retaining a quality synthetic surface supports sustained participation in local sport. It ensures reliable training and match venues for clubs schools and community groups. O It aligns with Council's goals for maximizing use of its open space assets and delivering value for ratepayers.6.Parking and Access Challenges o I acknowledge that parking is a concern as flagged in Council's consultation. O However the benefits of continued high-capacity usage outweigh these challenges particularly if Council explores shared use of the Lindfield Learning Village car park outside school hours.

842	I have 3 kids who all are representative level players. Our family use this field every single day to be part of their sports activities. This turf field is very useful cause player keep improving their skills without any weather uncertainty. It's available all year around. For example the field in Warrimoo oval in St Ives they can't use their own field during the rainy season. That's very frustrating for all who involved in that sports. This season also itself they only used it almost half of the season due to heave rain.
843	Access for a suitable playing surface. Turf pitches are closed often during wet weather and kids players and families are negatively impacted when this happens. Artificial turf is always available and therefore is reliable.
844	Usability during adverse weather and the ability to remain open after wet weather events. Also synthetic provides a much more even surface of play compared to the majority of natural grass fields in the LGA.
845	It has been great playing there until now. It offers regular sport for my kids and I without having to rely on good weather conditions. We love Charles Bean the way it is
846	The field has always been there when you purchased your home it was there. Great usage by the community. Other sports can be played on it. Don’t pay the school for extra parking.
847	Natural grass is prone to environmental damages and unless council is committed to maintain it - routinely rolling it airating the grass feeding it - it will fall quickly into disrepair and council will not likely look to continually look to resurface the grass annually as so many fields with committed councils would look to do. Instead the one time upgrade then every 8-12 year replacement would be far more fiscally responsible and enable the pitch to be used and able to be commercialised by council rendering the new surface synthetic option as more economically sensical.
848	I have seen how important access to synthetic fields is for sport. It is hugely important. If you took away the synthetic oval and replaced it with grass the oval could not possibly cater for all the sport that currently gets played on it.
849	The synthetic field provides the best experience for football teams including the fact that it is minimally impacted by the weather and so leads to far fewer cancellations. The result is better utilization and higher earning potential for council.
850	It is used way too much to be synthetic and is the main place kids want to fo for football.
851	Extended hours of use and the ability to play in all weather conditions
852	The extreme wet weather would mean many days of inactive kids because of ground closure. This is bad for their mental and physical wellbeing. Getting kids outside and active is critical in current world where they are bombarded with technology. Turf pitches are harder to maintain and can lead to more injuries from players when the surface becomes used and uneven. Synthetic pitches allow for certainty of outcomes.
853	microplastics end up in my shoes and dog balls when we go home. minimzing it would be great. though traffic and parking is always a problem reliability of synthetic turf is great financially and for servicing hire schedules. maximizing what is existing rather than reconstructing for natural turf is a better way to keep using it. adding trees and walks to the sides would help keep the area cooler and give more use even in the middle of the day. on humid and cool days the field already tends to hold cool and creates fog.
854	Usable hours. Your prelude quotes bookable hours but should quote usable hours vs grass as quoting bookable hours that can’t be used due to rain is a bit misleading. Synthetic hours booked are used Grass hours booked and not always used. Some winters as little as half the hours booked are used. There is no other realistic option than synthetic. Quoting parking as an

	issue is a council driven problem as you don't put enough parking in and around new developments.
855	For school use recreational activities and organised sports both training and games natural turf surfaces are often inadequate as they cannot withstand heavy use. The surface quickly becomes unusable and poses safety risks. While there are health concerns associated with synthetic surfaces they are generally safer when considering the risks of injury from uneven terrain pesticides and dog waste on natural turf. Additionally natural turf areas become unusable on wet days leading to muddy conditions that can damage shoes and school carpets creating further issues.
856	Being synthetic in nature usage of charles bean far out weighs any other fields in the area. My children have had Primula wellington and Queen Elizabeth ovals all in the vincinity as their home training ground over the years and the amount of days it is closed due to wet weather has a huge impact on their ability to train - to the detreiment of the team the club and the sport. Having an all access oval for the school as well means there is minimal disruption to sports activities at the school. Whilst the 'turf burns' can be significant - they are few and far between
857	There are limited astroturf fields in the area meaning the games regularly get cancelled due to poor drainage and management of turf pitches by council. Having one reliable astroturf is valuable for the soccer community. Further soccer pitches which are shared with dog parks (such as Queen Elizabeth Roseville) are health hazards due to irresponsible dog ownership (and no council action) I have lost count of the number of times we have to collect faeces from pitches prior to matches. Doesn't happen on Astro.
858	People need access to sport fields all year round. Council needs to keep Charles Bean synthetic or build at least 10 more fields including indoor sports facilities.
859	We need sporting fields which are capable of use consistently through wet weather. Ku Ring-gai has too few synthetic playing fields as-is. It is incomprehensible to me that this existing surface may not be renewed like-for-like. The disadvantages of synthetic surfaces are real - yet the benefits from increased usage and availability of a high quality surface far outweighs these costs to me.
860	I remember when it used to be natural grass and it was either a dust bowl or under water. It must be synthetic to get maximum use for all! The recent grass upgrades at Primula and Queen Elizabeth have shown that we do not know how to care for them properly and they are of limited use making their upgrade a waste of money. Synthetic is the only option.
861	So many natural turf fields are closed when it rains. Charles Bean is one of only a few that can remain open.
862	I'm writing to propose the adoption of a modern non-rubber infill system for the upcoming Charles Bean Oval surface renewal utilizing eco-friendly alternatives such as cork TPE (thermoplastic elastomer) or organic coconut fiber infill. Traditional crumb rubber infill systems raise increasing concerns regarding microplastic pollution potential heavy metal exposure and excessive heat retention that can reach surface temperatures 30-40F higher than non-rubber alternatives. By contrast organic and TPE infill systems eliminate these health and environmental concerns while providing superior temperature management- a critical consideration for player safety and comfort during Sydney's hot summer months. This approach aligns with emerging industry best practices and demonstrates council's commitment to community wellbeing and environmental stewardship. From a performance perspective non-rubber systems deliver equal or superior playing characteristics compared to traditional rubber infill. Cork-based systems for example offer excellent shock absorption with lower energy restitution values that reduce stress on players' joints and tendons while maintaining FIFA and

	World Rugby certification standards. The surface remains odorless in warm weather provides consistent ball roll and bounce and requires less maintenance over its lifespan. Multiple high-profile Sydney installations - including Woollahra Oval Tempe Reserve and Monash University - have successfully implemented these systems demonstrating proven durability and player satisfaction in Australian conditions. While non-rubber systems may involve slightly higher initial investment the long-term value proposition is compelling. These systems typically last longer than rubber alternatives require less frequent top-ups stay cooler (reducing irrigation needs) and avoid potential future costs associated with rubber infill replacement as environmental regulations continue to evolve. We respectfully request council's feedback on this proposal and would welcome the opportunity to arrange site visits to existing Sydney installations and presentations from certified suppliers such as FieldTurf Australia . This investment would position Charles Bean Oval as a modern sustainable community asset that prioritizes both athletic performance and environmental responsibility.
863	The synthetic surface provides year-round usage. The pitch is an important and incredibly well-used resource for the local community. It has provided all-weather usage when many other local natural pitches were closed due to flooding. The pitch can also handle much higher usage and seems much better value for money.
864	Quality of playing surface and availability
865	Usage. The usage statistics speak for themselves. The amount of activity on a well managed synthetic pitch compared to grass is vastly different. We have seen with Primula Oval that even after a complete rebuild with new drainage and natural grass the oval is still frequently closed for extended periods after even moderate rain events.
866	The artificial turf at Charles Bean has been a genuine game changer particularly through the recent years of heavy rain and unpredictable weather. While many council playing grounds were frequently closed Charles Bean has been able to provide continuity for sports training and games. The cumulative impact of this continuity is significant - without it our community’s kids and teenagers would have missed far more sport exercise and the social connection that team participation brings. Some in the community remain sceptical about anti-artificial turf but the reality is that club sport depends on the few synthetic fields available to maintain regular fixtures. Without them cancellations would spike participation would drop and the benefits of consistent physical activity and skills training would be lost. Importantly the technology has also changed. Modern artificial turf is far more eco-friendly with improved drainage greater durability and materials designed to be more sustainable with a smaller environmental footprint than older generations of artificial turf. In short it isn't just a convenience it is essential infrastructure that protects community sport and youth wellbeing.
867	Synthetic is needed as can play in all conditions... It’s been great ...my favourite pitch

Section 3: Further comments from people who had no preference on surface (4 responses)

No.	No preference for surface
1	Natural turf is softer cooler etc. and generally better to play and train on. However CB oval is heavily used and I'm concerned that a turf surface would degrade quickly and be frequently unavailable for use.
2	This decision can't be in isolation of other fields as it is the collective capacity of Ku-ring-gai fields that determine how many games get cancelled each year due to wet weather and field degradation and rescheduling to other locations. The goal should be to upgrade and manage all fields to meet current and future capacity requirements. Funding decisions shouldn't be constrained to single field funding. Each field shouldn't be regarded as an individual asset.
3	I live next to it literally my apartment is in line with it - the kids also use it for school. Natural turf would be nice but I get why it's synthetic - just wish it wasn't so over used till late hours in the night
4	The field remains fit for purpose. Just because it doesn't meet FIFA standards doesn't mean it can't continue to be used.

Section 4: Responses to "Is there anything else you would like Council to consider when making this decision? If yes please provide your comments here" (520 responses)

No	Is there anything else you would like Council to consider when making this decision? If yes please provide your comments here.
1	The disaster that was 'Norman Griffiths Oval' reno should have been enough for you to never revisit this option.
2	Natural grass surface is increasingly important for children especially but also all people. With increasing urban density & unit & high rise living we all need as much exposure to nature as we can get. Playing on plastic is not natural.
3	Please involve all stakeholders i.e. NSW Park Please provide a full Risk Assessment report especially bushfire risk Please re-assess the current vegetation and update the BAL calculation
4	health and environmental impacts
5	Eviramental impacts like fish eating plastic
6	The environmental impacts of a synth field so close to the national park. Health risks of children playing on synth field.
7	It was clear from expert forum that the analysis and calculation of natural grass capacity provided by Mick Battam was more evidence based. I feel the community has been mislead by soccer club claims re capacity of natural grass versus synthetic based on misleading figures taken out of context from the synthetic grass report. Please take the actual evidence into account not community assumptions on this issue.
8	Suggest you have a look at other natural turf ovals that have been done well. Back half oval (natural turf) of Taplin Park Drummoyne was re-surfaced a few years ago and takes heavy rain with no issues for example (main Taplin Oval is not bad).
9	Long term effects. Microplastics are becoming an ever increasing concern.

10	There is a lot of hype about synthetic fields being environmentally responsible; however this is not the case. These fields are fire hazards that replace carbon sinks with urban heat islands increasing runoff and the release of herbicides chemical leachates and microplastics into the Lane Cove River and Sydney Harbour impacting aquatic life and entering the food chain. The Chief Scientist of Australia recommends that synthetic fields should be replaced with sustainable natural turf. The EU is banning them.
11	Cooling our cities protecting players from injury preserving the environment and protecting the community from microplastics should hold more sway with council than the views of the football club…which is a minority interest.
12	Yes. Council should also consider the impact on surrounding parking and traffic. Increased usage of the oval particularly for organised sports or events may place additional pressure on local street parking and create congestion during school hours and weekends. Careful planning is needed to ensure the safety of children and minimise disruption to nearby residents.
13	Your website states on its home page 'Ku-ring-gai is known for its natural beauty and urban villages. It's a picturesque lifestyle with clean waterways striking wildlife and action-packed events backed by great services and infrastructure'. With this in mind please don't bring harmful products into our environment that will exposure our children and wider community to chemicals that we are either still learning about or have good evidence to show they are harmful such as PFAS arsenic lead PAHs plastics. Please consider what synthetic turf will do in continuing to pollute our soil and our waterways including that of our adjoining Lane Cove National Park. Please return Charles Bean Oval to its former natural turf surface with 2025 design principles and hardy grass species so our children can continue to and want to spend time outdoors in our beautiful environment exercising and playing sport on a soft safe and natural surface like we did and generations before us did on real grass. With the money the Council will save on refurbishment of Charles Bean to natural turf as opposed to synthetic turf make the new Charles Bean natural turf field the benchmark or 'gold standard' that Ku-ring-gai Council and other Councils can use to roll out additional natural turf upgrades. There are many currently poorly designed natural turf fields in our Council that were established 100 years ago that are prone to poor drainage and flooding or grass die off. If these are upgraded too with the savings from choosing natural turf this will increase the number of available better designed natural turf fields to better be able to support the many community uses of these fields be it schools or football clubs or cricket clubs. More reliable natural turf fields would likely lead to increased opportunities of booking/hire revenue opportunities for the Council. Furthermore with more availability of better designed natural turf fields the more the uses can be better shared across our Council so the foot impact and wear to individual fields is reduced. Critically the sharing of uses across more fields will allow the Council to better able manage the parking and traffic volume at these fields (which is an issue at Charles Bean).
14	I struggle with the control that lobby groups for synthetic turf have in this space. There is a lot of money in the industry and the ability of what is primarily a producer of plastic to sway the debate using persuasive language (ie. 'All Weather Surface' has replaced 'Synthetic Turf' or 'Plastic Turf') is truly unpalatable. The growers and distributors of actual grass which has only ever morphed into 'Natural Turf' are not

	wealthy overlords like the petrochemical industry which make billions from plastic. But for the sake of our children and future generations of children and adults we should be looking at what is healthiest not corporate wealth and manipulation of communities.
15	I understand that the USA is ripping up synthetic turf and going back to natural turf due to player preference more usable days due to increased hot days and overall climate change plus considerable environmental concerns from the plastics breaking down and toxic chemicals leaching over time. It seems short sighted to put in artifical turf. Greenwich community voted to stay with natural turf.
16	Can you also plant more shade trees for the spectators
17	Assess the impact of the microplastics and chemicals from it on the downstream environment The risk of bushfire - will synthetic turf burn in a bushfire and will it produce toxic fumes which would impact residents living nearby
18	Good drainage when putting in natural surface
19	No
20	Re Q9 soccer players already appear to use the LLV car park on weekends. LLV should be compensated for this.
21	The more we learn about the long-terms effects of plastics in their many forms the more cautious we should be about putting even more plastic into the environment. Open spaces should be used to reduce heat island effects not create them.
22	Plastic turf is not the future go back to the future with grass which helps the environment. Plastic turf was always a bad idea. If you go turf again make sure the provider advises how much it will cost to remove and ask them to pay up front for it.
23	Kids managed to play sport for many generations without synthetic surfaces. Also why does the Dept of Edication have to charge a local council/residents for use of its car park???? That's madness. Public schools should be for everyone.
24	The healh of our environment. Earth is the only home we have let’s look after it. Natural turf will help all ecosystems be healthy and thrive.
25	The council takes our rates in order to maintain our parks. Stop outsourcing these jobs. How much is the survey costing is there a consultant making money out of this?
26	The environment something council claims to care about with little evidence of that being the case.
27	Do the right thing for the environment for the wildlife and for the players. What sort of legacy do you want to leave future generations?
28	Charles Bean Reserve is a vital community hub in Lindfield bringing together thousands of residents and I understand the appeal of synthetic turf for maximizing field availability. However we must consider what we're trading for that increased uptime. While the short-term health effects of rubber crumb exposure may not yet be fully visible in our children we cannot ignore the growing body of research raising serious concerns. Common sense tells us that repeated exposure to these materials poses unnecessary risks to our children's wellbeing. If maintaining a natural field requires additional investment surely that is an acceptable cost when weighed against our children's health and safety. Beyond health concerns we must also consider the environmental impact. Rubber crumb inevitably washes into our waterways contributing to pollution that affects our entire ecosystem. This consequence alone should give us pause. When we examine the full picture synthetic

	turf offers one clear advantage: increased field availability. However the potential risks to our children's health and our local environment are too significant to justify this single benefit.
29	Please add additional car parking and stop approving appointments to be constructed with no additional car parking. It does not make sense
30	As noted above the well documented environmental and human health risks associated with microplastics.
31	The use of plastics is pervasive and we are only just beginning to understand the adverse impacts to human health and the environment. Covering large areas of open space with plastic substances is unacceptable.
32	I don’t think parking is a huge problem. People need to be ok with walking a little- this is not a problem as it is a facility used for exercise.
33	It's plain that artificial surfaces are much hotter and less environmentally sustainable.
34	No
35	Think of long term environmental sustainability and benefits to the community. We understand it is a balancing act and therefore a diverse feedback to be taken into account. In line with current LLV teaching about environmental sustainability council should consider the hazards presented.
36	no
37	Even if grass costs more long term these kids are our future and rates are paid for this reason.
38	large water tanks that could pick up street water run off to help with watering
39	Maybe increase frequency of bus services on weekends? Could you also re-plant the trees that were blown over last year?
40	The oval should be for everyone - it's only suitable for players at the moment. Considering the oval was funded by the developer DHA and the oval is surrounded by DHA apartments it should be a turf surface which is more suitable for general use
41	Please make it a healthy space for all ages so that young children can play in this space without ingesting rubber.
42	Really the Federal Government and NSW Government should be spending money on recreation fields. They want to grow the population and want more housing so they should pay up.
43	You need to add Health and Waste as key objections when you survey people. The list provided above is too narrow and favours the soccer players.
44	Bush councils like Kuringgai have no business using synthetic materials for any parks.
45	Is there an alternative synthetic surface that doesn’t contain plastic?
46	To consider the natural environment a huge sheet of plastic covering the ground is not good for any ecosystem.
47	Plastic waste pollution and health risks.
48	Council should consider that this decision sets a precedent for future oval renewals across Ku-ring-gai. With growing community awareness of environmental issues choosing synthetic turf risks ongoing community opposition and potential costly reversals in future years. The disposal challenge for synthetic turf deserves greater transparency. When this surface reaches end-of-life in 10 years where will it go?

	What will that cost environmentally and financially? Council should provide full lifecycle costing including disposal not just installation and maintenance comparisons. The parking problem exists regardless of surface choice and shouldn't drive the decision. The 3 753 annual hired hours create parking issues whether the surface is natural or synthetic. Council should address parking separately potentially through negotiations with the Department of Education for car park access rather than letting parking concerns justify environmental compromise. There's an educational disconnect when we install plastic playing fields at a school while teaching children about environmental stewardship and plastic reduction. Natural turf provides learning opportunities about ecosystems water cycles and environmental management that align with curriculum outcomes. I urge Council to prioritise children's health and environmental responsibility over operational convenience. The community will accept some limitations if it means protecting our children and environment.
49	Considering this in isolation is flawed. If Council were able to create several 'best practise' ovals high intensity use could be spread. The argument which states the need for a high intensity use oval dissipates.
50	No
51	With more and more homes being built in the precinct noise management must be considered. The noise levels during organised games as well as practice sessions is more often than not unacceptably loud.
52	Maintain weekend times when the field is not booked out so that the local community can use it
53	A natural surface field would give jobs to local groundskeepers reduce the heat radiating off the field encourage more locals to walk their dogs nearby give local students contact with natural surfaces improving their well-being and marginally manage carbon emissions (though any is a good thing). Subsequent reduced hours of use leads to a reduction of the constant disruptive noise when players are on the field a reduction in time where floodlights are in use (a reduction of power consumption and light pollution) subsequent ease in selling residences and rise in land value a rise in use of other less-used fields and gives council a reason to increase the hire cost of the field to account for maintenance. Additionally allowing the general public use of the nearby school carpark raises the risk of duty of care breaches of which the school would be responsible for will be an overall increase in traffic in the area (making it more dangerous for pedestrians) increases the frequency of loiterers and illegal parking and puts the onus of any damage public users of the car park do on the school which is unfair. Frankly people using the sports field can simply walk a little further from the hundreds of free street parking in nearby roads.
54	KRG after all has street-lighting that only comes on about twenty mins. after Sunset; presumably greatly increasing the odds of someone being killed or maimed in the gloomy conditions; presumably for the sake of a token energy saving in relation to high pedestrian traffic areas; teaching children and adults to wear suitable clothing in Winter would probably save a lot more energy (just getting a couple of households to moderate use of their 10kw air-cons would likely more than compensate for a few dozen lights coming on 15 mins earlier.
55	Consider the already impacted biodiversity. Especially birds who are highly mobile and choose where to go everyday but avoid these areas.

56	Urban bird communities are extremely valuable to the health of urban environments. Natural turf surrounded by native vegetation will attract more bird activity to keep the system alive. The council has a duty to protect human and environmental health and installing natural turf is contributing to that duty.
57	I encourage the council to dig deeper in researching the safety of synthetic. From day to day injuries like grazes to potential long term harm.
58	Our kids are forced to play on chemical and recycled rubber! It's crazy! Bring back natural grass!!! Everytime the kids have been playing on the oval their shoes/socks are filled with toxic rubber crumb!
59	If synthetic is the most agreeable option I'd like to see hundreds of trees planted around it and council to be far stricter about tree felling in kuringai. We have lost too many trees shrubs grass and plants to knock down rebuilds as well as synthetic fields. Kuringai is losing its appeal as it moves away from its former greener self.
60	Beyond my preference for natural grass as a resident and a keen athlete I would also appreciate it if you could consider putting a small lane for people who do running maybe using rubber or concrete as well as exercise machines for pull ups etc such as the likes of Killara park would be really nice for the community but may be wishful thinking.
61	COnsider what would be best for the children as they would be the ones spending the most time on it. Less plastic in our lives is better I feel.
62	On what basis is a 'substantial return' required by the Dept of Education for use of parking not being used out of school time. Surely the fee should be related to any additional management or maintenance required only. Part of our community is being forced to send children to this school. The least the State Gov can do is come to the party by making this parking available. Did the Dept of Education buy the site when it transferred form a tertiary institution?
63	Please do not add more plastic to the environment by replacing Charles Bean's synthetic surface.
64	Health benefits to children and isers
65	Community recreational facilities such as outdoor recreation spaces are very important especially in higher density living areas - the more people that can use a park/oval the better and should not be exclusive to a particular sport or sports only
66	Maybe heat related as natural won't get hot.
67	As a mother a reason to send kids to outdoor sport is to be in a more natural environment on grass and dirt and the 'park like' experience most children are not going on to be professional sports careers but for health and well being as well as exercise that aspect is lost with plastic fields
68	Can this decision apply to all ovals in KRG?
69	Environmental and health benefits are most important. The kids who attend LLV have to use this every day. Their interests should be higher than the interests of sport people using it once a week.
70	Poor parking at Charles Bean Field is a big detractor for the site to be so heavily used by the non school crowd such as soccer descending en masse at weekends and for night training.

71	People were playing on grass for a couple of hundred years before synthetic turf arrived on this scale. There is no compelling reason to use synthetic. And if we can't wind back our plastics use in such a case we might as well give up. Grass please.
72	Synthetic surfaces should NOT be used. Your grounds men enjoy are outstanding on all ovals.
73	Council needs to consider Climate Change. It will be hotter and wetter. Both aspects better for a natural turf. With natural turf sections can be replaced more easily than with synthetic.
74	Investigate alternative ground cover options like clover that don't require as much maintenance
75	Please maintain the natural environment
76	No
77	The two expert reports individually are not much use and create sn impression of conflicting advice or at least advice that is difficult to reconcile and compare. You need to engage your experts to prepare a joint report as is best practice for the Land and Environment Court. As per LEC this should go through the points each expert makes in their individual reports with each expert commenting whether they agree or disagree with the other expert and each expert citing evidence to support their position. Personally without this I don't see how you can expect the community to provide informed comment when what has been prepared isn't sufficient to inform the LEC commissioner to make an informed ruling that is evidence based.
78	To not have the grown men play till 10pm the loud grunting and screaming that happens at night echo’s through the neighbourhood every night. Limiting hours to 7pm would be best and limit the parties that happen afterwards
79	The cost is too high. FIFA associations should pay if they are the main groups lobbying for the upgrade. If they want FIFA standards then FIFA Associations can pay for that.
80	Too many grass pitches are closed when raining. Grass pitches also get damaged and even dangerous with the uneven surface. Synthetic preserves a greater usage level. The kids find the safety and quality to be of higher standard and what we have at Charles bean is really excellent.
81	This decision should have been a simple task. It is not necessary to put this out to the community and have there opinions checked. It’s a simple matter of repair / replace the current surface with a like for like. Why anyone would consider a downgrade in usability and functionality is one I could not answer. This appears to be the mayors personal agenda to remove synthetic fields and downgrade to natural .My Sons football team has had numerous injuries including broken bones caused by the poor quality of the kurringai natural fields. Why anyone would want to go back to something like this is ridiculous. Just look at NTRA grass fields or warrimoo. They are an uneven surface full of holes. After rain they are mud pits for weeks. Even the newly renovated Samuel King oval is a swimming pool after a day of rain. My dogs end up rolling in the mud and playing in the water. How a new field could have such poor drainage is clearly poor management and jobs should have been lost because of it.
82	Please consider to replace the rubber pellets with wood shavings. Consider some more shade options.

83	Please consider real-world reliability rather than theoretical modelling. Even with upgraded drainage a natural turf field cannot withstand the combined load of school use club training weekend matches and general community activity - especially during wet periods. Charles Bean is one of the few fields that remains open in heavy rain and removing that reliability would reduce playing opportunities for thousands of users and push demand onto already overstretched fields. A new-generation synthetic surface using organic infill and modern filtration balances capacity safety and environmental management while meeting the area's growing participation needs. Synthetic turf also is more cost effective in the long-term requiring minimal management.
84	My son says every kid prefers synthetic turf to play soccer on and games would be cancelled if natural turf was put in its place. And same for trainings.. We pay for trainings and coaches so if it was kept synthetic we the parents won't be losing $ as less cancellations for trainings and games. PLEASE KEEP IT SYNTHETIC
85	Keep it artificial it is very important otherwise it will ruin the community as limited access due to wet weather so stay artificial please. People can continue to play sport.
86	Summary of Healthier Synthetic Grass Suggestions- 4G with no infill preferred if infill is used prioritise Brockfill prioritise sinkers rather than floaters and next consider coconut husk and corn. - As per AgEnviro report: Council should obtain a letter from the manufacturer and installer that none of the products (shock pad carpet infill etc.) used in the synthetic field contain any of the banned chemicals in the IChEMS 2022 instrument. An independent NATA laboratory should verify that none of the materials used to construct the field contain any banned chemicals such as PFOS and PFHxS (Ausmap 2024). This could be a tender requirement so there is no cost to council.- Test old shock pad and any other exiting materials for contaminants to European standards by an independent lab such as AUSMAP and replace if it doesn't meet standard.- No formaldehyde test for ingestion heavy metals and chemicals.- Provide a product data sheet for transparency.- Choose a quality 4G propriety system with: - 200 cycles - Heat ratings - 0.5 rating lowest score possible - Minimal shedding Health particularly chemicals microplastics heat is my first concern as a mother of two LLV students and two Lindfield Football Club players. I would love a natural solution that allowed students and football clubs to use the field all year around in all weather conditions however I do not believe that the current natural turf technology is able to handle the current usage. If a hybrid option was possible or alternatively upgrade to best practice natural grass fields at Charles Bean Oval as well as several neighbouring ovals was a possibility this would be ideal!!!
87	As I've said above I feel from my experiences using the field as an individual in organised and unorganised capacities with my kids and as a professional (teacher) - a synthetic field gives greater certainty and will just be able to cope with the demand for playing space which is only going to continue to grow as the population grows. I think reverting to a natural surface option will cause a loss of total usability from a perspective of 'usable hours' especially factoring in wet weather and rain and while best in class should mean great drainage fast times to return to play etc. I can only imagine the council will want to have measures to protect their new investment such as not wanting to return players to the field too soon after rain OR prioritizing the representative level usage (e.g. Rep/Northern Tigers games or other) at the expense of general community usage.

88	The continuation of the schools classes. There needs to be a future proof plan to minimise disruptions to the school day.
89	Consider the management approach for natural turf pitches in the area too. How can we change the way we manage these so we close them less often when wet? Can we open them more and let kids play? Its only a bit of mud.
90	Please include a long jump pit along the current grass area ! So we can teach more athletics !! Smaller game (pitch sizes) lines for junior PDHPE lessons Add bins ! Add more shelter from the sun along sides
91	Be realistic. If you approve the natural grass transition have the budget and resources allocated for its adequate maintenance. Otherwise all the ‘ Pros’ mentioned as benefits will become its shortcomings.
92	Please consider real-world reliability rather than theoretical modelling. Even with upgraded drainage a natural turf field cannot withstand the combined load of school use club training weekend matches and general community activity - especially during wet periods. Charles Bean is one of the few fields that remains open in heavy rain and removing that reliability would reduce playing opportunities for thousands of users and push demand onto already overstretched fields. A new generation synthetic surface using organic infill and modern filtration balances capacity safety and environmental management while meeting the area’s growing participation needs.
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95	The local sports club will suffer if the pitch is converted to turf. Talented players will move to alternate clubs to access quality all-year round pitches. The move would set back the progress in the growth and strengthening of grass-root sports in Australia
96	Council is not even able to complete the Norman Griffith oval project how would they even complete this project without stuffing it up. Another oval lost to the community for a number of years.
97	Not to listen to the small minority that always want to block this type of thing.

98	Please can the Council consider what is best for the people and growing community that is expected as a result of the TOD reforms. We need the infrastructure to support a growing community - and this means synthetic fields. Is there a better location for the Charles bean facility with parking seating toilets? Maybe there is but we need something and we need it urgently. We can't just plan for the community needs today - we need to plan for the community of tomorrow.
99	Lindfield Football club is a huge part of this community. By removing the only synthetic oval in the local council area you will be disappointing a lot of rate paying residents. The view that synthetic grass is more dangerous to children is not valid as all kids will fall over and hurt themselvess whether it be synthetic or natural turf.
100	It is one of the only synthetic grass fields in the area we should have options as residents in the area there are plenty of available natural turf ovals we couldn't change thus one which is a synthetic turf option in the area
101	Good quality fields are rare and this should be kept as a synthetic pitch - environmental impacts can go both ways on extra travel to fields further away water usage and mowing for natural surface maintenance.
102	It is one of not many synthetic pitches in north shore
103	Charles Bean plays an important part in allowing many sports to go ahead during poorer weather conditions. Council needs to consider the overall usage and the impact changing this to natural turf will have on children's and adults participation in sport.
104	If you only care about rate payers and their dogs then change it. But if you want to give kids somewhere to train and play and having a sporting future you need to keep synthetic turf. These fields encourage kids to play stay out of trouble and respect the community.
105	Please include some seating on the hill. The tree positions make it very challenging to watch a game in one place due to view restriction. Some considerations needs to be made for spectators. Covered seating would be even better. It doesn't have to be a large structure. 2 blocks either side of central steps would be so good!
106	We need more synthetic pitches not less
107	Keep it sythetic
108	More of a general comment the oval is currently so heavily used by clubs that it is almost impossible to use the the field casually. There's no point using it as a dog walking field since you can't even get onto the field on any afternoons which is a shame. Therefore might as well continue with the synthetic grass
109	We in our association have access to very limited synthetic fields - we need more not less
110	Not at this time
111	No.
112	Please don't lose another all weather option for ntra. For the love of sport and community just don't!
113	No
114	Synthetic looks nicer after being used for a long time.
115	The disaster that is the Norman Griffith project is bad enough let's not compound with removing Charles Bean.
116	It's a football pitch it should be available. Synthetic is the best option always.

117	Increase parking locally
118	na
119	We need more synthetic fields in the area not less! More natural grass fields means more ground closures less people playing kids spending more time on devices rather than playing sport.
120	Consider the impact of children NOT playing sport; the impact this has had on soccer and junior cricket. You - the council have the worst grass maintenance of any council - synthetic would be best for you!
121	The greater community relies on this oval to meet the demands of the surrounding sporting clubs converting to a natural grass pitch would have significant impacts to the wellbeing of the community.
122	Please seriously consider the solution that provides the most access for the most people we need to keep our kids and families active.
123	The ONLY FIELD many times of the soccer season which can be used. Conversation into natural grass would make CB not suitable to use on most days with heavy rainfall - like all the other grass fields.
124	It is a designated sport facility. That should be the no 1 priority to allow maximum use
125	we pay a lot of money to play football which is supposed to be about 18 to 20 games. we often play much less than this due to councils closing grounds in the rain. we don't get any refunds
126	No
127	Will there be a new pitch built locally if this replaced by turf? Surely that would have to be a consideration to ensure game time is not reduced.
128	Use your brains. If the field needs replacing so be it but do so with the maximum playability in mind. Rain in Australian winters is not going anywhere. So the more synthetic pitches the better
129	Save the money leave it
130	So much winter sport is already cancelled please do not remove one of the few options which is critical to community sport and encouraging active lifestyles.
131	No
132	Council should be looking for places for more all weather playing fields - not less
133	No one has complained about synthetic. Everyone has praised and Charles Bean sports field is a hive for fun and competitiveness.
134	Build more quality facilities for football. The surface quality in the leagues are appalling if not synthetic to the extent that I would rather not play football than play on non-synthetic. If you could deliver quality grade grass pitches which you can’t the. It might be different. The only way you can is by investing heavily in maintenance and restricting the number of games on the surface. Given what the A League teams play on at times the chance of the council being able to deliver a decent grass surface is negligible.
135	Instead of using a black rubber bead layer on the surface consider using sand instead which is what most other grounds use
136	It's not only affecting local council but the pitch serves a wider community as well
137	Due to the usage of the ground by Lindfield learning village as well as weekend sport the quality of the field if it were natural grass would drastically decrease in a quick

	time frame much like other grounds nearby i.e primula oval bannockburn oval Howson oval mimosa oval etc.
138	Please consider the effect of converting as this will guarantee that kids of all ages will be unable to play their favourite sports. Winter sports are an Australian tradition and as such are a massive public benefit so taking the synthetic pitch away takes away the ability to play sports and thus the benefit of playing sports is lost.
139	Long term costs. Do something else somewhere else for the environmental concerns.
140	If you change away from synthetic it is really hard to go back and you will lose a generation of fit and health sports people. There is a lot of grass pitches around for general use but very few and limited synthetic options for when it rains and it rains a lot in Sydney. Having played on the pitch recently the surface feels in decent condition compared to some and not sure much needs to change for another few years yet. But absolutely do not go to grass that would be a terrible idea and bad for the community.
141	The importance of Charles Bean to the soccer competitions across the lower north shore should not be understated. With increasing participation fees for sport removing one of the few artificial grounds will have a negative impact on soccer participation levels.
142	I train and play at Cammeray Oval and it gets a huge amount of use. It would be unthinkable to turn it back to a natural grass pitch.
143	Organised high quality soccer training is relied on by the nsfa at this field for all weather periods. This is paramount to ensure sports remain regularly available for the wider community. This issues regarding parking need some resolution but should be considered separately. Reducing availability and hours of the pitch via a change in pitch surface to reduce parking issues is an unreasonable approach.
144	There are plenty of natural pitches but there are not enough turf fields. Changing from astro turf to natural grass is a step back in my opinion.
145	You spent millions of dollars putting the Astro turf in don’t waste money ripping it up
146	Parking is an issue at many grass fields too so its not a negative at Charles Bean if comparing to sonewhere like Anderson Park in Neutral Bay which has very limited parking for the best grass surface in Sydney for Community Sport
147	Upgrade synthetic surface
148	Synth is way better. All the other grass fields in the area turn into dust and mud pits by week 3 of the season.
149	More available hours of usage for sports activities plays an important role in mental health. Routine is important and pitches being unavailable due to wet weather can disrupt that routine and have a negative effect
150	Crack down on dog breeding/ownership the whole industry is about profit rather than animal welfare and I am disgusted by it.
151	Even considering this is a terrible idea.
152	Please talk to any child or adult player and they will confirm how much they prefer and look forward to playing on synthetic pitches
153	NA
154	Please minimise the impact to environment by using organic infill material and prevent drainage of microplastics. Also please add more trees around the area to mitigate surface heat.

155	In addition to my reasons above my concern around grass is it will be used for dog walking. On grass fields the boys play / have played on irresponsible owners fail to pick up after their pets have ruined pitches.
156	Consider that the soccer community is large and is a part of the broader community. We overwhelmingly support Astro pitches as the only way to guarantee we get any sort of return on investment when football registration is $500 plus for adults.
157	Also consider best practice synthetic pitches for example Blackman Oval in Lane Cove. There is a balance between wet weather closures of turf fields and heat management on synthetic fields. Both impact the playing of sport. Given football is a major user of Charles Bean please consider the impact it would have on thousands of registered players to remove a well used and loved synthetic pitch.
158	Kids spend far too much time on devices. Ensuring this facility is available in all weathers prevents kids losing opportunities to exercise
159	Sport is needed in the community - synthetic allows thus to happen year round.
160	Synthetic infill is a concern. Please consider using more environmentally friendly infill for synthetic turf grounds.
161	N/a
162	No
163	Please filter out the BS we know will come from the green groups like STEP and FOKE. We know they make up stories and lie and filter out all levels of honesty to ensure they are completely biased. The community want more synthetic pitches not less. Only a few from STEP don't. Please contuct the same assessment and consultation for all grass fields that will be relayed so the community can have their say on those as well. Stay grass or upgrade to Synthetic.
164	If synthetic turf is replaced by natural where are all the additional activities going to go? this needs to be considered. Natural turf can't handle the hours.
165	When resurfacing use NTRA Cromer Park #1 and #2 (MWFA) and Valentine Sports Park as examples to work off of. These are some of the best quality in terms of surface and filler choice and safest playing fields in terms of minimising surface heat minimising abrasion etc.
166	Please consider real-world relaibility rather than theoretical modelling. Even with upgraded drainage a natural turf field cannot withstand the combined load of school use club training weekend matches and general community activity - especially during wet periods. Charles Bean is one fo the few fields that remains openin heavy rain and removing that reliability would reduce playing opportunities for thousands of users and push demand onto already overstretched fields. A new-generation synthetic surface using organic infill and moder filtration balances capacity safety and environmental management while meeting the area's growing participation needs.
167	The mayor is seemingly gvery much against synthe pitches. It has been a pitch for a long time - went change things now - especially without a replacement proposed synthetic pitch at another location
168	Trade off school access to the field with at least dropoff/pickup access to at least part of the car park.
169	The heat reduction issue only arises a few times each summer. When the synthetic is too hot it is generally also too hot for turf/outside play anyway.
170	Toxicity.

171	Parking needs to be sorted whichever way the surface goes.
172	This is an established premier football field in the LGA and one of very few that support quality community football. Allowing high-level athletes to train and play within close proximity of their homes is key. Ideally more grass fields should be converted to enhance sport options in the neighbourhood.
173	Wouldn't the priority be to complete Norman Griffiths oval what's the point of taking two ovals at the same time out of commission?
174	Lindfield soccer club and other local clubs depend heavily on this artificial grass field for daily training and games
175	The fact that there are not many synthetic grounds in the council area
176	keeping kids active should be a priority you can add trees and seats on the side of the field to make it more community friendly
177	Make easier parking options
178	Please take care of the field and improve drainage systems
179	Council should consider that the wider local area was designed as built for the runoff properties of the artificial turf. The field is set in a basin so unless exceptional drainage is installed a natural turf field in that location would possibly end up being one of the worse-performing fields and have even lower utilisation / availability than other fields. Please consider the data for hours of use / field closures for other natural turf fields in the area.
180	Consider the benefit that having a local football club and game hotspot near and in our community. how much the community enjoys the space and uses it. how much of a shame it would be to have the only nearby artificial pitch one that people travel to just to play on replaced by a normal grass pitch any other suburb could and does have
181	No
182	It’s a great facility. Don’t ruin it.
183	No
184	Be pragmatic and ensure availability of sporting fields that are consistently usable. It improves physical and mental wellbeing. Do not fold to local pressure groups who are selfish
185	It allows more kids to play sport which is a good thing.
186	The pitch is an important community point aswell
187	Having a small grass section at the back for other use
188	Consider the negative impact on existing grass fields if Charles Bean is converted back to grass. Fewer people will be able to train and play as grass cannot sustain the same heavy use and numbers as a synthetic field can.
189	the above questions are skewed. Long term maintenance cost are lower with Synthetic surface. Players are safer on Synthetic pitches Environmental sustainability is not necessary better with grass. Take into account all the maintenance programs that have to be put in place with grass using machinery chemicals and more.
190	Yes synthetic surfaces with multiple sports (other than soccer) should be considered (I.e. Andrew Petrie Oval at Woollahra where they play Shute Shield rugby union).
191	Yes we need more artificial turf surafces to get kids and adults outside and connect with each other and stay healthy not less.

192	Please take real-world reliability into account rather than relying on theoretical modelling. Even with improved drainage a natural turf field simply can't cope with the combined pressure of school use club training weekend fixtures and general community activity - especially during wet spells. Charles Bean is one of the few fields that stays open during heavy rain and losing that reliability would limit playing opportunities for thousands of users and shift demand onto fields that are already under strain. A new-generation synthetic surface using organic infill and modern filtration offers a practical balance of capacity safety and environmental management while meeting the area's growing participation needs.
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195	the
196	Installing natural turf would such a retrograde decision especially given the ongoing densification of the local area. The council should be focusing on how to adapt to the increasing number of people living in our community and how to provide them with the same leisure opportunities as people in the past. This involves modernising things like sports fields. We have a precious handful of contemporary sporting facilities in addition to our many grass ovals and bush trails. Let's not tip the balance the wrong way.
197	The school are likely to be impacted significantly if natural turf is installed. I dont believe they have anywhere else to go. Balancing school usage vs community usage is going to be difficult particularly in the winter season
198	Climate change is making the climate more extreme - we need more all-weather venues not fewer.
199	With upgraded drainage on natural turf it cannot withstand the combined load of school use club training and public use. With it being turned to Natural it just makes it hard for everyone to use in heavy rain as it will be closed most of the time.
200	Even with natural turf and upgrading its drainage system it will not uphold all the school activities by Lindfield Learning Village Club football and the public using it for walks and other sports. In wet periods as experienced a lot in Sydney Charles Bean

	is one of the only few fields that remain open. Getting rid of this makes it unreliable and reduces playing chances for all footballers.
201	Re Q9 given the NSW govt wants to continually increase housing density in this area they should be reasonable about maximising the usage of govt related facilities such as LLV parking and allow it to be used outside of school hours etc for free (in a similar approach to public schools being opened to the public on weekends etc).
202	Leave as is Synthetic
203	Charles Bean oval works well but we would like Council to also consider parking at LLV school to help parents find a park and to minimise impact to residents.
204	Ku-ring-gai council is one of the greenest leafiest suburbs in Sydney it is surround by National Park. There is ample trees grass and places for dogs to play without taking away an all-purpose facility such as the synthetic pitch at Charles Bean. I do not believe all fields need to be synthetic however there is a need with a population such as Sydney to have fields available that are with able to withstand heavy and regular use so more people (adults and children) in the community can benefit through sport and recreation. To give the community such a facility and then take it away would be a huge loss to the community.
205	The oval is really beautiful as is it is wonderful to be able to support soccer and other sporting teams to play on such a high quality field. Children will get hurt regardless and that is all part of being a kid we need to stop wrapping kids up in cotton wool.
206	[email address removed]
207	No carcinogenic products or health harming products should be used. Sustainable options for non-grass surfaces are needed regardless of cost.
208	Parking at CB is a nightmare for all concerned. Clearly the obvious solution is to utilise LLV carpark when not in use by the school. The various options should be actively explored. As a dog owner I would appreciate more dog friendly environments and dog walking opportunities. However I don't think sports facilities should be compromised for dog walking. An example of the worst situation for dog/sport is Queen Elizabeth Reserve. An example of a better alternative is Roseville Oval.
209	There is plenty of space in Kurringai for people to walk dogs etc! We owe it to our kids in the community to provide great facilities to keep them active healthy and engaged in community sport! Fields like Queen Elizeberth and Bert Oldfield are a series health risk to players. Parents are often cleaning up the field in the mornings getting rid of dog poo and filling the holes with Sand to try prevent someone having to deal with an ankle injury that shouldnt happen!
210	The discussion about the future of Charles Bean Oval needs to be grounded in evidence community need and the realities of contemporary Australian football. Ku Ring Gai families clubs and volunteers invest enormous time and energy into the sport yet every winter the same barrier appears. Natural turf cannot cope with our rainfall patterns our participation numbers or the training loads required across the NSFA community. On average around thirty percent of NSFA fixtures are washed out each season. That is not a minor inconvenience that is a structural barrier to participation development and community wellbeing. Synthetic turf is not a luxury it is a practical response to a very real problem. A synthetic field provides a stable and consistent playing surface that remains open when natural grass cannot. It allows clubs to schedule training and matches with confidence it reduces the enormous

	burden placed on volunteer administrators and it keeps thousands of young players active instead of sitting at home because grounds are closed. Concerns about surface temperature and minor abrasions need to be addressed with factual information rather than selective commentary. Modern third generation systems are designed with advanced infill improved shock absorption and significantly cooler fibres than those used a decade ago. Clubs and councils already implement simple management strategies in hotter months such as scheduled breaks increased hydration windows and adjusted training loads. These are the same sensible measures used for natural turf synthetic courts athletics tracks and any other open air facility in Australia. Minor abrasions on synthetic turf are also frequently overstated. Research shows that most reported incidents occur when players slide aggressively or wear inappropriate gear. With correct football kit and well maintained fibres abrasion rates are comparable to natural turf. Importantly synthetic fields greatly reduce rolled ankles divot related injuries and the unpredictable hazards that appear on natural grass after heavy wear. The environmental argument must also be considered in full. Natural turf pitches require repeated mowing irrigation fertiliser and pesticide use. They demand regular renovation works which involve the import of sand soil and machinery. A single poorly drained grass field can use millions of litres of water in a year of active maintenance. By contrast a synthetic field eliminates irrigation entirely cuts maintenance emissions significantly and provides more playing hours per square metre than any natural alternative. When spread across ten to fifteen years of community use the environmental footprint per player is substantially lower. Most importantly synthetic turf delivers social value. It keeps kids on the park supports inclusive programs for players with disabilities provides dependable facilities for women and girls and creates a genuine community hub. The field becomes a reliable space for physical health mental wellbeing and social connection rather than an asset locked behind a closed gate for weeks at a time. The decision should focus on evidence fairness and community benefit. Synthetic turf at Charles Bean Oval is the only solution that ensures football remains accessible reliable and safe for every player in the region.
211	To please upgrade the current synthetic field to a new synthetic field.
212	We need more synthetic fields to support higher use capability. Anyone who plays sports knows that grass fields last for a few weeks then become unplayable very quickly.
213	There is a lot of misinformation around Synthetic based on legacy issues e.g. with the rubber infill. I feel that the reports are based on outdated information (eg why do you not mention that synthetic field recycling plant in Victoria) and the comments about heat are not based not practical reality. If it is hot the usual policy is to close all fields. We rarely lose days due to heat - what happens is only the games during the middle of the day are cancelled
214	Demographics change in the area due to more apartments are to be built. We will need more football playtime and training for our kids NOT less. It is important we are maximising the use of land and time for our kids for decades to come. We need to build more sport grounds.
215	I dont think it makes much sense to turn an oval that is already synthetic back to natural turf when there arent that many synthetic pitches in Kuringgai to begin with.

216	Please consider real-world reliability rather than theoretical modelling. Even with upgraded drainage a natural turf field cannot withstand the combined load of school use club training weekend matches and general community activity - especially during wet periods. Charles Bean is one of the few fields that remains open in heavy rain and removing that reliability would reduce playing opportunities for thousands of users and push demand onto already overstretched fields. A new-generation synthetic surface using organic infill and modern filtration balances capacity safety and environmental management while meeting the area's growing participation needs.
217	Minimal impact to the existing usage and period taken to re-surface. An issue such as that seen with the West Pymble pitch would not be acceptable. The re-surfacing of the pitch should not be swayed by the lack of parking and high use by those looking to now reduce its availability to suite those that have bought in the area (with a known football pitch). This is a key outlet for youth sport in the area and needs to continue to be made available due to the lack of such sport facilities across Ku-ring-gai. Or you look at options to use Private school facilities in the area.
218	Whilst the resurfacing of Primula last year provided a greatly improved playing surface how many days was it closed for training and playing during the 2025 football season v Charles Bean?
219	This is not just about Charles bean oval but the supply of fields in the Sydney metropolitan area. We often have to travel long distances to play sport as facilities due to lack of facilities in the north shore using fuel clogging up roads and wasting valuable time. Please keep Charles bean viable
220	Please prioritise real-world reliability over theoretical modelling. Even with improved drainage a natural turf field cannot handle the combined pressure of school use club training weekend games and general community activity - particularly during wet weather. Charles Bean is one of the few fields that stays open in heavy rain and losing that dependability would reduce playing opportunities for thousands of users while shifting demand to already overstretched neighbouring fields. A new-generation synthetic surface - with organic infill and modern filtration - offers the best balance of capacity safety and environmental management and can reliably meet the area's growing participation needs.
221	Access and parking in the area is an issue traffic flow also needs to be addressed
222	From working within the construction industry and on large infrastructures projects I have witnessed first hand the short sightedness of reducing costs in favour for long term and satisfactory use for the end user. This cannot be taken for granted especially at a council level where public stakeholders are much more vocal given its proximity to their place of residence and a large portion of their wellbeing. Regardless of which surface is deemed the most suitable from a numbers perspective needs to understand why the sports field in their in the first place and communicate this honestly to the community. Community consultation is an essential part and I am honoured to have my say in facility that I have made some great memories with friends and family.
223	We need more synthetic field in the area
224	Not one Council in NSW is going back to grass fields. Everyone is going to synthetic due to the enormous benefits it brings from a playing perspective

225	If the Council decides to revert to a natural pitch high chance you will see a drop in participation rates as parent choose more guaranteed options for their children - again this is no good to anyone.
226	Prioritise the benefits for sport practice as there are already areas available for other activities
227	Why would you go back to natural turf crazy proposal.....
228	Players and public users will not pay for parking when there is free parking on Commercial agreement with Lindfield Learning Village/NSW Dept of Education for the use of their carpark for public parking on Abingdon Rd a 2min walk away. A commercial arrangement only makes sense if parking is free for users which I assume is not the intention.
229	N/A
230	Lack of other artificial options in the area
231	Lindfield learning village (LLV) is a state government organisation. Taxpayer funded. Council is funded by local rate payers who contribute to the taxes used to fund LLV. It sounds like the parking issue could be very easily solved if Council stopped charging LLV so much to hire the field. LLV could gain a reduction in its hiring fee if it gave public access to the carpark from 345pm - 10pm on weekdays and 8am - 9pm on weekends. A bit of common sense would solve the problem. Converting the field to natural grass won't solve the parking issue especially if the parking is not accessible to the community. Other option is to charge flat $3 fee for the parking and explained how the fee could be used you could keep all parties happy. The field was converted to synthetic long before any of the residents in the local area moved in. The parking infrastructure always existed to handle the increase in field usage before the LLV was around. Local residents wouldn't be subjected to the illegal parking if some common sense was applied to how the parking access is managed.
232	If council are worries about heat/environment then look at Cork and coconut husk blends for the infill material. They are environmentally friendly alternatives that are biodegradable and non-toxic.
233	Please have a longer term on sporting facility and how much Charles bean had been positively contributing to the local players
234	make it nice
235	NA
236	Please have shade around the sports field. For both players and spectators. If the artificial surface is hot during summer have space for the players & to recover and have drinks breaks and have for the spectators too. Shelter & seating.
237	Nil
238	This is a terrific facility with its synthetic surface. Going back to natural turf is totally retrograde in its thinking. It will become another very ordinary surface unusable too often causing injury. Useability / availability is of huge importance for sporting facilities. Keep it synthetic please.
239	Removing artificial fields doesn't make sense. At the moment we have right balance of grass vs synthentic. No more no less
240	Just consider that all these apartments were built and sold after seeing Charles Bean as synthetic. It is a hive of activities and is very well maintained. We don’t have any

	other synthetics fields around apart from a small one in artarmon and north sydney. We need this to remain synthetic please.
241	N/A
242	Accessibility is key. Please please please!!!
243	Put in some proper parking facilities that are open when the field is in use.
244	I want you to use natural things instead of scientific things as much as possible
245	No
246	No
247	Synthetic turf offers significant advantages over natural grass for soccer facilities seeking maximum utility consistent performance and community satisfaction. It provides a perfectly uniform all-weather surface that remains playable in heavy rain and requires no recovery time after use. This superior reliability is a game-changer for local stakeholders - ensuring games and practices are rarely cancelled due to weather. For players parents and kids this means a season full of play not disappointment fostering a happier and more engaged soccer community. Furthermore the durability allows for vastly more playing hours making it ideal for high-traffic community clubs and schools. This is all achieved while eliminating the need for watering mowing and chemical treatments leading to substantial long-term cost savings and a reduced environmental footprint.
248	With synthetic turf there should be sand used instead of the black plastic grain like particles.
249	The cost increase of you're thinking of digging up a premium pitch consider the cost to rate payers. Young people would consider quitting sport which wouldn't lead to healthy lifestyles.
250	Please can you allow for parking at LLC parking as car park pressure would be very annoying for the local residents nearby.
251	Consultants have provided such different pricing. Better to seek market pricing before seeking community feedback.
252	We have experienced limited usage of natural turf facilities within my Ring Gai council areas. Synthetic turf provides certainty to players that games will proceed.
253	Cannot be clearer that we need more all weather playing fields I can list numerous fields which are an embarrassment to the council
254	Consider how to improve parking availability
255	We have enough grass fields we need to keep the synthetic pitch
256	There is significant natural undevelopled space around Charles Bean that is beautiful. If water usage and chemicals are needed to maintain and sustain a natural turf oval in place of a synthetic one and we'd lose playing time - it does not seem like a reasonable replacement. It is so important to keep our teenagers playing sport - please don't convert this field as i believe it would significantly reduce the time they would then be exercising.
257	Don't do it it's dumb
258	No
259	I would like the artificial turf to have sand or wood chip instead of rubber crumb.
260	I would agree with recommendations that more trees are planted and newer technologies are used to reduce the environmental impacts of the synthetic turf

261	Shade cover may help with playing conditions
262	The effect of sporting teams and people who regularly use the field during the Rainer seasons
263	If the non self-cooling aspect of synthetic is an issue - upgrade the water fountains and provide greater shaded areas.
264	A modern synthetic surface is more environmentally sustainable than in previous years. A turf field will not provide a nigh use field for all year use.
265	The council should be about providing quality facilities that continue to encourage members of the community young and old to be outdoors engaged in and supporting local sports.
266	Cost of maintaining natural grass is high
267	Consider improved parking
268	No
269	Despite all best-practice construction and maintenance I don't think many people understand how fast grass/natural turfs are worn down especially around goal mouths during the season making it almost unplayable.
270	How stupid it is to be considering grass
271	Council has struggled with getting the drainage right on Primula Oval at great expense to ratepayers messing it up on more than one occasion. I suspect drainage for a turf pitch at Charles Bean would be even more of a challenge. Whereas the existing foundation obviously works well for a synthetic pitch
272	Please consider the soccer players for lacking for synthetic fields. Games always have to be cancelled because of the weather. The closest synthetic standard soccer field is at Cammeray other than Charle Beans. We are already lacking of that and don’t want to lose the only one that we have!
273	Please use natural products like sand or wood chip rather than using rubber
274	If the council could provide an unlimited or at least enough capacity to cater for demand then natural grass is preferred but only if well maintained. The issue is that most natural grass ovals are in very poor condition and very very poorly maintained. Second demand far outstrip supply. A good compromise is synthetic. I am pretty sure there is a good reason more and more ovals are converting to synthetic. I have a dog. We are blessed with access to bushland. I don't need to walk my dog on an Oval.
275	The main issue is the lack of parking which should be corrected by opening up the LLV car park after school hours. This should have been a condition to them leasing the Charles Bean oval. Despite the high density housing in that area very little consideration has been given to parking and other amenities like coffee shops/cafes which would improve the local experience.
276	Parking is an issue and will remain an issue regardless of whether the pitch is natural or synthetic turf.
277	Capture data on lost playable hours due to weather on natural turf. Consider mixed use of synthetic and natural turf to balance playable hours/environmental factors
278	Consider the thousands of kids who play for Lindfield football club. This is an A grade facility. Let the parking be solved at the government and tax payer owned school.
279	Keep it synthetic

280	It would be good to know the number of fields closed due to weather in the previous 3 years and if there are any views to swap other fields to synthetic. I am not implying that CB specifically should only be synthetic but within KRG council balance is maintained.
281	This is the ONLY synthetic oval of a decent size in this locality and having expeeienced disastrous soccer seasons with cinstant washouts (but still paying $ 100s of dollars for the soccer season/ training) it's unacceptable that we turn this facility into yet another grass field.
282	Historical home of LFC that is a wonderful resource for KMC community.
283	Regardless of what surface the parking situation needs to be addressed before a child ends up being hit. Which would put the council liable given the amount of feedback given around the safety of children.
284	Council put up units and those people also need a place to go.
285	Lindfield Football Club has over 2 000 playing members. That’s likely 4 000 voting members of the public. A Council member who votes against synthetic will be risking re-election- they will lose my vote forever!
286	Our kids need sport field in Kuringai
287	Given the significant cost and issues at west pymble it would seem silly to convert an already established synthetic pitch to grass
288	Think about how weeks a soccer season thousand of kids can't play due to ground closures of natural turf
289	A change will mean that the Club may beee to relocate and the community will suffer - it is a place for social location support - outside of school hours. While LLVS is a great school it was built with this known field/s design and doesn’t use it to the same amount of hours or volume of residents as the Club.
290	Can you please select a fill which is less toxic. The technology has come a long way since Charles Bean was built and I know there are better options available now.
291	It would be great regardless of the field surface if you could put some seating on the grass slope overlooking the field. It would also be wonderful if there was someway to organise a cafe like other sporting clubs/fields have to sell food and beverages at games.
292	Public amenities are what makes a community flourish. If soccer fields are sacrificed then just as viable (and grass is not viable in wet weather) need to be provided for the community.
293	Grass pitches tend to deteriorate to become difficult to use and unsafe to play on (some of the ovals have holes that have been dug in them by dogs that are a serious safety hazard.
294	Just look at the number of matches that have been canceled in the past due to weather. Look at how many matches are reallocated to artificial when we know rain is coming.
295	If you change to natural turf children’s soccer will regularly be rained out and they will be unable to play. It’s important to keep children off screens keep them exercising and healthy.
296	Please just use your brains ok... the synthetic is the reason many enjoy the place so please for the love of everything don't destroy this beautiful oval. I know you're going

	to ignore this but I'm hoping my message can reach you and you realise the horrible mistake you're making. none of you clearly care at all but many of us ACTUALLY do.
297	No
298	Our children need access to the ground as much for training as games... it's mentally healthy for them post covid to have security and confidence know that the field is there and available regardless of a bit of rain.
299	All of the people playing soccer care about their sport and when it gets cancelled sometimes it’s up to around 9 weeks without playing their sport. It’s also more sustainable and lasts longer.
300	Keep it syntheti
301	Synthetic turf doesn't need to be watered and so doesn't stress our water supply in drought conditions.
302	Only dedicated football oval in the area
303	Please review the results of grass upgrade to Gladesville Reserve Hunters Hill. Ask representatives from All Saints Hunters Hill FC how they feel about the natural turf s opposed to synthetic
304	Consider the health and wellbeing of our kids not having access to training and game days
305	There should be more investment into synthetic feeds to allow health and wellbeing inititives to continue through the wet season
306	PLEASE KEEP IT AS SYNTHETIC
307	Benefits of synthetic oval far outweighs that compared to grass.
308	There are not enough pitches to play soccer during the wet season. You’re likely to kill some of the local clubs if you turn this pitch into natural turf.
309	There is a large community that depend on it remaining synthetic. The Lindfield Football Club will not be able to exist with the number of young female programs if the proposed turf change goes ahead. Please support our young women and do not move away from synthetic
310	To be honest it is laughable that this is even being taken through consultation. This would be the most used sports venue in Kuringai and changing it will see this vastly reduce
311	I do care greatly about environment impact and limiting use of plastic but having grass pitch will limit ground usage too much
312	Please don’t take away the synthetic surface. We don’t have many of these in the area and all others are lawn and just get closed all the time.
313	Parking but improved tree coverage around all sides of the grounds (given I need to have 5 x trees that grow to over 10m in height on my residential block/size...same guidelines should apply here)
314	The school has few alternatives to Charles Bean for children’s outdoor recreation. Any closures and the length of said closures will negatively affect children’s recreation & activity levels. While natural grass is effective in most recreational settings I’ve seen many cases of overuse and substandard fields. There are many parks available for dog walking in Kuringai plus many bush tracks around the local area. Dogs are not required on the same park space as children’s play. I have noted dog excrement at Charles Bean. Yuk!

315	Please do not take away this all weather space that allows active endeavours. We have lots of green natural space already but we do not have a Pugh all weather sports surfaces in the kuringai area. Please don't take it away.
316	It's an amazing facility. Turf wouldn't be as reliable and would limit capacity
317	N/a
318	Na
319	There are many other options of natural grass that can be used for dog walking and other recreation activities.
320	Please consider the wishes of the heavy users of this field. It would be a shame to lose an asset so well loved for them because some people who don't use the venue don't like it.
321	The latest technology used will overcome concerns for synthetic similar to west Pymble development
322	It's ridiculous to turn an all weather synthetic pitch back to natural turf.
323	Let the kids play on an all weather field
324	Kids winter sports are being ruined by lack of ovals to play on when it rains. We need more synthetic fields
325	Why would you undo what's already there and working? Shame on you council.
326	I know r we idents complain of parking issues etc however the units came with the field so it's not something new to consider!
327	Please continue with synthetic surface. The whole resource is wasted in wet weather or even after wet weather if not synthetic.
328	Where do the 2500 extra hire hours (of Charles Bean compared to nearby grass) go if its not synthetic? If parking is an issue that is the fault of the developers who built all the housing there without sufficient off street parking and not something community sport should be punished for. I dont believe synthetic is worse for injuries....yes the grazes are worse but there are significantly less broken ankles and hyperextensions which result from uneven natural surfaces
329	There are very few fields in the area and the NSFA that has an artificial pitch - Charles Bean means we can be guaranteed to have these games (they are not rained out)
330	With the population of Ku-Ring-Gai increasing access to playing fields is very important for health reasons to keep people active. Field availability should be increasing with increasing population.
331	Reducing the number of fields available during the year is counter productive to supporting community sports and activities
332	Please do not lay natural turf
333	The reasons for a synthetic ground requirement not built by Council rather DHA still exist. Some of LLVs objections are inconsistent with evidence and do not match wider community expectations. A turf ground will not be managed well enough to get the claimed use in the report. Most turf grounds in Council area are under maintained and cause greater injuries to players particularly Mimosa and Sailia. Furthermore a turf ground would be inconsistent with LLVs claim of state of the art facilities which include Charles Bean as is (FIFA standard).

334	Charles Bean is one of very few synthetic surface in the local area and plays a key role in providing a consistent high quality playing surface year round in all conditions whilst being heavily used by schools local clubs and private academies.
335	Encourage physical activity for all ages
336	Make sure the council don’t destroy my soccer season because of ruining the synthetic turf that I was so excited for when it was created.
337	Do not underestimate that parents will lobby and invest to keep the artificial turf - stop this now please.
338	Another synthetic pitch in the Gordon region would potentially ease some of the traffic at Charles Bean which would give a new synthetic surface a longer shelf life.
339	Just going by booked hours of other local grass fields if you are achieving roughly double the amount of usage on synthetic it doesn't seem logical to use grass.
340	Focus on parking solution
341	New synthetic surface technology provides an even better playing experience and is less abrasive then older surfaces
342	What a waste of money converting back to grasd
343	Listen to the community that actually uses these facilities…whilst all feedback is important it is the users of the field that should be listened to as priority
344	Council took forever to approve a synthetic pitch at Norman Griffith. It is still not ready. Now it is looking to take away a synthetic pitch that has been servicing the community for many years. It makes no sense.
345	No
346	Please consider budgeting and investing in more synthetic playing surfaces around Ku-ring-gai
347	I would like the council to consider the activity used by people under 18. A lot of kids (including myself) use Charles Bean throughout the year especially during periods of rain when other fields have been closed. Removing this synthetic turf harms the activity of our young people something that is detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the younger peopl.
348	Just put another synthetic pitch down. Enough with the woke
349	Please consider reusing existing materials if the synthetic turf is reinstated
350	Yes to more parking Create another smaller playing are with free space Build another pitch Use the building as a club house
351	Grass turf isn’t actually natural. It’s not good for wildlife or anything. Synthetic is much better
352	Maybe this will form the first and last time council engages in such forums. Hopefully in the future the answer will be only one to support community playing requirements. Council may want to check with other Councils why they have so many synthetic grounds in their LGAs and Kyringgai Council has hardly any. Check with areas in the West and the South and you may understand the importance on the general well being health benefits extensive ground usage provides to the population.
353	Given the standard of other natural playing surfaces in the council area I’m not confident that council has the resources to maintain a natural surface at CB oval to the required standard
354	Proper parking at all sports facilities.

355	There are a lot more natural turf fields out there compared to synthetic fields please preserve the very few synthetic fields we have left already.
356	Parking is clearly an issue at Charles bean. Surely an arrangement can be made to use the school's car park at weeknds
357	Yea can we not make a stupid decision here and tear up the one of the few quality playing surfaces on the north shore
358	Consideration of the available playing hours for the community based sporting clubs is essential when there are limited numbers of synthetic fields available in the area. Reduction of this field would significantly impact sporting clubs in the area.
359	As a growing city we have TOO little space for the luxury of 3 times the square area of Turf Pitches we would need. The weather uncertatinty of turf pitches in the football season causes Chaos and unnecessary travel. Last season we travelled all the way to Hornsby only to have a game cancelled due to more rain on a wet turf pitch. The team before us just finished their game. And the coaches blamed safety of players playing on the muddy pitch and that the club didn't want to get accused by council of damaging the turf pitch. We just don't design and build them to drain well nor recycle rain water for night time watering to have turf pitches.
360	The parking at Charles Bean is an issue - but it's an issue irrespective of the surface type. Whilst you're considering - please consider an additional synthetic in the area - between Berowra and Turramurra would be great.
361	As a soccer player coach and local community resident I am at Charles Bean very often and enjoy the plethora of activities conducted at the oval and seeing the community connect through social large community events such as football games. Other grass fields within a kilometre of Charles Bean (e.g. Edinborough Loyal Henry) are perfect alternative options for activities such as walking the dog and picnics. Charles Bean is a staple sporting field that significantly impacts local sport.
362	I do not feel that the KuRingGai council is representing the local population. After the Norman Griffiths mess I along with many many others have lost compete faith in this council to do the right thing for the majority of the people it is meant to represent. Credibility...gone. Trust.....gone.
363	check the infill material used in blackman park Lane Cove
364	Provide parking by making a cost free arrangement with LLV and the DOE. It's a community need and shouldn't draw an additional outlay. School is well gated like Fort Knox so damage to school would be non existent if that's what the worry is given the car park is tightly locked up most weekends.
365	We can only consider the alternative of having grass playing surfaces if considerably more time and money is invested in maintaining them. I can't see this being an option. Despite closing fields for many matches and training sessions over the past 4-5 years (due to the weather) the playing surface quality has declined noticeably. The risk of injuries to people using these grass pitches has increased and even though the fields have been used less. This is just not sustainable with a growing population. We need to find ways to keep offering our community ways to stay healthy and active - not restricting them further. Especially since so many are now living in apartment blocks and have no outdoor space of their own to exercise and get out in the fresh air.

366	We have an abundance of grass pitches Charles Bean is unique. Please do not ruin the great value that so many community members get from Charles bean being synthetic.
367	While concerns about heating are valid the ground is located in an exceptionally cool and leafy region of Sydney
368	Charles Bean Oval already has a synthetic turf. Upgrading it on renewal has major advantages in costs timing and minimising community disadvantages. These factors ought to be given appropriate value in the assessment. New synthetic turfs in Ku-Ring-gai for community sport seem to be less likely because of costs environmental concerns and local resident resistance. It is appropriate to prioritise maintaining Charles Bean Oval as a reliable sports field due to having a synthetic turf. I recall Charles Bean Oval before it was converted to synthetic. If it is returned to grass turf then expect it to degrade quickly into an unplayable surface. It will only take a couple of reasons (of weather and team sprots use) to write it off as a reliable community soccer field.
369	Playing in the mud is not fun
370	Consider the impact taking away the hours from kids playing on the field if natural turf is installed. Synthetic allows the kids to continue to play and off screens.
371	There is no immediate run off concerns given the location of the field so any environmental impact is minimal.
372	Hybrid options must be reviewed. Cork based marbling not tubber marbling must be used.
373	We have missed some games due to hot weather but that is very rare in comparison to washouts.
374	Not really we need more all weather pitches not less
375	If you are investing in a council asset you should maximise its usage for best value. Synthetic allows this.
376	NA
377	Environmental concerns are valid but they must be grounded in the actual conditions of community sport. Maintaining natural turf to the standard required for high-volume use demands high care. Including watering fertilisers mowing labour and turf replacement. But that isn't what happens in reality. The reality is that turf is not maintained to that standard. Take Mimosa Oval stands as a local example: a field that is essentially dirt and mud for much of the year unsafe and unusable. Presenting that as the preferred 'natural' alternative is frankly unacceptable. Modern synthetic fields require minimal water no pesticides and predictable maintenance cycles. They continue to improve in recyclability and environmental management with each generation of technology. For volunteers who carry the burden of running clubs the constant churn of cancellations unsafe fields and lack of council solutions is mentally exhausting. Clubs pay council fees members pay rates and yet they are routinely left with fields that are either unsafe or closed. If the council consider this acceptable that is quite concerning. Yes synthetic fields can get hot. But effective management strategies exist including the times of use shade and hydration etc. In fact there are existing documents to support management of this. Important to note though that even when accounting for heat synthetic fields still offer far more total usable hours per year than natural turf.

378	No
379	The need to get people out and about and exercising Proper reflection on how poorly grass fields have been maintained
380	This facility is exceptional and could be used 18x7 with the demand for soccer. It cannot be risked to move to natural turf - but I am sure that players in the area would be willing to pay an additional cost to make this more sustainable. The sheer number of families trying to play for Northern Tigers at $3500 per year exceeds supply - the number of children attending holiday camps at over $100 per 3 hour session means that there is an appetite to play regardless of cost.
381	The limit synthetic options currently available in wet weather.
382	I am saddened to hear that LLV will charge for people to utilise the car park
383	Please consider that there are currently only two synthetics in Ku-ring-gai and there is extremely high demand for these grounds. Once a synthetic ground is lost it will be almost impossible to get it back to synthetic. It is difficult to encourage active participantion from kids when there are washouts for half of the weekends in the Winter Season. Synthetics guarantee football during the week and the weekend and are highly valued by the community. With population increases sports will be forced to turn participants away unless they can increase the utilisation of existing sports fields or new sports fields are built. Seeing as Ku-ring-gai is landlocked it is essential that existing sports have a higher yield. It would be devastating to the local football community to lose one of the few synthetic sports fields.
384	I would like to think there is a cost effective option to access the large carpark on site. It seems a poor planning process over the years to have built a field now surrounded by units with inadequate parking - even though there is space actually available.
385	I believe the health and societL benefits of having a high use sports facility should be taken into account not simply the costs and benefits of the sports field itself.
386	If you go to grass it will be stopping hundreds and hundreds of people enjoying it
387	They would need to provide a new synthetic field of Charles bean is to be replaced.
388	Lack of parking is a real issue. Could have been addressed with recent surrounding residential development.
389	Making additional fields available for soccer (and similar sports) if Charles Bean goes to natural grass.
390	If this is turned into grass and pragmatically cutting availability hours what solutions to get those hours back are the council putting forward? What does a win-win look like?
391	Can’t stress enough how important it is having Charles bean to be used for games during the football season. So many games get cancelled and being able to reschedule or move to Charles bean is so important. Also being able to have a quality pitch in the summer has been so good. Whilst the pitch may get hot in the summer that’s not a reason to make it that all of a sudden Charles bean needs to be artificial. Everywhere around the world has artificial in climates even hotter than ours.
392	If parking is an issue how will this change if Charles Bean is converted to natural turf? Is Council hoping that with the added restrictions associated with turf fields that less sport will be played leading to less congestion(?). If higher density living is wanted that also means higher level of congestion around facilities.
393	Need more synthetic pitches in the area!

394	Living in some of the highest rainfall areas of Sydney wet weather consistently rules out safe play on ovals for children/teens - which results in club sports being cancelled regularly during wet season on turf. Turf - many of natural turf have poor drainage and
395	Install a curb around the pitch to capture any cork infill
396	Charles Bean uses materials that are out of date where heat and sustainability are concerned. An upgrade to the synthetic to use best practice surfaces would be far more beneficial in both of those areas while still allowing for continued use.
397	Please consider all the rainy seasons we have had recently and how important this synthetic field is to all the soccer clubs in the area! We need more synthetic pitches not ones taken away!!
398	So many people each week are staying active and healthy. Enjoying sport no matter the weather.
399	Introduction of shade structures. parking with nsw education should be organised. Also better use of club house/community centre
400	The council closes nearly all playing fields promptly when it rains this being one of only 2 or 3 synthetic fields in the area means some games and training sessions can proceed.
401	Insider winter wet weather ground closures on other local playing fields. Having Charles Bean as synthetic allows lower grade teams to at least have some chance of obtaining playing fields at other locations.
402	Leave it as it is...
403	I suspect the poorly maintained grass fields in Ku-ring-gai cause similar numbers of injuries especially when factoring in damage caused by rabbits and holes dug by dogs. If our children spend Winters indoors due yo inability to play sports on grass fields that creates its own environmental issues. I believe balance is needed and with only 2 synthetic grounds in Ku-ring-gai I believe we need to retain this field. My children attend another local primary school and they have very mi images usage of their school field for sport as the drainage is so bad it is too dangerous to use the field in wet weather.
404	It was used for 3700 hrs last year natural turf will provide 2000 hrs. Please think about which group we should exclude from field hire. Which age group? Which division? Which gender? The senior age group who are all passionate about football? The young kids who would rather be playing video games?
405	There are currently not enough sports fields in Sydney. Converting to grass will limit usage and availability
406	You already have a synthetic surface at this venue and taking it away would be a step backwards. It’s been an amazing facility which the community has greatly benefited from.
407	So many high quality soccer matches are played on this oval it needs to be best practice and synthetic is the most reliable for this purpose.
408	That every single person I have met during football prefers artificial fields over natural turf and when it rains Charles bean is one of the only fields we can actually use.
409	N/A
410	The parking situation. Is dangerous for children as they are forced to walk through cars as parents drop and run as they have no other choice.

411	Some of the pros for natural turf fields are completely unfounded. For example claiming ‘Grass plays a role in sequestering carbon from the atmosphere helping to combat climate change’ is inaccurate. Grass needs to be cut and the clippings are usually distributed in a location open to atmosphere where they emit then all the carbon. The only way to prevent that would be to capture the carbon (e.g. a tree is cut down to make a house) or within a contained environment. I sincerely ask the council to make sure the information being provided in this review is accurate and founded on real science not hearsay and based on people's ideological agenda
412	It is extremely disappointing to me and many that I know that KMC is even considering changing Charles Bean Oval given that it is still one of the best playing surfaces in the Kuringai council area and has given the NSFA so many more playing hours than the grass fields. It appears that a very small constituent is being enabled to hold the majority to ransom over their anti-synthetic agenda. It has been clear that vote after vote including the last Council meeting on Norman Griffith that the community want synthetic fields and that the pros outweigh the cons especially with the new emerging technologies. Why touch Charles Bean when there are many other grass fields in 'poor condition' that KMC can renew and use as a test case for 'best practise grass field'? At least there'd be a 'net' overall improvement on the total fields. Touching Charles Bean is not a good use of resources. To even consider this at a time when Norman Griffith is a construction zone far from finished and Council are wanting to raise rates is really showing disrespect to rate payers who will have long memories come voting time.
413	Opening the School parking up is a great idea as parking always been challenging at Charles Bean and also consider the timing of the resurfacing as if it’s done during the winter it will stuff over the football clubs and associations that need that pitch to be able to play games
414	I actually don't think the current playing surface is bad enough to have it replaced. I am all for resurfacing with newer technology and more environmentally friendly material such as cork etc.
415	Kuringai council has proven many times that they cannot build or maintain a turf pitch to any reasonable standard. This can be seen at every grass pitch in the lga. Every time it rains the grounds are closed. Why would anyone even consider a natural pitch with kuringai’s track record.
416	Make it as environmentally friendly as you can. Just don’t revert back to grass. It is not only a step in the wrong direction but rather a step backwards. We have soooooo many grass fields in the area. This is a haven for football and community. why take that away?
417	I would like the council to sanction more artificial fields preferably with a cork underlay as cooler in hot weather than rubber which is mainly used
418	Access to quality pitches is important in ensuring player safety. Charles bean is the least of councils concerns when it comes to quality pitches in the region.
419	PLEASE leave the oval at it is . We would hate to see it gone.
420	No
421	The Ku Ring Gai council probably has the lowest ratio of player to all-weather fields across Sydney with only two operating synthetic fields so losing CB just does not make sense

422	I think the Council should understand the importance of having a synthetic field for the game of soccer. It is used by children and adults alike.
423	its the only synthetic surface field in our region; all studies show player participation increases with more available field of better quality. We need more synthetic fields; not less
424	The TOD disproportionately impacts Lindfield. At a minimum there must be greater investment in surrounding infrastructure for resident use.
425	There are no other synthetic grass pitches in the LGA that I am aware of. We need more not less so kids can play sport and recreate in all seasons and not be limited by rain. There are more than enough dog parks and I prioritise the opportunity to get kids and adults out playing sport more weekends and week nights of the year.
426	Don't give into old NIMBY's who want to stop kids enjoying the synthetic
427	Councils policy for closing grounds in wet weather. How many kids you can have on the field at any one time over multiple hours. The modelling doesn’t seem to factor that in.
428	Health benefits to hundreds of people who can access it and use it weekly.
429	As above
430	Lindfield football club is an outstanding community club. It needs more synthetic pitches like Charles Bean.
431	Council should carefully consider the appropriate use of public funds and the primary purpose of this field which is to support local sport. There are already ample areas within the community for dog walking as well as many existing grass fields; however there are very few reliable all-weather surfaces available for football players. Astro pitches also provide an even playing surface which supports injury prevention and enhances overall player safety. Replacing this with yet another grass field - where games and training will inevitably be cancelled week after week due to weather - would undermine Council’s commitment to community sport and compromise the health safety and wellbeing of local players.
432	I play on the pitch frequently. There is no need to replace this at the time. Moreover if this surfaced is replaced with natural grass it will cause over use on other pitches which in turn will become further damaged meaning less overall participation but likely further injury to players on the I’ll maintained other pitches.
433	Please do something about the parking
434	Parking in learning facility should be free. they use the sports field charge them for the hours they use it. Both are government property. Robbing Peter to pay Paul
435	The synthetic turf at Charles Bean is the absolutely vital to lindfield FC the leading community football club in the area. Losing this would significantly reduce the amount of football that can be played by locals in the area. Playing football at Charles Bean aka the Bean aka the Theatre of Beans is supremely beneficial for the mental physical and social health of individuals in the local community so reducing the accessibility of this space by removing the synthetic grass would be detrimental for the community. These benefits to the community benefits significantly outweigh any potential negative impacts towards the environment that the turf has.
436	Just fix the parking it’s not that hard
437	Green space for dog walkers is idiotic. A playing field that is actually usable throughout the year for adequate hours per week is what's required. Only synthetic

	pitch achieves the requirements. Grass is only an option if council's goal is to avoid up front costs while pretending to install a grass pitch of remotely similar quality and avoid the costs associated with maintaining such a football pitch.
438	If you think natural surfaces are a good idea. Wait until a period of sustained rain over winter - then head down to pottery green KSO primula koola Bannockburn bert oldfield Blackman (grass) etc. you'll see the horrible unsafe and unplayable state these fields get in. Speak to parents football club members and understand how important access to quality synthetic options is.
439	Consider the hundreds of people that use the facility weekly. It's so important for youth development and fitness that it stays available even if it's been raining.
440	Totally insane to think of going back to turf . It will only increase our rates which have already gone up due to the West Pymble disaster !! That should be synthetic . I have heard these concerns are coming from LLV. However they use Charles bean for sport every day which they won't be able to do if it's closed due to the turf being wet and muddy. Exercise is necessary for children's (all) mental health
441	If you remove this one what are you going to do to replace it.
442	Consider the surface of nearby Blackman Park Lane Cove with cool natural filled artificial surface
443	We need more synthetic fields not less
444	The kids! Think of the kids!
445	Certainty of use (and hence hiring). The school must have this outlet to use.
446	Look at the data for usage as part of this determination. If grounds can't be used dye to weather then teams and players need to be refunded the ground hire they pay
447	Definitely need to improve parking and access
448	Countless businesses associations and communities rely on Charles Bean due to its reliability. Switching it back to natural turf will only lead to having yet another sports ground that is consistently closed due to weather. Let alone the cost of maintenance being similar if not more to take care of a natural surface.
449	Must remain synthetic so we can maximise use but must also be modernised to reduce impact to the environment and community
450	With the disaster that is Norman Griffiths please consider the community of children and sport players that need somewhere to play in all weather.
451	By changing the surface would displace many players and clubs that rely on the high quality field across all weathers.
452	A dose of common sense wouldn't go astray but Im not holding my breath because you wouldn't have circulated the this survey had you exercised common sense.
453	If we don't keep this as synthetic then can other fields be made as synthetic instead.
454	Stop making it hard for soccer players it's the most popular recreational sport in Australia.
455	With more children living in apartments they need open spaces where they can play with fields that are not closed due to over protection of turf fields that still remain closed after wet weather.
456	The ground was there prior to the residents
457	Consider the year round recreational sport played here. Enjoyed by broader community not exclusive to football

458	Think about the cost of changing it and the lose to kids playing sports across Sydney
459	I would argue that the long term maintenance costs for a synthetic surface are uncertain and may evolve over time as technology improves but the near and medium term benefits of providing a weather proof and wear proof quality surface for community sport are huge and more certain
460	My wellbeing. The football clubs. The value it gives to thousands of FAMILIES. THE IMPORTANCE TO THE COMMUNITY. THE IMPORTANCE TO LOCAL FOOTBALL.
461	We have more than plenty of green spaces and ovals in the area but we lack facilties with consistency. NTRA Charles bean and now West Pymble are the only places that can accomidate year round sport without any breaks or washouts. By reducing this number the affect will be massive but by adding one grass field the affect will be minor. I believe this can be offset as well by planting better tree linings around the oval that can act as a noise heat and physical football barrier as well as contribute to the carbon offset argument.
462	People being able to access use and enjoy quality sports fields year round (including wet winter months) is an antidote to the mental and physical health epidemic we currently face.
463	Having had children who have played sport on both grass and artificial I am well aware of injuries that can be caused by artificial grounds. However the closure of grass fields during the winter season can be extremely detrimental to a young persons mental health along with missing weeks of outdoor training. I would be extremely disappointed and concerned for our young community if the decision was made to change for the field to grass.
464	If making Charles Bean a natural field add a different synthetic field in Ku ring gai area.
465	DOES YOUR CHILD HAVE SPORT CANCELLED ALMOST WEEKLY BECAUSE THEY ARE PLAYING OR TRAINING ON GRASS RATHER THAN SYNTHETIC?? UNLESS YOU HAVE CHILDREN AFFECTED THEN I THINK YOU NEED TO ASK THOSE THAT DO. WE WOULD LOVE FOR MORE SYNTHETIC FIELDS IN OUR LOCAL AREA TO STOP THIS PROBLEM GET KIDS EXERCISING AND PLAYING WITHOUT WEATHER BEING A FACTOR.... PLEASE!!!!
466	currently the best synthetic pitch is luring is very limited other options for soccer players to grow and progress in learning how to play on this kind of pitch
467	The amount of time the field will be closed which impacts families kids physical and mental health as well as families reluctance to continue signing up to play sports when large portions are canceled due to councils knee jerk decisions around weather. Council is happy to charge for field usage from clubs/parents then won't let them use it for large portions. Its a disgrace and has been happening since I was a child growing up in Kuringai. I
468	Consider how important physical activity and particularly community sports are for overall health
469	We're encouraging kids to get outside and exercise. Please keep this ground synthetic.
470	Wet weather reduces the amount of football games children and and adults can play. Synthetic pitches allow more games to be played

471	Where has the tree cover gone? Talking of heat from the oval residents dont appear to have planted any trees.
472	Ku-ring-gai is actually one of the most successful soccer districts (at local level) in the state. Lindfield themselves are one of the strongest clubs in NSW and Australia. To lose a premium ground to be returned to a muddy field would be a massive shame and a bit embarassing compared to similar councils
473	The awful condition of a lot of the other surrounding soccer fields that deems them terrible for play very often
474	You cannot remove these facilities they provide great opportunities for young people to remain active and healthy whilst playing higher quality football.
475	Community sports have limited access and need this space to allow kids & adults to play
476	We already have the worst playing surfaces. Please don’t remove one that actually enables community to play in all weather. Instead stop wasting time and money and upgrade this to make the space better. We need more than one toilet council. The toilet is always disgusting as well. This could be a great community space. I feel like you listen to environmental groups but have neglected the needs of families and the community. Hopefully common sense will ensure that we need this space for community sport. But it does need upgrading especially the facilities.
477	Many of the current natural turf fields close very quickly when wet. They are not able to handle the training and playing load during winter.
478	Please think about who uses it most and how to benefit them the most.
479	Kurringai already suffers with less sports facilities than most neighbouring suburbs. Please do not take away its best facility.
480	Please consider the impact on so many kids who heavily rely on this field as it currently stands throughout all weather events. Keeping kids off devices and exercising has significant benefits for their overall health and wellbeing keeping them active and engaged in team sports.
481	More fields should be changed to synthetic. If not the natural turf should be maintained properly not with holes bumps and lack of grass etc
482	Please Ku ring Gai council do the right thing and let common sense prevail…if you must returf Charles Bean please use synthetic.
483	Please let the majority win. Well some people like turf the overwhelming majority of people will use the field are happier to have the ability to play versus not.
484	Synthetic means less admin and maintenance for council
485	With the growing numbers of people playing sport in our area it’s important to provide the best facilities as council will keep raising rates therefore provide the right facilities for our community. As the council can’t even build a synthetic field at Norman Griffith oval how can they build a natural surface at Charles Bean not possible .
486	Parking needs it
487	More parking space and shops and merchandise.
488	The field has been a great asset for NSFA co.petition since it was redeveloped as a synthetic field
489	Experience with turf pitches is pretty poor. That is they are generally poorly maintained and suffer the effects of inclement weather. Further compounded by their

	relatively poor state to begin with. Synthetic pitches such as Charles Bean are a ray of sunshine for our avid football family.
490	With the quality of grounds once the rain destroys the grass having a few playable surfaces is essential.
491	It would be a shame to see another grass field destroyed in winter as everything stops due to the rain.
492	Yes as mentioned above the council must be aware of the higher demand for Charles Bean over the last few seasons due to closures of grounds across the North Shire which serves as a very good example on how poorly grass pitches fare during the year in the AUS weather conditions.
493	Currently grass soccer fields are of a very low quality and due to winter rain have become unsustainable to support the sporting requirements of the area.
494	Dogs can walk on streets.
495	Any move away from the current surface would be a backward step for the community and especially the younger members of our community
496	Make fields availabe for use you cant save the planet so look after your local community needs.
497	This 1 acre piece of community land is a source of great pleasure for many thousands of residents and performs strongly on any measure (including cost/benefit analysis). I fully support the environmental lobby and the green agenda but there are other acres of land in greater need of that attention than 1 small sports field.
498	Parking is an issue. The Department of Education's position is silly. There were no issues using the car park after hours when UTS was there for them to charge of access seems punitive (for no reason). If they do want to charge then they need to perhaps look at metering etc and make it user pay.
499	Why is fertiliser always ignored why are extremely low maintenance costs for natural turf used when most of the grounds are woeful. The budget does NOT allow sufficient natural turf maintenance.. period.
500	length of time the facility in unavailable. Turf pitches provide a valuable resource into the community that helps with the advancement of sport participation within the community
501	Beyond the immediate comparison of playable hours Council should consider the wider impact that replacing the existing synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval with natural turf would have on the community the local sporting network and future population needs.1. Impact on Junior Women’s and Inclusive Football Programs Field access is already one of the main limiting factors for participation growth in Ku-ring-gai. Junior football women’s teams and inclusive programs such as All Abilities and Walking Football often receive lower priority when field time is scarce. Reducing Charles Bean’s capacity by more than half would disproportionately affect these groups who rely on predictable safe year-round spaces. Upgrading the synthetic surface maintains equity of access across all age groups and programs. 2. Heavy Reliance by Schools in the Area Several local schools - including Lindfield Learning Village Kuring-gai High School Holy Family and multiple primary schools - rely on Charles Bean for PE lessons carnivals training and inter-school sport. Synthetic allows schools to plan with confidence regardless of weather. A turf field would lead to frequent cancellations and timetable disruptions especially during winter when

grass fields often remain closed for days after even moderate rainfall.3. Strategic Location in a Rapidly Growing Area Charles Bean Oval sits in a high-density residential catchment that is forecast to grow significantly under the NSW Government's housing reforms. Thousands of new apartments and townhouses in the Lindfield precinct will increase demand on all public open space. Removing one of the few high-capacity all-weather fields in the region would run counter to long-term planning objectives. Synthetic is the only surface type that can accommodate this level of increased use without rapidly deteriorating. 4. Pressure on Surrounding Natural Turf Fields Nearby fields such as Tryon Mimosa Koola Bannockburn and Lindfield Oval already suffer from uneven wear poor surface quality and frequent wet-weather closure. These fields cannot absorb the additional load that would result if Charles Bean shifted to turf. In fact Council has chosen to rebuild Norman Griffiths Oval as synthetic precisely because the current turf network cannot cope with community demand. Reducing Charles Bean's capacity would undermine the resilience of the whole field network.5. Environmental and Water Considerations High-quality natural turf requires substantial water use especially during periods of heat or low rainfall. Synthetic turf significantly reduces ongoing water consumption and removes the need for repeated turf restoration fertilising and surface remediation. With increasing climate variability Council should consider whether a high-maintenance grass surface is sustainable on a site expected to receive heavy year-round use.6. Consistency Safety and Playability Modern synthetic surfaces are engineered to provide predictable traction shock absorption and consistent footing across the entire field. Natural turf fields especially heavily used ones suffer from uneven wear muddy patches worn goal mouths and exposed dirt all of which increase slip and trip risk. Synthetic renewal ensures a safe and consistent playing experience for players of all ages and abilities.7. Cost Efficiency Measured by Playable Hours The most meaningful measure of value is not the cost of installation but the cost per usable hour delivered to the community. Because synthetic fields offer more than twice the playable hours of turf the cost per hour is significantly lower over the life of the field. Converting Charles Bean to turf would require major re-engineering and still produce far fewer hours of actual community use.8. Network Resilience in Wet Weather Ku-ring-gai's natural turf fields frequently close for extended periods following rain. Even a single wet week can wipe out multiple training sessions and matches at dozens of ovals. Synthetic fields like Charles Bean act as critical 'pressure valves' that keep sport functioning during these periods. Removing that capacity would intensify disruption across the region.9. Community Use Beyond Organised Sport Synthetic fields remain open for informal community use throughout most of the year. Families children local fitness groups and school holiday programs rely on all-weather access. Natural turf requires far more rest and recovery periods meaning large portions of the year are effectively off-limits for casual use. Maintaining synthetic ensures the field stays genuinely open to the whole community.10. Alignment With Council's Stated Goals Council has previously identified the need for more high-capacity all-weather sporting surfaces to support community health well-being and participation. Continuing with a synthetic surface at Charles Bean supports that commitment aligns with the decision to convert Norman Griffiths Oval to synthetic and reflects the realities of future population growth.

502	Consider the huge numbers of people that already need access to sports grounds for organised activities and then consider the future demand. Lease don't listen to the loud minority on this and make a decision based on that. Look at the overall impact
503	Renewing the synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval is a practical community-centered and future-proof solution. It will maximise the oval's capacity support local sport and deliver operational efficiencies - while responsibly addressing environmental and health considerations. I encourage Council to proceed with the synthetic turf renewal as proposed in the engagement hub.
504	If converted to grass then you need to have 2x artificial fields to open up. There is unfulfilled demand for more playing surfaces.
505	Natural Pitch is great when you dont want to use it as much and requires a lot of maintenance which does NOT happen as we can witness every week when we turn up on pitches that are either flooded or completely without grass....
506	See my commentary above being around the economics. The other comment is around dog walking and the higher chance if natural grass of dog fecal matter which again while dog owners (such as myself hold ultimate responsibility for picking up and disposing responsibly for the waste) nearby parks will highlight that this represents an issue particularily for player hygiene and safety.
507	Please listen to the people that actually use this resource and need it. It just feels so easy for people who have no connection to community sport to ask for it to be turned to grass.
508	We should explore other options to alleviate parking concerns. Building so many high rise units has caused congestion rather than the field surface and use.
509	improvemnts to tree shade beside the field and parking and drop off arrangements will be better use of money rather than renovating to natural grass. I'd love grass but we already have turf. if we can add more nature beside it...that can make up for the lack of nature.
510	Grass numbers and 'facts' stated are just wrong. Grass will become mud in wi get and dust in summer. Synthetic is then only option.
511	School kids cannot be exercising on a surface where there is dog waste
512	The amount of black substance that comes home in shoes in problematic. It would great to have some more shade on the sidelines. An agreement with the school to share parking would make a huge impact on the success of the grounds. ould be great if the road along the oval became and kiss and drop and the school carpark was available outside of school hours.
513	Provide more parking the nearby developments should have provided mandatory additional parking.
514	In future (not for this time) it would be helpful for the council to outline the fully-loaded costs over a 20 year period for natural grass versus synthetic playing surface. And the days availability during winter sports season for natural grass versus synthetic playing surface for the past 5 years.PS I find it difficult to understand that the annual maintenance costs of natural grass is not significantly more given the need to maintain a natural playing surface all year round which comprises much more than watering and cutting the grass. Also grass needs to be replaced on a certain frequency.

515	Synthetic can be done the correct way. Use an aggregate that keeps the surface cooler is environmentally friendly and safer. Do some research and don’t use rubber again!
516	As someone who regularly uses many other playing fields in the local area Charles Bean Oval has consistently been the best pitch - bar none! Converting the pitch to a natural surface would mean losing thousands of hours in activity time.
517	Most ovals are still grass. Need to have a good number of synthetics
518	The technology for synthetic pitches is vastly different now and environmental factors should not get the overhyped publicity they do from well funded interest groups. Our expanding community needs more areas to exercise which are available all of the time .As a very frequent user of Charles Bean it would be criminal to turn this jewel of a council facility into another mud pit. Remember Koola Wellington and Primula have all been returfed in the past 10 years and none of them are examples of quality sporting surfaces even without wet weather. PLEASE KEEP CHARLES BEAN SYNTHETIC.BTW Charles Bean doesn't need replacing yet. Its still in very good condition despite its age.
519	Please consider that Charles Bean is used for sports and activities by a variety of teams and individuals from far and wide. Don't discount their views in preference to those from LLV attendees or local residents who have vested interests in the oval not being used as much.
520	No

Appendix 2 - Verbatim written submissions

Please note the following has been refomatted from originals to best fit report form and the r following information has been removed:

- Identifying information (e.g. names, position titles, or email addresses)
- Organisation names

No.	Submission
1	I am in favour of natural turf. The costings show it would be cheaper. I value the natural environment over synthetics. If it means lower usage that is OK and extra provision can be made elsewhere.
2	The two expert reports individually are not much use and create an impression of conflicting advice or at least advice that is difficult to reconcile and compare. You need to engage your experts to prepare a joint report as is best practice for the Land and Environment Court. As per LEC this should go through the points each other expert makes in their individual reports with each expert commenting whether they agree or disagree with the other expert and each expert citing evidence to support their position. Personally without this I don't see how you can expect the community to provide informed comment when what has been prepared isn't sufficient to inform the LEC commissioner to make an informed ruling that is evidence based. I don't believe I can make informed comment as you are leaving it to the community to do the work yet we aren't actually the experts despite the egos from many special interest groups believing that they are. You're expecting community to comment yet what has been presented is insufficient for professional LEC Commissioners to work with. I also don't believe this field should be considered in isolation. Winter sport is distributed over multiple fields with a different location. Collectively sports fields need to have sufficient capacity and resilience throughout the weather cycles to accommodate players without the up to 6 weeks straight of cancellations we regularly experience if playing on Ku-ring-gai Council fields. It's not clear whether money is best spent on this field or whether capacity can be better improved with alternative upgrades. Especially considering this field is diabolically bad for access and parking for weekend sport where parks don't free up until the prior team leaves. We dread having to play at this field. Without Council doing the work to inform on consensus or evidence based disagreement between the experts and analysis of how best to improve overall sports fields capacity in Ku-ring-gai rather than viewing this field in isolation. There also isn't sufficient information to provide further comment on the best utilisation of our money and the most financially and environmentally sustainable solution. Too often focusing on individual items in isolation leads to micro financial and sustainable solutions that lead to perverse financial and sustainable outcomes at the macro level. Professional I have often vetoed sustainability initiatives as micro improvements often have macro negative impacts when people fail to consider broader context at a system wide level.

	Please get back to the community when Council has undertaken sufficient and appropriate work to provide informed comment.
3	I strongly support the renewal of the synthetic turf surface at Charles Bean Oval, Lindfield, rather than reverting to natural grass. Key reasons for support: 1. High Community Usage: Charles Bean Oval is heavily used with approximately 3,753 hours of hired use in 2024 (including by the Northern Suburbs Football Association and Lindfield Learning Village). As noted in Council's engagement documentation, a synthetic surface enables significantly more playable hours than a natural turf field. 2. Reliability and Accessibility: Synthetic turf offers all-weather usability: Council's independent consultant (Smart Connection Consultancy) calculated that a new synthetic field could host 60–80 hours per week, more than triple the typical capacity estimated for natural turf. This means fewer cancellations due to weather or field recovery, ensuring better access for community sport, school PE, and casual users. 3. Long-Term Cost Efficiency: While synthetic turf has a higher replacement cost in the long run, its cost-per-hour is more favourable due to the high usage rate. Synthetic turf also requires less regular maintenance (no mowing or heavy irrigation), which could reduce the ongoing burden on Council's resources. 4. Environmental & Safety Considerations: The renewal plan takes environmental concerns seriously: experts recommend using organic infill, below-ground drainage with filtration, and recyclable shock pads. These measures help mitigate potential microplastic runoff, heat-island effects, and other environmental risks. 5. Community Benefit: Retaining a quality synthetic surface supports sustained participation in local sport. It ensures reliable training and match venues for clubs, schools, and community groups. It aligns with Council's goals for maximising use of its open space assets and delivering value for ratepayers. 6. Parking and Access Challenges: I acknowledge that parking is a concern, as flagged in Council's consultation. However, the benefits of continued high-capacity usage outweigh these challenges, particularly if Council explores shared use of the Lindfield Learning Village car park outside school hours. Conclusion: Renewing the synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval is a practical, community-centred, and future-proof solution. It will maximise the oval's capacity, support local sport, and deliver operational efficiencies while responsibly addressing environmental and health considerations. I encourage Council to proceed with the synthetic turf renewal, as proposed in the engagement hub.
4	Retaining the oval as synthetic turf ensures the community can enjoy reliable year-round access to football, regardless of weather conditions. Unlike natural grass, which becomes unsafe, muddy, or unusable after heavy rain or during periods of high use, synthetic turf provides a consistent and durable playing surface that maximises participation and reduces game cancellations. It supports player safety by preventing the uneven surfaces that develop when grass fields deteriorate and it allows clubs, schools, and local groups to confidently plan training and competition without disruption. Keeping the oval synthetic ultimately protects the continuity of sport, strengthens community

	engagement, and ensures the facility delivers value every single day of the year.
5	Leave it as is even if not FIFA standard. Due to parking constraints find another oval that would be suitable for upgraded synthetic turf.
6	Would prefer Charles Bean to stay Astroturf. From a footballing perspective, it is the only Astroturf football field around Lindfield and the playing grounds are good compared to the likes of Wellington and other nearby ovals which have horrible irrigation. As a football player I always enjoy training and playing there. It would detract a lot of footballing activity there if many people used it and the grass became worn very quickly as it is used a lot by higher leagues.
7	The ground should remain synthetic. It currently serves as an all weather field in the area and it should remain that way. It provides a great option to still play football when all other fields are closed.
8	Firstly thank you for asking the community to have their say on an important community facility. Secondly I feel this consultation and proposal, of going back to natural turf goes against any responsible asset management process. I am a local resident with two small kids (7 and 9) who has lived close to Charles Bean Oval for over 10 years. I walk the streets, my kids go to school at LLV, we kick the footy at Charles Bean, we ride our bikes on the streets and we love the area. The Council, in consultation with the residential developer back 15 years ago made a decision to replace the natural turf field with a synthetic field. Considerable investment was made and like anything there is a lifecycle of renewal required. 10 years for the synthetic carpet, replace it and let the kids play and exercise without ground closures. Sydney is getting so populated that Council's need to ensure facilities are multi-purpose and fit for purpose. No matter what anyone promises, a turf field will not hold up to the current usage levels and will not remain open in wet weather, when a synthetic field does. The consultation process has two reports from experts, both who make considerable amount of money advocating for their purpose, natural fields or synthetic fields. Thank you for providing them, but as with every report that is written in either favour of a proposal, it will be used in support or against an idea. What I think the Council needs to do is bring this decision back to common sense. As a local I would like to comment on a few areas of why it seems this proposal is on the table. I understand the differing positions of the community in regard to the benefits and concerns of synthetic fields. Parking: This seems to be the number one factor that is driving this consultation process. As a local who lives just over 500m away from the oval, I am very surprised at the local's concerns. I have not heard strong thoughts about the parking issues. We are in Sydney and wherever you go, parking is at a premium especially around sports ovals and schools. When a big sports day or an event is on at an oval or school, there are parking challenges, but people live and deal with it. Living in a surrounding street (Winchester Ave) I don't see the concerns that locals have raised, yes, it is not ideal but the majority deal with it. If this is about safety, some of the locals have been campaigning for a

	Wombat crossing at Eton Rd (adjacent to Abingdon Playground) for 2-3 years. This only would make it safer to walk to the sports field and school but there is not enough funding to provide that safety initiative, even though it is approved. Yet, if the proposal to change this field back to natural the Council will find $2.2M. The parking issue is further complicated by the introduction of high density housing. I am all for somewhere to live, but don't blame the traffic issues on the sportsfield. Proper planning and consultation with the State Government could have dealt with this when the field was being built and the upgrade to the school was being planned. A memorandum of understanding could have been agreed with the parking and problem solved. In regard to the LLV car parking arrangement, in my lived experience of visiting the oval most weekends and after school, the controlled boom gate is hardly ever closed. A real open discussion with the School, I am sure would result in a positive outcome. Financials: The proposal to build a new natural turf field at a cost of $2.2M is being considered as an option. Question – has this been costed in the Long Term Financial Plan or the new SRV increases of over 25%? When the synthetic sportsfield was built there would have been lifecycle costs included into the asset management plan for the renewal of the synthetic grass, shock pad etc. Complaints about Heat: There are options to reduce the heat on synthetic fields with the introduction of a cork infill. It needs to be researched properly and when undertaken well, can reduce the heat effect. It is never going to solve it, but it does assist. As parents and/or carers of kids, we need to step up and decide if it is too hot for a child to play out in the sun or on a synthetic field. It is similar to not allowing your child to slide down a steel slide in a playground – people need to use their common sense and take personal responsibility. Shade trees along the embankment side and southern side would assist also, however careful consideration of tree species type need to be investigated so that adverse tree litter doesn't increase maintenance and playability. These trees would also increase the spectator experience. Complaints about infill sticking to shoes: I think the benefits of physical activity to reduce obesity and the positives to mental health in children that sport brings would outweigh the concerns of some about bringing infill into people's houses and the school. Converting back to natural turf may have the same implications except mud being brought through the school and houses. Benefits of a synthetic field: I also want to comment on the benefits of why I think synthetic fields are a good option in some areas. I acknowledge that they have their place in the community and should not be done everywhere, but there should be a mix. Properly designed and locating them in the right areas are paramount to their success. Less Ground Closures: synthetic fields provide the opportunity for kids to play without ground closures. I understand that the council has a tough job to assess the conditions of playing fields, however it is essential that kids have the opportunity to play in the rain and keep fit and healthy. This season, I have seen so many kids on weekends disappointed that their soccer is cancelled. My boy has been lucky whereby he played every week except one. He usually plays out of the Lindfield Football Club. Some of his mates played less than half of their games. Physical wellbeing: in addition to the comments above, there is a link between keeping active and the social

	connection young kids get when playing sport with their mates. I spoke with many kids on a Monday morning at school, asked how their soccer went, and their disappointment showed in their voices when they advised that their game was washed out. Inclusions for the new renewal of the Synthetic Field: New trees planted strategically around the boundary of the field. Consideration of a play element on the southern side like fitness equipment, basketball ring etc. to better utilise this space. Consideration of a natural cork infill with proper infrastructure like sprinklers to assist with the cork settling. I am also able to be contacted further if needed for clarification on any of these comments.
9	Natural is best and yes to parking at LLV.
10	Charles Bean Oval has provided a much-needed venue for the community to play sports especially the rainy weather during the winter season comp when council closes grass fields when it rains. Sports are essential part of the children and adults' physical and mental well-being. Synthetic pitches give us players and our children who plays sports the much-needed physical activities. Thank you!
11	Keep Charles Bean synthetic.
12	I am the resident of the east side of Shout Ridge, any modification of Charles Bean Oval will have an in-depth impact to my daily living. I would like to add positive charges to our community. After analysing your information, I would love to congratulate the council recognising the local voice, highlighting the lack of parking and the fact that this Oval is having a high-volume traffic compare to similar scenarios. Finally, I understand the need to upgrade / renew the ground turf specially the need to comply with FIFA regulation. The independent review contains the table list i.e. water conservation, used of pesticides, peak wear and tear, etc., where I would like to add my opinion. The Location: Charles Bean Oval is located close to the Lane Cove National Park; this makes them one of the relevant stakeholders. Charles Bean Oval is located close to the Lane Cove River; this makes water conservation and pollutants implication to this ecological sensitive area, and the daily water usage, as this forms part of the Lane Cove Water Catchment area. Charles Bean Oval is located in an area prone to Bush Fire, the use of material should not post / increase the risk of Bush Fire. The Detail Feedback: In addition to what is on the table, I would love the council to consider a more systematic approach, instead of a patch-like solution i.e. the type of Turf to be used. The style of this writing is a feedback manner, so even the concerns already been considered, I needed to still add in the comment as to support / oppose / provide a detail view of aspects. I also want to congratulate that this proposal is well thought out. 1) Microplastics and Urban Heat: I would like to highlight that the heat and microplastics as a combined hazard item. The fact is the turf somehow contains a bitumen-like odour in summer when wind blows over the field, which deeply concerns me, as Young Teenagers or School Aged Kids logically have a higher impact by the negative odour due to the height difference. 2) High level of volume: The closest comparison in terms of distance to Charles Bean Oval is the

	Edenborough Oval. As in my point of view that is a walking distance between the 2 Ovals, but the hours of usage is not available. Please indicate a generalised usage level (even if actual data is not recorded). I would love to know whether the council have plans to upgrade Edenborough Oval and convert the current usage to the specialised football settings, and move other usage, for example Cricket to Lindfield Oval and Chatswood Oval. The independent review suggested that the 2,000+ hours playing hours for natural turf. If Edenborough Oval can become a specialised soccer facility, with an upgrade on the similar natural turf (namely the drainage, change room, lighting, etc.), with an additional 2,000+ playing hours, it should address the lost in capacity the Northern Suburb Football association may have raised. Based on the usage it is less than 4,000 hours. According to FIFA website, "FIFA QUALITY, designed for municipal, recreational and community football with a typical usage of 40–60 hours per week." Even using the high end of 60 hours per week, the simple maths is (60 hours x 52 Weeks) 3,120 Hours and compared to the current 3,763 Hours, the gap is just too high over the FIFA Quality Standard. The FIFA Quality Pro can provide even less hours. Therefore, the current assessment of 60+ hours play per week from the independent report provides a serious risk in maintaining the FIFA requirements and its certification process, as the current usage level is already 500+ hours over the annual recommendation for "FIFA Quality" on the turf requirement set for the Charles Bean Oval settings level i.e. municipal/community football. 3) Access to Charles Bean Oval and Edenborough Oval: I would also highlight that the design of the walking pathways is not attractive enough to make sharing of the usage between the 2 Ovals possible. For example, how the new apartment block walking way is designed (Public Private Spacing) that leads to Roxy Pl, but that is private property and (possibly) can't be used by the public. Is there a possibility that both sides of Eton Road have proper walking paths, and access to Edenborough Oval needs to be upgraded? Is the land area between street number 81 and 83 Grosvenor Road available to be used as a walking path to the Oval? Will this proposal create unwanted traffic, since that is a major link between Lady Game Drive and Pacific Highway, and we are talking about young teenagers accessing i.e. students from Lindfield Learning Village and Lindfield Public School? 4) Water conservation: As Charles Bean Oval approximates the Lane Cove National Park / Lane Cove River (water catchment), the use of micro-plastics and PFAS/PFOS becomes a highly sensitive topic. In addressing water usage using natural turf, water conservation is key for this to be successful. As Charles Bean Oval is so close to Lane Cove River, a borehole can easily be built; recycling of drainage from the turf using a Reverse Osmosis filter can prevent unnecessary chemicals e.g. Nitrates, Roundup, etc. The filter can recycle treated water. As this is a community project and stormwater management is also done at the council level, collecting and recycling stormwater can limit the impact of natural turf. 5) Problems with Organic infill: As per the links provided from NSW Football, regarding organic infill: "There still seems some experimentation on this within the Australian climate with the use of water cannons to keep the infill moist,

	which precludes it from many open parklands. Certainly, this would be the optimum surface for heat reduction, as the organic infill is damp. The downside is that some organic mixes (e.g. coconut husk/cork) are light and with heavy rain, cause floating effects. The breakdown of organic fibres, increased likelihood of weeds, and need for substantial watering means a big question mark remains over this option for Australian local governments." The second link from Football Victoria contains a large logo of the mentioned independent expert i.e. Smart Connection Consultancy. I want to highlight the point "precludes it from many open parklands." Charles Bean Oval not only is an open parkland, it is also in close proximity to Lane Cove National Park. I can't understand why Smart Connection changed its opinion and advised the council to use organic infill at Charles Bean Oval. I would also like to make an educated guess / personal comment that the reason why organic infill is precluded from open parklands is that it can pose a Bush Fire Risk. The organic infill material contains combustible material i.e. Cork, Coconut husk. Lane Cove National Park is a Blue Gum Forest, these trees are known to be a natural fire risk. The location itself is a bush fire prone area defined by Fire and Rescue NSW (the 1994 and 2019 near misses are proof of this). Placing these unproven technologies into a bush fire prone area creates a non-transferrable high risk (high impact, high likelihood); and there is not any financial means that can compensate this loss. I cannot support the use of organic material without a proper fire risk assessment from the infill used. I would prefer the information to be available before the 3 December 2025 community forum. Conclusion: I would love the above to be considered by the council. If things work out as planned, I should be attending the feedback session on 3 December 2025 and will notify the council for any added comments as needed.
13	Hi I would like to express my preference for synthetic turf on Charles Bean sporting field. It's such a precious thing to allow all-weather space for kids (my kids and other kids) to use regardless of weather all year round.
14	This field should 100% remain synthetic. Children need to be able to play football and without this type of surface they would not be able to. There are grass fields around the area, but most remain closed during the football season. Boys and girls teams are playing 10–15 games less due to grounds being closed. Keep Charles Bean synthetic.
15	In addition to avoiding the scourge of microplastics and better performance in hot weather, natural turf is also cheaper. So it sounds like natural turf is the way to go. It is outrageous that the NSW gov and council cannot come to a non-monetary arrangement re the car park. Still it's all our taxes either way so I don't mind if money has to change hands from local to state government to make it happen.
16	I strongly favour natural turf. The "cons" of synthetic turf hugely outweigh the "pros".

17	I am one of the people who are involved with running a NSFA-affiliated Football (Soccer) club on the north shore. It would be absolutely astounding if this very well used field was returned to grass turf after around 10 very successful years. The modern synthetic fields are light years away from how they were 10 years ago - we don't use rubber infill anymore. The amount of sport that has been lost to wet weather in Sydney in recent years has been horrendous and the synthetic pitches across the north shore have allowed a decent amount of play to still take place on those wet weekends. Given the accepted demographics of Sydney in the years to come - as confirmed by several State Govt reports over the years - we clearly need more synthetic fields in Sydney, not less. I sincerely hope that Ku-ring-gai chooses wisely here and considers the needs of the sporting community across the whole of the north shore.
18	While synthetic turf has acknowledged sustainability issues when viewed in isolation, it is essential that Council assesses Charles Bean Oval holistically. The broader community health benefits of increased year-round sport, reduced cancellations, and greater participation – especially for juniors – must be weighted alongside environmental impacts. A durable, all-weather surface enables more active commuting, structured sport, and informal recreation. When considered at the whole-of-Council scale, any environmental concerns can be responsibly balanced through complementary landscape strategies and biodiversity enhancements elsewhere in the LGA. A holistic approach supports improved public health outcomes while still delivering sustainable environmental stewardship.
19	We think the park should remain synthetic. This area has been a park long before the Council authorised apartment developments. These developments should cater for parking to allow the oval to continue to be used. Open space and areas for sport is extremely important when obesity and kids on devices is such a big issue in our community.
20	My main argument for retaining a synthetic pitch at Lindfield is to support the mental health of children and young adults and reduce suicide risk. If Lindfield is changed back to grass, it will drastically reduce playable hours, especially during periods of rain where grass fields can be unavailable for three weeks or more. This removes reliable access to sport at the exact time when young Australians need consistent physical and social outlets. With youth suicide rising sharply, restricting access to sport is not simply a sporting decision – it could lead to a serious human cost within our community. Upon request, I can provide third-party research to support the points below: Suicide is the leading cause of death for young Australians aged 15–24, accounting for around one-third of all deaths in this age group. Over the last two decades, the proportion of deaths due to suicide in young people has increased, highlighting a growing burden. National survey data shows Generation Z (16–25) reporting higher rates of suicidal thoughts, self-harm and suicide attempts than previous generations, indicating worsening mental health pressures on today's young people. There is strong, accessible evidence that regular sport participation

	supports mental health in children and teenagers: A 2024 study of more than 17,000 teenagers found that those participating in sports clubs were about 60% less likely to experience depression than less active peers. A major systematic review of sport for children and adolescents found improved self-esteem, better social connection and fewer depressive symptoms in young people who play sport. Australian guidelines and public health agencies explicitly note that physical activity is essential for children's psychosocial wellbeing and mental health.
21	I support natural turf at the Charles Bean Oval for environmental, health and social reasons. We need as much of the environment in natural grass as possible for all of the living creatures in the grass which support biodiversity. Synthetic turf blades contain PFAS and PFOS which potentially cause cancer – this has been documented. Synthetic grass is much hotter than natural grass and abrasions are common from playing on the synthetic surface. It is a bad idea all around.
22	I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed surface renewal of Charles Bean Oval. As a local resident who lives adjacent to Charles Bean Oval and someone actively involved in community sport and environmental policy, I strongly urge Council to critically challenge the assumptions behind reports provided by Agenviro and Smart Connections. 1. The Key Issue: Unrealistic Usage Assumptions Underpin Synthetic Turf Justification. Smart Connections' consultant report assumes that Charles Bean Oval will be used for: 70 hours per week, 50 weeks per year, with 60–70 players per hour. These figures significantly exceed realistic and observed usage patterns. A recent comprehensive report of sportsfields in Northern Suburbs of Sydney by Agenviro drew on data obtained directly from sports clubs and highlighted the significant discrepancy between actual hours played and hours booked with most fields. This draws into question reliance on financial modelling that focuses on hours booked in assessing the true community value of sportsfields. 1.1 Weekly & Seasonal Use Reality: A realistic operational year for football should subtract: Christmas/New Year shutdown (~6 weeks), school holidays (~9 weeks) with minimal use, summer futsal (~13 weeks) which primarily occurs after 6pm, and heat cancellation days, which are far more common for synthetic turf. When these factors are fully accounted for, synthetic turf cannot reliably deliver the utilisation levels required to make the synthetic surface's financial model viable in comparison with natural turf. 1.2 Player Density Assumptions Are Unsupported: Smart Connections assumes 60–70 players per hour. AgEnviro's analysis shows real-world player density is far lower: average actual player load during weekend football = ~33 players per hour (based on club data). NSW guidelines and AgEnviro confirm that even intensely used natural turf fields are modelled using registered players per week, not "players per hour" because the latter is highly misleading. "The carrying capacity of sporting fields should never be expressed in hours per week…wear levels depend on players, age, and site conditions." 2. Capacity of a Best-Practice Natural Turf Field at Charles Bean Oval: AgEnviro confirms

	that best-practice natural turf – properly built and maintained in line with NSW Government 2025 Best Practice Guidelines – can accommodate: 2,000+ hours of annual use, and up to ~2,500 hours at this specific site due to school adjacency. More importantly, carrying capacity is better expressed as registered players per week: natural turf at CBO could support >550 players/week, with intense fields elsewhere in Sydney safely carrying 800 players/week. This aligns with the realistic observed needs of NSFA, Lindfield Learning Village and other schools using the site. 3. Synthetic Turf Wear, Heat & Weather Vulnerability: 3.1 Heat Impact: Synthetic turf is significantly impaired by heat – organic infill fields regularly exceed 55°C when air temperature is above 30°C. Synthetic surfaces experience more cancellation days due to heat than natural turf. This directly contradicts claims that synthetic turf provides superior "all-weather" playability. 3.2 Wear Impacts Synthetic Lifespan: Synthetic turf lifespan drops sharply as usage increases. AgEnviro states: "Synthetic turf lifespan will be reduced in proportion to increased wear levels, requiring carpet replacement every 5–7 years for high wear levels." Thus, the assumption that Charles Bean Oval can sustain 70 hours/week without accelerated degradation is untenable. 4. Distorted Cost Comparisons: The financial modelling underpinning the synthetic turf proposal relies on assumptions that significantly distort both annualised operational costs and long-term lifecycle expenditure. A valid comparison must assess synthetic turf against a modern, best-practice natural turf system, not against the aging surface currently in place. When realistic utilisation levels, renewal cycles, hire fees, disposal liabilities and regulatory changes are considered, synthetic turf becomes markedly more expensive over the long term. 4.1 Inflated Utilisation Hours Artificially Reduce Synthetic Turf Costs: The Smart Connections modelling assumes 70 hours of play per week, 50 weeks per year, totalling 3,500 hours annually. This level of utilisation is not achievable, nor is it supported by any sports participation data in Northern Sydney. Seasonal downtime, school holidays, heat cancellations and practical scheduling constraints reduce real-world access to approximately 2,000 hours per year. By dividing costs by an unrealistically high number of hours, the model artificially lowers the apparent cost per hour of synthetic turf. 4.2 Failure to Model Best-Practice Natural Turf Results in an Invalid Comparison: The Smart Connections report compares synthetic turf to the existing natural turf at Charles Bean Oval rather than to a rebuilt, engineered natural turf field designed to modern standards. A contemporary natural turf system, properly constructed and drained, can support 2,000–2,500 hours of annual use and has a 30-year functional lifespan, without the steep renewal and disposal costs associated with synthetic turf. 4.3 Hire Rate Distortion – Natural Turf vs Synthetic Turf ($36.45 vs $56.86): Council's current hire rates create a fundamental distortion in the financial comparison. The published rates are: natural turf $36.45 per hour, synthetic turf $56.86 per hour. On paper, this makes synthetic turf appear significantly more valuable or financially preferable. But these prices were established under assumptions that current natural turf fields are low-capacity, older-standard assets, and that synthetic turf operates at far higher playable hours (an assumption shown to be unrealistic). 4.4 Maintenance Costs for

	Synthetic Turf Are Underestimated: Synthetic turf is often marketed as "low maintenance," but best-practice management requires: grooming every 2–4 weeks, surface decompaction, infill monitoring and top-ups, repair of seams and worn areas, heat mitigation watering during peak summer. Annual synthetic turf maintenance costs generally match those of engineered natural turf. 4.6 Corrected Lifecycle Perspective: Natural Turf Is the Lower-Cost, Lower-Risk Investment. Best-Practice Natural Turf: long asset life (30+ years), lower construction cost, lower maintenance cost, no hazardous waste, no PFAS compliance burden, entire lifecycle predictable and stable. Synthetic Turf: high installation cost, 3–4 carpet replacements over 30 years, multiple shock pad renewals, major disposal costs every cycle, PFAS and microplastic regulation risk, higher energy and operational costs, substantial liability for future compliance and remediation. 4.7 Financial Risk Exposure Is Much Higher for Synthetic Turf: Choosing synthetic turf exposes Council to cost volatility, regulatory uncertainty (PFAS and microplastics), liability for environmental contamination, high disposal and replacement costs, and the possibility of stranded assets if PFAS bans progress. Best-practice natural turf carries none of these risks. 5. Microplastics – Documented Pollution Pathways at Charles Bean Oval: NSW Government documentation and the international research base are clear: even with improved drainage, containment methods, and organic infills, synthetic turf fields are a continuous source of microplastic pollution due to UV degradation, mechanical wear, and weathering. Charles Bean Oval is uniquely positioned: on the boundary of 345 residences (Crimson Hill estate), immediately adjacent to 900+ students at Lindfield Learning Village, within a connected stormwater catchment. Microplastics in this context create heightened risk because children experience greater dermal and inhalation exposure during play. 6. PFAS and Health – New Government Evidence Cannot Be Ignored: The Federal Government's 2025 Senate Select Committee on PFAS, released in November 2025, found that synthetic turf is "poorly regulated" across Australia, a single field can shed 800–3,200 kg of PFAS-contaminated particulate over its life, and at end-of-life, synthetic turf leaves "hundreds of thousands of kilograms of PFAS-contaminated pollutants." The Report recommends a national regulation banning PFAS in synthetic turf and a coordinated national response. Council should require PFAS testing using the TOP Assay before considering any synthetic proposal. 8. Conclusion & Recommendations: I strongly support the recommendation that Charles Bean Oval be converted to a best-practice natural turf field. Council should: (1) complete financial modelling based on realistic assumptions in relation to capacity, maintenance and recycling; (2) objectively review and update the current council hire rates for best practice natural turf fields; (3) require formal TOP Assay testing for any future synthetic product proposals; (4) ensure a fair and transparent community-benefit test, not a single-sport demand test. Charles Bean Oval is a unique community asset situated in a dense residential and school environment. A natural turf solution is the only option that balances sporting needs with environmental responsibility, community health, and long-term financial sustainability.

23	The synthetic turf that is planned to be used is not adequate for many reasons. First, they are fire hazards that replace carbon sinks with urban heat islands, increase runoff and releasing chemical leachates and microplastics, not only into the Lane Cove River, but also the Sydney Harbour. Consequently, the use of this material will have a detrimental impact on Sydney aquatic life and hence entering the food chain. Scientific studies are backing the no recommendation of synthetic fields, and the EU is banning them. Moreover, in the market there is a new generation of already developed natural turf which is much more convenient.
24	Natural Turf.
25	Council is seeking community feedback on the choice of material to replace the current synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval at West Lindfield. The current surface was installed in 2013 at the time when the residential complex was owned and being redeveloped by Defence Housing Australia. Therefore, at that time Ku-ring-gai Council had no say in the choice of surface. Summary: We support conversion of the oval to a best practice natural grass surface. The current synthetic turf surface was installed at a time when the risks and impacts of a new technology like synthetic turf in a location like Charles Bean Oval were not properly understood. According to the NSW government's DPHI Synthetic turf sports fields in public open space – guideline for decision-makers (DPHI ST guideline) published in 2024, the site is not suitable for synthetic turf. As outlined below, there are many reasons that favour the use of natural turf: bushfire risk; greenhouse gas emissions; polluting chemicals and microplastics; infill stability is uncertain; natural turf contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; recycling is not a simple solution to end-of-life waste; costs of construction and maintenance; realistic data on hours of play – heat impacts. Bushfire risk: An aerial view of the oval shows how close it is to dense bushland that is part of Lane Cove National Park. The area was severely impacted by bushfires in January 1994. At the forum on 3 Dec the consultant dismissed flammability as an issue claiming that the turf simply melted. On the other hand the DPHI ST guideline states on page 12: "Synthetic turf sports fields should not be located in areas of high bushfire and extreme flood risk." High flammability and release of toxic gases are serious issues. There is only one road in and out from Charles Bean Oval and the surrounding residential area making the bushfire risk more acute. Greenhouse gas emissions: Council's 2020 Climate Change Policy includes the following objective: to reduce council's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to levels consistent with the international goal of limiting global heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, with no overshoot, equating to a reduction in total GHG emissions of 50% by 2030 (relative to 2000 levels), or earlier, and a reduction in total GHG emissions to net zero by 2040, or earlier. Synthetic turf and the base shockpad are made of plastic polymers such as polypropylene, polyethylene foam and nylon the main ingredients of which are fossil fuels. The decision to use synthetic turf goes against the council's Climate Change Policy to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. Polluting chemicals and microplastics: Synthetic

	turf is a source of pollution of microplastics, PFAS and other chemicals. Synthetic turf blades deteriorate over time and break off with use of the playing surface and also with general weather conditions such as sun exposure. It is unlikely that all broken off fibres can be caught in the filtering system. A quantity of fibres will adhere to the players' shoes and clothing or blow away in the wind. These fibres constitute microfibre pollution that will end up in the bushland and creeklines near to the field. There are government moves to ban the importation of products containing a broad range of PFAS chemicals. A Senate Select Committee report recently released recommends that synthetic turf is banned in new turf fields and a coordinated response to manage existing contamination. Infill stability is uncertain: The proposed organic infill is still experimental in Australian conditions. There is a risk that it will wash away in a heavy rainfall event. Natural turf contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions: Natural grass continuously sequesters carbon as it grows and regenerates. It provides an environment where soil microbes can flourish and birds can search for food. The quality of the grass will need to be supported by the use of fertilisers, the use of which can be managed to limit runoff. The other main resource needed is water that could be collected off the surrounding apartment buildings. Overall, the use of natural grass has a significantly lower impact on the environment. Recycling is not a simple solution to end of life waste: Smart Connections claims the components of synthetic turf can be fully reused or recycled at the end of its life after 10 to 12 years. The technology and feasibility of the plant in Barnawartha is not proven yet. Currently only about 14% of used plastics are recycled. Costs of construction and maintenance: It is clear that it would cost less to install and maintain a best practice natural turf surface. The telling factor is that the synthetic turf needs to be replaced every 10 to 12 years. The more playing hours that are achieved, the more frequent will be the need for replacement. Realistic data on hours of play – heat impacts: The information about playing hours given in the 'yoursay' webpage for comparing natural turf usable hours with synthetic turf is not valid. The AgEnviro report states that, if Charles Bean Oval was converted to best practice natural turf it would be capable of handling more than 2,000 hours of annual usage. The Smart Connections report does not cover the fact that competition is concentrated in April to September. No allowance is made for days lost because of heat in the warmer months. Conclusion – Independent assessment required under the DPHI Guideline: As explained in the DPHI ST guideline, independent assessments by NPWS, RFS and the EPA would be required before a decision can be made to seriously consider installing synthetic turf. The issues listed above point to the need for, at the very least, a second stage assessment in the form of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) in accordance with the Secretary's Division 5.1 guideline.
26	I prefer natural grass for Charles Bean Oval. As the oval is used daily by school children, health and safety must come first. Natural grass stays much cooler than synthetic turf, reducing the risk of heat stress and burns in hot weather. It is also softer and safer for children who regularly fall, sit, and play on the ground. Natural grass is more environmentally sustainable, supporting natural

	drainage and avoiding microplastic pollution. In the long term, it is also more cost-effective, as synthetic turf has a limited lifespan and high replacement costs. For a school-used oval, natural grass is the safer and more responsible choice.
27	I'm a local resident, a former teacher from local schools that used the oval, and both I and my sons play soccer with NSFA. Ultimately, I would prefer Charles Bean resurfaced as a synthetic pitch and purely comes down to increasing (or maintaining) its usability as a resource for the community. In the numbers given on your website, Charles Bean currently accommodates 3 times as many hired hours compared to other natural pitches nearby. With more and more people moving into the area, I simply don't think the council or the community can afford to lose an excellent all-weather facility like Charles Bean in its current format. Even in the natural turf proposal information, I don't think a natural turf oval would be capable of dealing with the >3,700 hours it's used for, nor the number of players that accommodates at trainings etc. When considering the pros and cons given of each – my thoughts are as follows: Yes, organic infill should be used if resurfacing as synthetic for numerous reasons. Environmental, health issues of using recycled rubber, the annoyance of "Charles' Beans" as my students used to call them (the rubber infill) getting dragged through classrooms, shoes etc. I believe Blackman Oval in Lane Cove uses something similar (woodchip?) to great effect. You will lose more days to rain and wet weather on a natural pitch than for heat on a synthetic pitch, in my experience. Wet periods close ovals early to protect them, and then often remain closed for similar reasons. In a wet week, the numbers of hours lost and the number of individuals impacted who miss out on training, games etc. is significant. Additionally, having a surface that you know isn't going to be impacted by rain is a game changer from a sports organisation perspective. Trainings, teaching/lessons, games – can all be planned around and go ahead 99% of the time knowing that you don't need to wait to find out whether or not the oval will remain open/get closed during wet periods. This creates huge certainty for teachers, coaches, players, parents etc. in organising and planning for their recreation. Even with best-in-class design, I don't believe a natural field will be able to hold up to the level of wear given if current hours/level of usage were maintained on the oval. The goal mouths get ripped up and then can be cordoned off to protect them, meaning they can't get used. Up and down the sidelines suffer the same. Then the ground will need to be 'rested' or equally, not used during or after long, wet periods in order to protect it. Overall, this just reduces the usability of the oval. We need to think about and prioritise usability overall given high demand and community population increases. A synthetic field gives greater certainty and will just be able to cope with the demand for playing space, which is only going to continue to grow as the population grows. I think reverting to a natural surface option will cause a loss of total usability from a perspective of 'usable hours', especially factoring in wet weather and rain.

28	Our group is strongly against synthetic turf fields in the catchment of the Lane Cove National Park. The Park is increasingly under pressure from urban runoff and flooding, development on the boundaries and weed invasion. Synthetic fields have multiple problems especially in a sensitive ecological area such as the catchment of the Lane Cove National Park. These are highlighted in the report you have included from the NSW Chief Scientist and Engineer investigation. We are against synthetic turf for the following reasons: chemical leachates in runoff water entering Lane Cove River and Sydney Harbour; currently insufficient research on potential impacts of these chemicals on the health of humans and aquatic life; micro plastics, heavy metals and contaminants entering the food chain; significant reduction in soil health; urban heat island replacing natural heat sink; fire hazard; limited lifespan, high replacement costs, non-recyclable; the EU and USA are now restricting the installation of rubber crumb synthetic fields and are removing such fields; suspension of fauna corridors; Chief Scientist recommends synthetic turf is not used in ecologically sensitive or flood risk areas. In summary, we consider cost-benefit of the new generation of natural turf and best practice management outweighs multiple long term environmental risks and economics of synthetic turf.
29	Given the relative pros and cons of the two options I strongly prefer the natural option.
30	I missed the survey window. I thought it was midnight not 5pm. I'm a local resident with three kids who attend LLV and who also play soccer for Lindfield Football Club. I strongly support a move back to grass. The current oval was presumably meant to be safe when it was implemented and has now been shown to be unsafe. I don't see why we should trust the synthetic turf vendors now. If we must have synthetic turf it should be certified to the absolute highest standards. But there are so very many reasons not to have a plastic oval. Less plastic everywhere including people's lungs. Increased amenity to local wildlife and humans. Better impact on local microclimate. The kids say the oval is too hot to go to at lunch time in term 4 of the year. And they've had soccer training sessions cancelled on hot days. It seems like a well drained natural turf oval should provide more play days than a synthetic turf oval. Regarding parking, the private roads beyond the oval should have to provide parking instead of having signs up saying only residents can enter. These areas provide no parking, add traffic to all the local roads, and then the residents complain about access to their private roads being blocked by people illegally double parking. Those developments should never have been allowed to be built without providing their fair share of public parking.
31	We should not be resurfacing it.
32	Please replace the surface with new artificial surface to facilitate more football, better playing surface, reduced annual maintenance cost and to continue the success that the Charles Bean artificial surface has been to date.

33	I vote for synthetic turf playing surface.
34	I would like to urge Ku-ring-gai Council, in the strongest possible terms, to retain Charles Bean Oval as a synthetic-turf playing field. The Council's own report highlights the substantial difference in playable hours between synthetic and natural turf. This is the decisive issue: demand for football fields in Ku-ring-gai far exceeds the capacity that natural turf can provide. A comparison with Mimosa Oval as well as the examples of Wellington and Primula (which have been renovated more recently) reinforces this point. The number of hours playable, the consistency of the surface, and the reliability of preseason and in-season conditions all clearly favour a synthetic surface. In addition to the advantages listed on the Council website, it is important to note that natural turf fields are effectively unusable during much of the preseason. Football boots are not permitted, which severely limits the training that clubs can conduct during this critical period of player preparation. Synthetic turf, by contrast, provides a safe, durable, and consistent surface that can support preseason programs without restriction. Quality – not just quantity – must also be considered. Natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai are regularly closed due to wet weather, waterlogging, and resulting surface damage. Even when open, conditions are often poor, and clubs must independently close fields to prevent player injury or long-term surface degradation. These disruptions significantly reduce both training and match opportunities. Synthetic turf fields avoid these problems, maintaining a uniformly high standard of play regardless of rainfall and providing a dependable surface for the community. For these reasons, the quality, safety, and hours of use possible represent clear community benefits that cannot be matched by a return of the synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval to natural turf. As a parallel, we should note that netball is no longer played on turf fields and in Ku-ring-gai the vast majority of cricket wickets are now artificial, both to meet the needs of the community in quantity of use and quality of surface required. Regarding parking, I strongly encourage Council to negotiate access to the Lindfield Learning Village car park for use outside school hours and on weekends. Allowing sporting users to park there – with a reasonable paid-parking arrangement if appropriate – would resolve parking pressures while providing a fair and practical solution for all stakeholders.
35	I would like to urge Ku-ring-gai Council, in the strongest possible terms, to retain Charles Bean Oval as a synthetic-turf playing field. The Council's own report highlights the substantial difference in playable hours between synthetic and natural turf. This is the decisive issue: demand for football fields in Ku-ring-gai far exceeds the capacity that natural turf can provide. A comparison with Mimosa Oval as well as the examples of Wellington and Primula (which have been renovated more recently) reinforces this point. The number of hours playable, the consistency of the surface, and the reliability of preseason and in-season conditions all clearly favour a synthetic surface. Indeed, Mimosa is living proof that you cannot expect a club of 1,000 players to train and play on a grass field. The pitch just cannot cope and not a single week goes by without someone sustaining some sort of injury caused by the playing surface. In

	addition to the advantages listed on the Council website, it is important to note that natural turf fields are effectively unusable during much of the preseason. Football boots are not permitted, which severely limits the training that clubs can conduct during this critical period of player preparation. Training without boots represents a significant risk of serious injury. Synthetic turf, by contrast, provides a safe, durable, and consistent surface that can support preseason programs without restriction. Quality – not just quantity – must also be considered. Natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai are regularly closed due to wet weather, waterlogging, and resulting surface damage. Even when open, conditions are often poor, and clubs must independently close fields to prevent player injury or long-term surface degradation. These disruptions significantly reduce both training and match opportunities. Synthetic turf fields avoid these problems, maintaining a uniformly high standard of play regardless of rainfall and providing a dependable surface for the community. Retention of a synthetic pitch at Charles Bean is particularly important for the female players in our community. In council areas with synthetic fields, female players average 18 games per season and a 100% chance to train on a weekly basis. In areas without enough synthetic fields female players may only get 12–14 games per season at best and sometimes cannot complete their season competition at all. Over the past few seasons we at WPFC have only managed less than 50% of our weekly training times, and when we do actually get to train we are squeezed for space and at risk of injury from the parlous state of the field. For these reasons, the quality, safety, and hours of use possible represent clear community benefits that cannot be matched by a return of the synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval to natural turf. As a parallel, we should note that netball is no longer played on turf fields and in Ku-ring-gai the vast majority of cricket wickets are now artificial, both to meet the needs of the community in quantity of use and quality of surface required. Regarding parking, I strongly encourage Council to negotiate access to the Lindfield Learning Village car park for use outside school hours and on weekends. Allowing sporting users to park there – with a reasonable paid-parking arrangement if appropriate – would resolve parking pressures while providing a fair and practical solution for all stakeholders.
36	I provide this example of the detrimental impact of synthetic turf on the environment. Based on this example, we strongly recommend that the Charles Bean playing field should be replaced with new drainage, irrigation and natural turf to avoid the production of plastic waste locally and when synthetic turf is worn out and sent to landfill. One problem with Synthetic turf: Futsal Courts were constructed at West Lindfield Sport and Recreation Club in 2013–2014. Synthetic turf was laid. In 2025, 11 years later and no maintenance has been done by the Club. All water from the futsal courts drains into bushland. The vegetation community is an endangered ecological community, Sydney Turpentine Ironbark Forest, which is valued by the community. Bushcare volunteers visit several mornings each month to regenerate the native vegetation, saving it from invading weeds. At the foot of the slope is a mass of plastic fibres. Action is required: It is not acceptable to dump waste into

	bushland. Plastic fibres will work their way towards the creek. Although the impacts on the soil, the fauna in the bushland and the water is not well understood in this case, studies of plastic in seabirds is known to damage their health and contribute to death. I recommend that the West Lindfield Sport and Recreation Club take their environmental responsibility seriously and engage a qualified person to clean up this plastic waste and remove it from the site. A filter should be installed to trap the plastic and prevent it from being shed into the bush. This must be the responsibility of the West Lindfield Sport and Recreation Club.
37	We acknowledge that synthetic turf fields may have a greater theoretical capacity and that synthetic can generally handle a higher level of use than natural turf. While not a concern for sporting clubs, we maintain that in determining the replacement of Charles Bean Oval sport surface, Council and Councillors have a duty of care to the health, well-being and diverse needs of the wider community. Putting the interests of sporting bodies foremost includes failure to consider the wider community and the denial of health, environmental and potential safety risk factors. 1. Community and Diverse Use: Soccer Clubs repeatedly insist that satisfying soccer needs is in the interest of the health of our community as it encourages physical activity. This is true, but other activities exist that are good for community physical, mental and social well-being which are prohibited or limited when a sport field is synthetic. The Public Open Space Strategy for NSW 2023 states: "The long-term viability of public open space should be assessed with comprehensive analysis of all social, health, public and environmental benefits, for all parties, now and into the future. The value calculation also has to consider accessibility and inclusion of all community members." Synthetic fields limit access to diverse activities. The Crimson Hill estate, where the Oval is located, includes 345 dwellings. The residents of these properties should have access to a multi-use open space for both active and passive exercise and enjoyment. A natural turf field provides green open space that is more useable, healthy and aesthetically appealing to the wider local community. 2. Health and Environmental Concerns: Synthetic blades are made of plastic polymers. The thatching and backing materials are typically polypropylene, polyester or recycled rubber and plastic. Any health impacts after installation from fumes or disintegrating materials would impact the residents of the adjoining 345 dwellings and the 900 students of Lindfield Learning Village K–12 school who use the oval. PFAS: The manufacturing process of synthetic turf includes the use of PFAS products, known as "forever chemicals." On 19 November 2025 the Select Committee on PFAS presented its final report finding that a single artificial turf field can lose from 800kg to 3,200kg of PFAS-contaminated particulate directly into the environment. The committee recommends that the Australian Government works with states and territories to ban PFAS in synthetic turf, artificial ground coverings and associated products. Microplastics: The spread of microplastics to the environment and living organisms has become an issue of health concern. Synthetic blades and supporting materials break down with wear, UV exposure and weathering, releasing microplastics into the environment and PFAS

	products into soil and waterways. 3. Issues Raised by Lindfield Learning Village: AgEnviro lists issues raised by the adjoining school, including abrasions, heat-related effects, crumb dispersal and student exposure to heavy metals and PFAS – all of which could be reduced or eliminated with natural turf. 4. Hybrid Turf: AgEnviro Solutions suggests hybrid turf as an alternative should Council reject natural turf. If this were seriously considered by Council, the hybrid must minimise the introduction of synthetic materials, with use of hybrid only in high-wear areas. 5. Heat and Bushfire Risk: Under extreme heat, synthetic turf is affected by radiant heat and reflected sunlight, leading to extreme surface temperatures which have caused burns to players and can lead to cancellation of sport. There is a potential increase in bushfire risk with increased native tree canopy plantings. Polymers used in synthetic turf have a low melting point, and contrary to statements at the Public Consultation, there is evidence that synthetic turf can be ignited in bushfire settings with additional risk due to toxic gases and noxious emissions. 6. Fit for Purpose Surface: 4G fields are still in the early stage of development and are not yet regulated by FIFA or FA. Council must consider the risks and implications of a non-certified synthetic surface and any potential costs for certification. 7. Regulatory Obligations – EP&A Act (1979): Before proceeding, users need to review Part 5, Division 5.1 Assessments and address the Addendum which identifies key environmental impacts of synthetic turf. Recommendation: We urge that in its determination, Council: puts the best interests of the wider community first; accepts the evidence indicating high risk to human and animal health and the environment from PFAS and microplastics; notes that there is a lack of standards about the materials and chemical composition of synthetic turf; includes the assessment of bushfire risk for both natural and synthetic turf surfaces; adopts the Precautionary Principle and adopts natural turf to minimise health, environmental and safety risks; incorporates the full cost of the Smart Connection Consultancy proposals for planting trees, constructing a jogging/walking track, and any other proposals designed to address impacts from synthetic turf. Conclusion: We believe that the decision between synthetic and natural turf comes down to delivering the best environmental, social, health and financial outcome for the wider community. On balance, we support the replacement of the oval with best practice natural turf, installed as per the AgEnviro Solutions September 2025 Report and maintained as prescribed.
38	We are a local community-based environmental group, with a membership of over 500 in the Hornsby/Ku-ring-gai area. Our main objective is to preserve natural bushland in northern Sydney from alienation or degradation and ensure proper management of this bushland including ensuring its role as habitat for animal species. Our group has considerable experience and expertise in environmental issues and regenerating and preserving natural bushland and native vegetation. Council is seeking community feedback on the choice of material to replace the current synthetic surface at Charles Bean Oval at West Lindfield. The current surface was installed in 2013 at the time when the residential complex was owned and being redeveloped by Defence Housing Australia. Therefore, at that time Ku-ring-gai Council had no say in the choice

	of surface. Summary: We support conversion of the oval to a best practice natural grass surface. The current synthetic turf surface was installed at a time when the risks and impacts of a new technology like synthetic turf in a location like Charles Bean Oval were not properly understood. According to the NSW government's DPHI Synthetic Turf Sports Fields in Public Open Space – Guideline for Decision-Makers (DPHI ST Guideline, 2024), the site is not suitable for synthetic turf. As outlined below, there are many reasons that favour the use of natural turf: bushfire risk; greenhouse gas emissions; polluting chemicals and microplastics; infill stability is uncertain; natural turf contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions; recycling is not a simple solution to end-of-life waste; costs of construction and maintenance; realistic data on hours of play – heat impacts. Bushfire Risk: An aerial view of the oval shows how close it is to dense bushland that is part of Lane Cove National Park. The area was severely impacted by bushfires in January 1994. The DPHI ST Guideline states on page 12: "Synthetic turf sports fields should not be located in areas of high bushfire and extreme flood risk." High flammability and release of toxic gases are serious issues. There is only one road in and out from Charles Bean Oval and the surrounding residential area, making the bushfire risk more acute. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Council's 2020 Climate Change Policy includes the objective to reduce council's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) to levels consistent with the international goal of limiting global heating to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, with no overshoot. Synthetic turf and the base shockpad are made of plastic polymers such as polypropylene, polyethylene foam and nylon, the main ingredients of which are fossil fuels. The decision to use synthetic turf as against a natural product goes against the Council's Climate Change Policy. Polluting Chemicals and Microplastics: Synthetic turf is a source of pollution of microplastics, PFAS and other chemicals. Synthetic turf blades deteriorate over time and break off with use of the playing surface as well as with general weather conditions such as sun exposure. These fibres constitute microfibre pollution that will end up in the bushland and creeklines near the field. A Senate Select Committee report recently released recommends that synthetic turf is banned in new turf fields and calls for a coordinated response to manage existing contamination. Infill Stability is Uncertain: The proposed organic infill is still experimental in Australian conditions. There is a risk that it will wash away in a heavy rainfall event. Natural Turf Contributes to a Reduction in Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Natural grass continuously sequesters carbon as it grows and regenerates. The use of natural grass has a significantly lower impact on the environment. Recycling is Not a Simple Solution to End-of-Life Waste: Smart Connections claims the components of synthetic turf can be fully reused or recycled at the end of its life. However, the technology and feasibility of the plant in Barnawartha is not yet proven. Currently only around 14% of used plastics are recycled. Costs of Construction and Maintenance: It would cost less to install and maintain a best practice natural turf surface. The telling factor is that the synthetic turf needs to be replaced every 10 to 12 years. Realistic Data on Hours of Play – Heat Impacts: The AgEnviro report states that, if Charles Bean Oval were converted to best practice natural turf, it would be capable of

	handling more than 2,000 hours of annual usage. There is no comprehensive comparison data of likely hours of use in the two reports provided. The Smart Connections report does not address the fact that competition is concentrated in April to September, nor does it make allowance for days lost because of heat in the warmer months. Conclusion: Independent Assessment Required Under the DPHI Guideline. As explained in the DPHI ST Guideline, independent assessments by NPWS, RFS and the EPA would be required before a decision can be made to seriously consider installing synthetic turf. The issues listed above point to the need for, at the very least, a second stage assessment in the form of a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) in accordance with the Secretary's Division 5.1 Guideline, which would be subject to consultation with interested stakeholders.
39	The site is adjacent to Lane Cove National Park (the National Park), which is land reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act (NPW Act). We are interested in the sustainable renewal of the oval given concerns with contamination including black rubber material and microplastics collecting in the existing drainage system, contaminating the sensitive receiving waters and Lane Cove National Park. We understand that the synthetic turf playing surface at Charles Bean Oval no longer meets relevant standards, and Council are exploring options for renewal. Council has sought independent expert advice to consider two proposed options, being natural turf and synthetic turf. Notwithstanding Council's design for the project, we request that the following is implemented in the proposed renewal: 1. The matters listed in the published guideline Developments adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Service lands (DPIE-NPWS 2020) are considered and addressed by Council. 2. The adjacent National Park boundary must be clearly delineated and, if required, accurately surveyed to ensure encroachment onto the park does not occur. 3. Stormwater drainage must be designed in a way so no surface water / stormwater runoff from the property enters the adjacent National Park from the development site at any time during the construction. 4. No sediment or soil is permitted to enter the adjacent National Park from the site at any time during construction or post-completion. 5. The provision of best management practice (BMP) Water Sensitive Urban Design (WSUD) standards and principals, appropriate to discharging into the adjacent sensitive national park and downstream receiving waters. The condition and performance of this infrastructure must be continually monitored as part of a formal plan, and regularly maintained in accordance with BMP for the life of the structure. 6. Council implements a robust monitoring program for testing downstream water and sediment quality entering the park. Council's monitoring program should include testing by a NATA approved laboratory able to test accurately for contaminants and microplastics. We also request access to the testing results of sample locations adjacent to the national park as they become available. 7. Council assesses and manages impacts to threatened species and their habitat as per legislative requirements. The surrounding environment constitutes key habitat for threatened species such as the Powerful Owl, Red-crowned Toadlet, Grey-headed Flying Fox and Darwinia biflora. 8. A notification and response plan is

	prepared to address any spill of wastes, chemicals, sediments or other harmful materials that have the potential to impact the National Park during construction and following the completion of works. We support the renewal of Charles Bean Oval but has concerns regarding the construction and operational maintenance of the field. Detailed analysis of the following factors should be undertaken prior to committing to a turf option: demand and capacity; local climatic and environmental factors; sport-specific requirements; broader environmental issues; social impacts; health impacts; asset management and lifecycle costing. As well as environmental considerations such as: water issues (i.e. stormwater runoff and leaching); carbon footprint; emissions from materials manufacture and transportation; end of life disposal; the impact on local microenvironments; soil regeneration and dust stabilisation; heat dissipation; noise; glare; effects on local biodiversity and habitat. Our Preference – Natural Turf Option: We are supportive of a natural turf option with sustainably sourced materials. Synthetic turf has historically caused significant environmental impacts to parks and reserves, including to Lane Cove National Park. Hydrologic and hydraulic flows: A synthetic turf inhibits natural infiltration of water increasing runoff. We recommend that further analysis is undertaken to quantify the expected increased flow and volume of water to be discharged offsite, as there is potential for downstream impacts to waterways, including Blue Gum Creek and Lane Cove River. Catchment water quality: Council is reminded that the adjacent park is an environmentally sensitive area, and Lane Cove River is a regulated catchment under Chapter 6 of the State Environmental Planning Policy (Biodiversity and Conservation) 2021 (BCSEPP). Pollution and sedimentation: We seek assurance that the risk of pollution and sediment dispersal will be managed to prevent any further pollution of watercourses draining into the National Park. The stormwater system must sufficiently filter contaminants, microplastics, cork sludge and other mobilised materials. Soil impacts: We highlight the long-term impact on the soil and the macro and microorganisms that inhabit the soil beneath synthetic turf. These developments damage soil structure, soil microbes and soil life. We request consideration and consultation as a stakeholder throughout the development of the project.
40	Soils and the Importance of Soils to the Future. As it stands, the call for submissions on synthetic grass is limited to impact on humans. However, all the impacts are felt more on Flora and Fauna (Biodiversity), insects, and climate. "The nation that destroys its soil destroys itself." — Franklin D. Roosevelt. This quote illustrates what has happened to the most sensitive areas of the Ku-ring-gai Local Government Area (KRG/LGA). Without trying to be righteous or overly prescriptive, those advocating synthetic grass should consider the composition of soils in natural turf, soil biology, and the presence of insects upon which the food chain and all wildlife depend. If this were properly discussed, it would help people understand the scale of the loss. It would connect with the existential crisis facing children and wildlife alike – stating, and not hiding, the seriousness of the issue that synthetic grass is creating. Governance and Environmental Protection in Ku-ring-gai: Elected

	government in KRG is unable to deal with unelected pressure in many ways. The LGA has been taken over by highly inappropriate activities such as development, sport and recreation. Elected government is unable, or unwilling, to oppose the cumulative environmental effect of all decisions concerning Land Use – partly because they are stripped of the power to do so. This has had an irreversible impact on rare Urban Forest. Any effort focused on changing wider culture toward the Protection of Biodiversity (Fauna and Flora) in legislation needs to be made aware – through Eco-Literacy – about the environmental sensitivity of the whole LGA. Synthetic Grass Should Not Be Allowed in Ku-ring-gai LGA: That synthetic grass material was allowed at all on sports fields in KRG is an error of judgement. Not only does it displace natural grass which provides soil health and insects for the wildlife that should have taken precedence for protection in rare Urban Forest, but the secretive progress from natural turf to synthetic grass became yet another error of judgement. Suppression of knowledge of the environmental sensitivity of this LGA appears to have taken over at several levels of decision-making over a period of time. No submission or report objecting to, or referring to, these threatened species appears to have made any difference to the cumulatively expanding loss of ecological integrity in connectivity and corridor ecology. Over-Development Across Ku-ring-gai – The Case of Turramurra: The removal of rare urban soils, seedbank, and land area has progressed in Turramurra so rapidly that it has prevented the opportunity to reclaim, restore, and regenerate listed and protected native vegetation lost since LEP 194 was gazetted in 2004. Sport, Recreation, and Over-Development Do Not Belong in Ku-ring-gai: Among the several errors on which rezoning has been based is the loss of Urban Forest due to an incorrect assumption that the LGA is "Greyfield." Tree removal, synthetic grass, wrong use of ratepayer money, and overall governance of Council have been tightly controlled issues driven by over-development by powerful planning and development departments. The loss of soils does not appear to feature at all in the multiple cascading ways that the land use system is removing it.
41	Natural Turf: The Only Choice for the Oval. I believe that there is only one choice available for the replacement of turf at the oval – and it can only be natural. The following outlines the key reasons why. 1. Chemical Exposure: Toxic chemicals: Synthetic turf contains various chemicals including heavy metals (lead, cadmium), VOCs (benzene, toluene, formaldehyde), PAHs, and PFAS. Health risks: These chemicals have been linked to a range of health problems, including cancer, liver and thyroid issues, birth defects, and immune system problems. Routes of exposure: Exposure can occur through inhalation of volatile chemicals, accidental ingestion of crumb rubber infill, and dermal absorption through cuts and scrapes sustained during play. 2. Physical Hazards: High heat: Artificial turf can reach extremely high temperatures, sometimes exceeding 93°C on a hot day, which increases the risk of skin burns. Heat stress: The high surface temperatures also contribute to a greater risk of heat-related illnesses for those active on the fields. 3. Environmental and Other Concerns: Microplastics: The turf breaks down over time, releasing

	microplastics into the environment and potentially the human body. Lack of drainage: The layered, compacted base of artificial turf prevents natural rainwater infiltration, which can carry chemical runoff into the soil and water supply. Injury rates: Some professional athletes have reported higher rates of injury on synthetic surfaces compared to natural grass. Thank you for considering these facts and choosing natural turf for the benefit of both the community and the environment. It's only a matter of time before these facts become extremely obvious to the general public, and I don't think that Councils and government bodies want to be in a position where they can be sued by members of the public for exposure to harmful chemicals through negligent decision making.

Summary of written submissions and responses

This table includes excerpts from written submissions. Submissions have been divided up based on the relevant topic and parts of submission may feature across multiple topics.

Topic	Submissions	Response
Cost	- "Costings show Natural Turf would be cheaper" - "While synthetic turf has a higher replacement cost in the long run its cost-per-hour is more favourable due to the high usage rate" - "Synthetic turf also requires less regular maintenance (no mowing or heavy irrigation) which could reduce the ongoing burden on Council's resources" - "The proposal for a walkway/jogging track to address limited activities, falls outside the project scope, it has not been costed or budgeted for" - "4G turf is not within the scope of the project, it has not been costed or budgeted" - "Native tree planting proposal falls outside the scope of works, has not been costed or budgeted for" - "It is clear that it would cost less to install and maintain a best practice natural turf surface" - "The financial modelling underpinning the synthetic turf proposal relies on assumptions that significantly distort both annualised operational costs and long-term lifecycle expenditure. A valid comparison must assess synthetic turf against a modern, best-practice natural turf system, not against the aging surface currently in place. When realistic utilisation levels, renewal cycles, hire fees, disposal liabilities and regulatory changes are considered, synthetic turf becomes markedly more expensive over the long term."	Refer to Council Report regarding project costs. Associated infrastructure such as pathways, planting and park furniture are considered separately to sportsfield infrastructure in Council's open space asset management plan. These costs may not be reflected in the surface renewal budget due to different asset categorisation and whole of life costings. This does not exclude the scope from being widened if cost benefit exists. 4G turf is not within the current scope of the project however should be considered if cost benefit exists. This will be considered in the design phase.

Relocate current usage	- "Lower usage is ok and extra provisions can be made elsewhere" - "Leave it as is even if not FIFA standard. Due to parking constraints, find another oval that would be suitable for upgraded synthetic turf" - "Don't believe the field should be considered in isolation. Winter sport is distributed over multiple fields with a different location. Collectively sports fields need to have sufficient capacity and resilience throughout the weather cycles to accommodate players without the up to 6 weeks straight of cancellations we regularly experience if playing on Ku-ring-gai Council fields. It's not clear whether money is best spent on this field or whether capacity can be better improved with alternative upgrades. Especially considering this field is diabolically bad for access and parking for weekend sport where parks don't free up until the prior team leaves." - "The closest comparison in term of distance to Charles Bean Oval is the Edenborough Oval, as in my point of view that is a walking distance between the 2 Oval, but the hours of usage is not available, please indicate a generalised usage level (even actual data is not recorded), I would love to know whether the council have plans to upgrade Edenborough Oval and convert the current usage to the specialise football settings, and move other usage, for example Cricket to Lindfield Oval and Chatswood Oval"	Refer to Council Report regarding Carrying Capacity. Ku-ring-gai Council Open Space and Recreation Needs Study considers the carrying capacity of natural turf. The study suggests that 25 % of natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai Southern Catchment are operating above capacity in winter. Many sportsfields operating below capacity require floodlighting to increase capacity. The current synthetic cannot be left as it. Further degrading of the surface will create a safety risk to users as the surface reaches end of life. Edenborough Oval is nearest to Charles Bean however it is a Class 3 Sportsfields meaning it is a junior field. It is also unlit so unable to be used for evening training. If floodlit and sportsfield upgraded, it is unlikely to have same carrying capacity of a senior field. Council needs to prioritise upgrades that maximise carrying capacity.
Expert Reports	- "Prepare a joint expert report as is best practice for the Land and Environment Court. Without this, I don't see how you can expect the community to provide informed comment"	This feedback is acknowledged for future community consultation to assist in providing an informed decision.
Parking	- "I acknowledge that parking is a concern. However, the benefits of continued high-capacity usage outweigh these challenges particularly if Council explores shared use of the Lindfield Learning Village car park outside school hours"	Refer to Council Report regarding Parking. Council is unable to act retrospectively regarding parking agreements. Any parking agreement would

	- "Proper planning and consultation with the State Government could have dealt with this when the field was being built and the upgrade to the school was being planned. An memorandum of understanding could have been agreed with the parking and problem solved." - "I strongly encourage Council to negotiate access to the Lindfield Learning Village car park for use outside school hours and on weekends. Allowing sporting users to park there—with a reasonable paid-parking arrangement if appropriate—would resolve parking pressures while providing a fair and practical solution for all stakeholders" - "Object to the extra costs that would be incurred with this arrangement. Increased intensity of use with a synthetic field will exacerbate the parking shortage. It is unreasonable for the wider community to pay when it does not benefit from the oval use. This cost must also be included in the calculations for a synthetic turf oval"	support current usage only as the ground is near/at peak capacity during winter sport season.
Playing Experience and Safety	- "From a footballing perspective it is the only Astroturf football field around Lindfield and the playing grounds are good compared to the likes of Wellington and other nearby ovals which have horrible irrigation" - "Retaining a quality synthetic surface supports sustained participation in local sport. It ensures reliable training and match venues for clubs, schools and community groups" - "It supports player safety by preventing the uneven surfaces that develop when grass fields deteriorate and it allows clubs, schools and local groups to confidently plan training and competition without disruption" - "4G fields are still in early stage of development and they are not yet regulated by FIFA, or FA. Independent lab testing and certification is required to ensure the surface meets required safety and performance standards"	Refer to Council Report regarding Carrying Capacity. This feedback is acknowledged regarding uneven surfaces. A best practice natural turf may assist with this if Council chooses a natural turf option. This would require a review of current carrying capacity to ensure the surface was a consistent quality. 4G turf is not within the current scope of the project however this will be considered in the design phase. It will only be considered if it can meet safety and performance requirements.

High Usage	- "There is no comprehensive comparison data of likely hours of use in the two reports provided. Much more detail is required allowing for different playing conditions and demand for bookings year-round" - "Oval is heavily used with approximately 3 753 hours of hired use in 2024 (including by the Northern Suburbs Football Association and Lindfield Learning Village), a synthetic surface enables significantly more playable hours than a natural turf field" - "Demand for football fields in Ku-ring-gai far exceeds the capacity that natural turf can provide. A comparison with Mimosa Oval as well as the examples of Wellington and Primula (which have been renovated more recently) reinforces this point. The number of hours playable, the consistency of the surface, and the reliability of preseason and in-season conditions all clearly favour a synthetic surface" - ""These figures significantly exceed realistic and observed usage patterns. A recent comprehensive report of sportsfields in Northern Suburbs of Sydney by Agenviro drew on data obtained directly from sportsclubs and highlighted the significant discrepancy between actual hours played and hours booked with most fields. This draws into question reliance on financial modelling that focuses on hours booked in assessing the true community value of sportsfields."	Refer to Council Report regarding Carrying Capacity. This feedback is acknowledged regarding high use and playable hours. The Council report addresses discrepancy in booking hours and the calculation of carrying capacity.
Wet Weather	- "It currently serves as an all-weather field in the area and it should remain that way. It provides a great option to still play football when all other fields are closed" - "fewer cancellations due to weather or field recovery ensuring better access for community sport school PE and casual users - "Retaining the oval as synthetic turf ensures the community can enjoy reliable year-round access to football regardless of weather conditions. Unlike natural grass which becomes unsafe muddy or unusable after heavy rain or during periods of	Refer to Council Report regarding Carrying Capacity and Social Considerations. This feedback is acknowledged regarding a need for consistent all weather sportsfields. A best practice natural turf may assist with this if Council chooses a natural turf option. This would require a review of current carrying capacity to ensure the surface was a consistent quality.

	high use synthetic turf provides a consistent and durable playing surface that maximises participation and reduces game cancellations" - "provided a much-needed venue for the community to play sports especially the rainy weather during the winter season comp when council closes grass fields when it rains. Sports are essential part of the children and adults' physical and mental well-being" - "t's such a precious thing to allow all-weather space for kids (my kids and other kids) to use regardless of weather all year round" - "Children need to be able to play football and without this type of surface they would not be able to. There are grass field around the area but most remain closed during the football season. Boys and girls teams are playing 10/15 games less due to grounds being closed" - "The amount of sport that has been lost to wet weather in Sydney is recent years has been horrendous and the synthetic pitches across the north shore have allowed a decent amount of play to still take place on those wet weekends. Given the accepted demographics of Sydney in the years to come - as confirmed by several State Govt reports over the years - we clearly need more synthetic fields in Sydney not less" - "Natural turf fields in Ku-ring-gai are regularly closed due to wet weather, waterlogging, and resulting surface damage. Even when open, conditions are often poor, and clubs must independently close fields to prevent player injury or long-term surface degradation. These disruptions significantly reduce both training and match opportunities. Synthetic turf fields avoid these problems, maintaining a uniformly high standard of play regardless of rainfall and providing a dependable surface for the community"	Ag Enviro report suggests a best practice natural turf would perform better than a standard natural turf. Council's Sportfields Closure Policy would apply to a best practice natural turf option and closure would be subject to staff inspection and assessment.

	- "AgEnviro's report shows that wet weather will not be a major cause of cancellation with a natural turf field whereas heat is an issue for the school use and pre-season competition and practice"	
Infill and Microplastics	- "The renewal plan takes environmental concerns seriously: experts recommend using organic infill below-ground drainage with filtration and recyclable shock pads" - "The modern synthetic fields are light years away from how they were 10 years ago - we don't use rubber infill anymore" - "Plastic fibres will work their way towards the creek. Although the impacts on the soil, the fauna in the bushland and the water is not well understood in this case, studies of plastic in seabirds is known to damage their health and contribute to death" - "Not all PFAS and Microplastics can be filtered. In addition, PFAS and microplastics are dispersed on players shoes and the wheels of maintenance vehicles" - "Lack of standards about the materials and chemical composition of synthetic turf" - "Synthetic turf blades deteriorate over time and break off with use of the playing surface and well as with general weather conditions such as sun exposure. It is unlikely that all broken off fibres can be caught in the filtering system. A quantity of fibres will adhere to the players' shoes and clothing or blow away in the wind. These fibres constitute microfibre pollution that will end up in the bushland and creeklines near to the field." - "The proposed organic infill is still experimental in Australian conditions. There is a risk that it will wash away in a heavy rainfall event"	Refer to Council Report for Environmental Considerations. The standards for synthetic turf have changed since the current field was constructed in 2013. Organic infill and durability standards will be considered as part of design if Council proceed with a synthetic turf surface. These elements will be investigated further during the design phase including REF if Council proceed with a synthetic surface renewal.

	- "displace natural grass which provides soil-health and insects for the wildlife" - "I would like highlight that the heat and microplastics as a combine hazard item, the fact is the turf somehow contains a bitumen like odor in summer when wind blow over the field, deeply concerned me, as Young Teenagers or School Aged Kids logically have a higher impact by the negative odor due to the height different" - "Even with improved drainage, containment methods, and organic infills, synthetic turf fields are a continuous source of microplastic pollution due to: UV degradation: Plastic fibres become brittle and fragment into microplastics, Mechanical wear: Player movement, stud friction, and grooming equipment abrade fibres. Weathering: Heat cycles, rainfall, and wind accelerate fragmentation." - "The Federal Government's 2025 Senate Select Committee on PFAS recommends: A national regulation that bans PFAS in synthetic turf, artificial ground coverings, and associated products, and A coordinated national response to manage contamination from existing fields. The Council should be taking this report into account when considering options."	
Traffic	- "The parking issue is further complicated by the introduction of high-density housing. Don't blame the traffic issues on the sportsfield" - "If this is about safety, some of the locals have been campaigning for a Wombat crossing at Eton Rd (adjacent to Adbingdon Playground) for 2-3 years. This only would make it safer to walk to the sports field and school" - "the private roads beyond the oval should have to provide parking instead of having signs up saying only residents can enter. Those developments should never have been allowed to be built without providing their fair share of public parking."	These comments have been noted and shared with the relevant departments. Refer to Council Report regarding Parking.

Funding	- "Question - has this been costed in the Long Term Financial Plan or the new SRV. When the synthetic sportsfield was built there would have been lifecycle costs included into the asset management plan for the renewal of the synthetic grass, shock pad etc"	A surface renewal is included in Council's Long Term Financial Plan and Asset Management Plan.
Heat	- "There are options to reduce the heat on synthetic fields with the introduction of a cork infill. It needs to be researched properly and when undertaken well can reduce the heat effect. It is never going to solve it but it does assist. As parents and/or carers of kids we need to step up and decide if it is too hot for a child to play out in the sun or on a synthetic field" - "The kids say the oval is too hot to go to at lunch time in term 4 of the year. And they've had soccer training sessions cancelled on hot days. It seems like a well-drained natural turf oval should provide more play days than a synthetic turf oval" - "The Smart Connections report does not cover the fact that competition is concentrated in April to September. No allowance is made for days lost because of heat in the warmer months" - "Synthetic turf is significantly impaired by heat: Organic infill fields regularly exceed 55°C when air temp >30°C, Synthetic surfaces experience more cancellation days due to heat than natural turf This directly contradicts claims that synthetic turf provides superior "all-weather" playability"	Refer to Council Report for Environmental Considerations. Majority of Charles Bean Oval usage is during winter sport season excluding the use by Lindfield College. If synthetic turf renewal is selected, then organic infill may assist with the heat in summer months. Natural turf may result in less heat cancellations however this doesn't consider Lindfield College's hot weather policies which may restrict outdoor activities in temperatures exceeding 30 degrees without consideration of turf type. Football NSW provide a sport risk classification for synthetic and natural turf which considers combined air temperature and relative humidity. It shows a maximum 3 degrees These elements will be investigated further during the design phase including REF for both surface type renewals.

Health Impacts	- "The broader community health benefits of increased year-round sport reduced cancellations and greater participation especially for juniors must be weighted alongside environmental impacts. A durable all-weather surface enables more active commuting structured sport and informal recreation. When considered at the whole-of-Council scale, any environmental concerns can be responsibly balanced through complementary landscape strategies and biodiversity enhancements elsewhere in the LGA. A holistic approach supports improved public health outcomes while still delivering sustainable environmental stewardship" - "If we must have synthetic turf it should be certified to the absolute highest standards. But there are so very many reasons not to have a plastic oval. Less plastic everywhere including peoples lungs. Increased amenity to local wildlife and humans. Better impact on local microclimate - "If Lindfield is changed back to grass, it will drastically reduce playable hours especially during periods of rain where grass fields can be unavailable for three weeks or more. This removes reliable access to sport at the exact time when young Australians need consistent physical and social outlets. With youth suicide rising sharply restricting access to sport is not simply a sporting decision it could lead to a serious human cost within our community" - "Soccer Clubs repeatedly insist that satisfying soccer needs is in the interest of the health of our community as it encourages physical activity. This is true, but other activities exist that are good for community physical, mental and social well-being which are prohibited or limited when a sport field is synthetic" - "The manufacturing process of synthetic turf includes the use of PFAS products, known as "forever chemicals" due to their persistence in the environment and they can accumulate in living things, including the human body."	Refer to Council Report for Carrying Capacity and Social Considerations. Reliable access to sportsfields is important however Council has a responsibility to consider the health impacts of both natural and synthetic turf in public open spaces including but not limited to exposure to chemicals, heat impacts, and the rate and type of injuries. NSW Government Chief Scientist & Engineer have considered the health impacts of synthetic turf within the '*Independent review into the design, use and impacts of synthetic turf in public open spaces – Final Report'* released in October 2022. The report is summarised the health impacts as follows: - Sports related injuries may occur on both synthetic and natural turf fields at comparable levels - Health risks through direct (such as dermal, ingestion and inhalation) or indirect contact (such as leachate and microplastic runoff) from synthetic turf is likely to be low. - Technologies designed to increase solar reflectivity and low heat absorption in synthetic

		turf surfaces may have the effect of increasing heat strain. - Improving water retention or increasing irrigation may increase humidity and worsen human thermal comfort and heat strain. - Aspects of mental health, well-being and social cohesion are important considerations. These elements will be investigated further during the design phase including REF for both surface type renewals.
Hybrid Turf	- "If this were seriously considered by council, the hybrid must be minimised the introduction of synthetic with use of hybrid only in high wear areas e.g. goal areas"	Hybrid Turf is not considered a viable option. Council staff have visited hybrid facilities, and it is not recommended this option is pursued until there are improvements in hybrid maintenance procedures.
Bushfire	- "The recommendation of increase of shade through use of additional tree canopy around the site does not consider the fire mapping of the oval and adjoining site which is mapped buffer zone. There is a potential increase in bushfire risk with increased native tree canopy plantings." - "Polymers used in synthetic turf have a low melting point, and contrary to what was stated at the Public Consultation, there's evidence that synthetic turf can be ignited in bushfire settings with addition risk due to toxic gases and noxious emissions. In addition, other materials used are significantly flammable" - "DPHI ST guideline states on page 12: Synthetic turf sports fields should not be located in areas of high bushfire and extreme flood risk" - "There is only one road in and out from Charles Bean Oval and the surrounding residential area making the bushfire risk more acute" - "Charles Bean Oval located in an area prone to Bush Fire, the use of material should not post / increase the risk of Bush Fire"	Refer to Council Report for Environmental Considerations. Charles Bean Oval is in a designated bush fire prone area. If Council proceed with synthetic turf, a risk assessment would be informed by relevant NSW Government emergency response agencies as well as independent expert advice as part of the REF process.

	- "The organic infill material contains combustible material i.e., Cork, Coconut husk, Lane Cove National Park is a Blue Gum Forest, these trees is known to be natural fire risk, i.e. the location itself is bush fire prone area defined by Fire and Rescue NSW (the 1994 and 2019 (near misses) is a prove of this), placing these unproven technology into a bush fire prone area created a non-transferrable high (high impact, high likelihood); and there is not any financial means can be compensated this losses."	
End of Life Waste	- "The technology and feasibility of the plant in Barnawartha is not proven yet. Considerable energy would be required in the recycling process for transporting the materials to Victoria and processing and redistributing them. There is no assured market for recycled materials"	This feedback is acknowledged. Council will strive to find the most suitable end of life disposal options available in the market at that point in time.
Regulations	- "The matters listed in the published guideline *Developments adjacent to National Parks and Wildlife Service lands | NSW Environment and Heritage* (DPIE-NPWS 2020) are considered and addressed by Council' - "Review of Environmental Factors (REF) in accordance with the Secretary's Division 5.1 guideline that would be subject to consultation with interested stakeholders"	Refer to Council Report for Environmental Considerations. These elements will be addressed during the design phase including REF for both surface type renewals.

RFT7-2026 PLAYSPACE UPGRADE SEQUOIA CLOSE PARK, WEST PYMBLE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	The purpose of this report is to consider the tenders received for RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade Sequoia Close Park, West Pymble so as to appoint the preferred tenderer.
BACKGROUND:	Council has allocated funding for the upgrade of the existing playspace at Sequoia Park, West Pymble, and the appointment of a contractor is required to undertake construction. Tender documents were released through Tenderlink on 17 March 2026 and closed on the 14 April 2026.
COMMENTS:	Council received five (5) tender submissions and two (2) non-conforming submissions. The tenders were assessed using agreed criteria which identified the best value for money to Council.
RECOMMENDATION:	In accordance with Section 55 of the Local Government Act and Tender Regulation 2021, it is recommended Council accept the Tender submitted by Tenderer A.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to consider the tenders received for RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade Sequoia Close Park, West Pymble so as to appoint the preferred tenderer.

BACKGROUND

Council has allocated funding for the upgrade of the existing playspace at Sequoia Close Park, West Pymble. The appointment of a contractor is required to undertake construction work.

The upgrade will create an attractive, engaging and inclusive community place. The features include the following, as shown in the schematic in Figure 1:

- a playground that caters for a range of age groups and abilities;
- a range of passive, imaginative and active play activities;
- replacement of fencing to the perimeter of the play area;
- installation of park furniture, bins and bubbler;
- improved accessibility for users of all age groups and abilities, and
- increased planted areas and nature play elements.

Tender documents were released through Tenderlink on 17 March 2026 and closed on the 14 April 2026, in accordance with the tender requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulation 2021.



Figure 1: Sequoia Close Park Playspace Upgrade Concept Plan

COMMENTS

Five (5) tenders were received and recorded in accordance with Council's tendering policy. A Tender Evaluation Committee was formed to assess the five (5) tenders received. Two (2) non-conforming submissions were received. One (1) tender submitted an empty file on Tenderlink with nothing attached. This was confirmed by Tenderlink IT Support. One (1) tenderer submitted a tender past the closing time. As such, these two (2) tender submissions were not evaluated by the Tender Evaluation Committee.

At the conclusion of the tender evaluation, Tenderer A was identified as providing the best value for money to Council.

The preferred Tenderer A has recently successfully completed projects of similar a nature for Council.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Outcome 3: Infrastructure and assets meet community needs

Strategy - Community Strategic Plan	Term Achievement	Operational Plan Actions
A2: Provide, upgrade and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.	A2.1: A program is implemented to provide, improve and maintain open space, recreation and sporting facilities including multi-use facilities.	A2.1.1: Deliver Council's adopted Open Space Capital Works Program on time and within budget.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Tender documents were prepared and released through Tenderlink on 17 March 2026 and closed on the 14 April 2026. At the close of tender, five (5) tenders were received. All submissions were recorded in accordance with Council's tendering policy. A Tender Evaluation Committee was formed to assess the conforming five (5) tenders received. The evaluation considered:

- Conformity of submission.
- Lump sum fee.
- Capacity, capability with suitably qualified staff.
- Experience.
- Availability – Start Date, methodology and estimated duration of work.
- Work Health and Safety (WHS) and Risk Management.
- Environmental.
- Performance and Financial Assessment.

Confidential attachments to this report are:

- List of tenders received (Attachment A1).
- Tender Evaluation Report (Attachment A2).

The attachments are considered to be confidential in accordance with Section 10A (2)(d)(ii) of The Local Government Act as they are considered to contain commercial in confidence information.

RISK MANAGEMENT

Three (3) key areas of risk were identified in relation to the proposed work:

- That the construction be carried out by a contractor with the ability to provide a full range of services with suitably qualified staff.
- Work Health and Safety (WHS), Risk Management and Environmental.
- That Council should not be exposed to financial risk - as part of the evaluation process, tenderers were assessed on providing all information and costs requested within the tender document. An independent Performance and Financial Assessment was carried out on the preferred tenderer to ensure that they were trading responsibly and had the financial capacity to undertake the work as detailed within the tender documents.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There is available budget allocated to undertake the scope of works outlined in the delivery plan.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

On completion, the proposed work will provide a facility which is in line with Council's Community Strategic Plan to provide upgrade and maintain open space and recreation to meet the needs of current and future user groups and a growing population.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

A Review of Environmental Factors (REF) has been undertaken and there were no proposed activities that are likely to cause significant impacts with mitigations duly considered and put in place.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Council has undertaken a community survey through an online platform and a mail out to residents within a 500m radius of the reserve. Following that, Council sought further community comment on the concept plan prior to finalising the design of the play space. Council will undertake a before and after quality of play space survey with the community.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken with relevant departments.

SUMMARY

Tender RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade Playspace Upgrade Sequoia Close Park was released through Tenderlink on 17 March 2026 and closed on the 17 April 2026. Five (5) tenders were received and two (2) non-conforming tenders were received. All tenders were recorded in accordance with Council's tendering policy. A Tender Evaluation Committee assessed the submissions.

An independent financial and performance assessment was undertaken of the recommended Tenderer A, and it is recommended that Tenderer A be appointed on the basis of providing the best value for money to Council after a thorough assessment of both price and non-price criteria on the procurement matter.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

A. Council accepts the tender submission from Tenderer A to carry out the Playspace Upgrade Playspace Upgrade Sequoia Close Park.

B. The Mayor and General Manager be delegated authority to execute all tender documents on Council's behalf in relation to the contract.

C. The Seal of Council be affixed to all necessary documents.

D. All tenderers be advised of Council's decision in accordance with Clause 178 of the Local Government Tendering Regulation 2021.

Pip Grant
Project Manager

Claire Ashby
Manager Project Services

Attachments:	A1	RFT7-2026 Playspace Upgrade - Sequoia Close - List of Submitters	*Confidential*
	A2	RFT7-2026 Placespace Upgrade - Sequoia Park - Tender Evaluation Report	*Confidential*

RFT1-2026 PACIFIC HIGHWAY AND BEACONSFIELD PARADE LINDFIELD - TRAFFIC SIGNAL MODELLING AND DETAILED DESIGN

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To consider the tenders received for RFT1-2026 Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade Lindfield - Traffic Signal Modelling and Detailed Design, and to appoint the preferred tenderer.
BACKGROUND:	Council received approval in-principle from Transport for NSW to upgrade the intersection of Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade in Lindfield, as part of its response to the Lindfield Village Hub Planning Proposal. To prepare the necessary documentation and approvals for construction, Council needs to engage a suitably qualified multi-disciplinary engineering design consultant with relevant experience. Tender documents were released through Tenderlink on 10 February 2026 and closed on 3 March 2026.
COMMENTS:	Council received six (6) tender submissions. The tenders were assessed using agreed criteria which identified the best value for money to Council.
RECOMMENDATION: (Refer to the full Recommendation at the end of this report)	In accordance with Section 55 of the Local Government Act and Tender Regulation 2021, it is recommended Council accept the Tender submitted by Tenderer A.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider the tenders received for RFT1-2026 Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade Lindfield - Traffic Signal Modelling and Detailed Design, and to appoint the preferred tenderer.

BACKGROUND

In mid-2021, Council received approval in-principle from Transport for NSW (TfNSW) to upgrade the intersection of Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade in Lindfield. Approval was given by Transport for NSW as part of its response to the Lindfield Village Hub Planning Proposal.

Key components of TfNSW's approval in-principle include:

- New traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities on all 3 legs;
- modifications to kerb geometry and Beaconsfield Parade road geometry to suit vehicle swept paths; and
- relocation of existing mid-block pedestrian activated signals on Pacific Highway outside Lindfield station to a location further north.

To prepare the necessary documentation and approvals for construction, Council needs to engage a suitably qualified multi-disciplinary engineering design consultant with relevant experience.

Tender documents for traffic signal modelling and detailed design were released through Tenderlink on 10 February 2026 and closed on 3 March 2026, in accordance with the tender requirements of the Local Government Act and Regulation 2021.

COMMENTS

Six (6) tenders were received and recorded in accordance with Council's tendering policy.
A Tender Evaluation Committee was formed to assess the six (6) tenders received.

At the conclusion of the tender evaluation, Tenderer A was identified as providing the best value for money to Council.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

In the DP&OP, the project relates to Outcome 3: Infrastructure and assets support community needs.

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Action
A5: Work with the NSW government and partners to improve local integrated transport connections, public transport and the regional road network.	A5.1: A network of safe and convenient links to local centres, major land uses and recreation opportunities, including active transport, is progressively implemented and promoted to meet the access and travel needs of the community.	A5.1.4: Coordinate the design for traffic signal upgrades in Lindfield.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

Tender documents were prepared and released through Tenderlink on 10 February 2026 and closed on 3 March 2026. At the close of tender, six (6) tenders were received. All submissions were recorded in accordance with Council's tendering policy. A Tender Evaluation Committee was formed to assess the six (6) tenders received. The evaluation considered:

- Conformity of submission.
- Lump sum fee.
- Capacity, capability with suitably qualified staff.
- Experience.
- Methodology and estimated duration of work.
- Work Health and Safety (WHS) and Risk Management.
- Environmental.
- Financial Assessment.

Confidential attachments to this report are:

- Tender Evaluation Plan, which outlines the procurement strategy implemented for this project (Attachment 1).
- List of tenders received (Attachment 2).
- Tender Evaluation Report and recommendation (Attachment 3).

The attachments are considered to be confidential in accordance with Section 10A (2)(d)(iii) of the Local Government Act,1993 as they are considered to contain commercial in confidence information.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

Three (3) key areas of risk were identified in relation to the proposed services:

- That the consultant selected is suitable to undertake the services, as the project is a multi-disciplinary traffic and civil engineering project with a wide range of scope. This was assessed as part of the capability criteria of the tender evaluation.

- Work Health and Safety (WHS), Risk Management and Environmental.

- As part of the traffic signal modelling and detailed design process, TfNSW approval and oversight is required at defined stages, as TfNSW is the approval authority and asset manager for projects and works involving traffic signal infrastructure. This reduces the ultimate risk for Council.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 26 April 2022, Council endorsed the delivery mechanisms and funding sources for proposed road infrastructure in the Lindfield Local Centre.

The delivery of the proposed intersection upgrades and road modifications will be the responsibility of Council or the selected development partner for the Lindfield Village Hub project,

with the new traffic signals at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade to be delivered as part of the Lindfield Village Hub project:

Table 1 – Recommended Delivery Mechanism and Funding Source for Proposed Road infrastructure – Lindfield Local Centre

	Location	Proposed road infrastructure	Delivery Mechanism	Funding source
1	Intersection Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade	New traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities	Delivered as part of Lindfield Village Hub project	LVH
2	Pacific Highway near Tryon Place	Relocation of mid-block pedestrian activated signals	Delivered as part of Lindfield Village Hub project	LVH
3	Intersection Pacific Highway and Strickland Avenue	New traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities	Delivered by Council as a capital works project	Council
4	Bent Street between Pacific Highway and Bent Lane.	Closure to vehicle traffic and installation of pedestrian plaza.	Delivered as part of Lindfield Village Hub project.	LVH
5	Intersection of Pacific Highway and Balfour Street/Havilah Road.	Modifications to existing signals to ban right turn movement from Havilah Road into Pacific Highway, and other associated modifications (such as line markings etc.).	Delivered as part of Lindfield Village Hub project.	LVH
6	Intersection Pacific Highway and Balfour Street/Havilah Road	Localised widening of Pacific Highway to accommodate extension of existing right turn bay on the Pacific Highway for vehicles turning into Balfour Street.	Delivered by Council as a capital works project. May require land acquisition or land dedication through future redevelopment of adjoining site.	Council
7	Woodford Lane.	Modification to existing laneway to convert to one-way traffic flow (southbound).	Delivered as part of Lindfield Village Hub.	LVH
8	Intersection Lindfield Avenue and Tryon Road.	Removal of existing mid-block pedestrian activated signals on Lindfield Avenue and installation of new traffic signals with pedestrian crossing facilities at intersection of Tryon Road and Lindfield Avenue.	Delivered by Council as a capital works project - part of Lindfield Avenue Streetscape Works.	Council
9	Grosvenor Road at intersection with Pacific Highway.	Localised road widening to accommodate an additional approach lane on Grosvenor Road.	Delivered by Council as a capital works project.	Council
10	Bent Lane between Bent Street and Balfour Avenue.	Modifications to existing laneway for one-way traffic flow (southbound).	Delivered as part of Lindfield Village Hub.	LVH

Where Council is identified as responsible for funding and delivery of proposed intersection upgrades and road modifications the following sources have been identified:

- Development Contributions (S 7.11); and
- Funds from the sale of Balfour Lane, Lindfield.

The tender process ensures Council achieves best value for money for the traffic signal modelling and detailed design component of the project.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

On completion, the proposed work will provide a facility which is in line with Council's Community Strategic Plan, Our Ku-ring-gai 2038 and the Plan's long-term directions including providing infrastructure and assets to meet community needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The traffic signal modelling and detailed design component of the project are not expected to have environmental impacts.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The broader community consultation for new traffic signals at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade was undertaken as part of the public exhibition of the Lindfield Village Hub Planning Proposal, where the traffic signals was one of the upgrades featured in the Transport Impact Assessment supporting the Planning Proposal.

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Consultation was undertaken with relevant departments.

SUMMARY

Council received approval in-principle from Transport for NSW to upgrade the intersection of Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade in Lindfield, as part of its response to the Lindfield Village Hub Planning Proposal. To prepare the necessary documentation and approvals for construction, Council needs to engage a suitably qualified multi-disciplinary engineering design consultant with relevant experience.

Tender documents were released through Tenderlink on 10 February 2026 and closed on 3 March 2026, and six (6) tender submissions were received. The tenders were assessed using agreed criteria which identified the best value for money to Council.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

A. Council accepts the tender submission from Tenderer A to carry out the Traffic Signal Modelling and Detailed Design for new traffic signals at the intersection of Pacific Highway and Beaconsfield Parade Lindfield.

B. The General Manager be delegated authority to execute all tender documents on Council's behalf in relation to the contract.

C. The Seal of Council be affixed to all necessary documents.

D. All tenderers be advised of Council's decision in accordance with Clause 178 of the Local Government Tendering Regulation 2021.

Joseph Piccoli
Strategic Traffic Engineer

Antony Fabbro
Manager Urban & Heritage Planning

Andrew Watson
Director Strategy & Environment

Attachments:	A1	RFT1-2026 - Tender Evaluation Plan	*Confidential*
	A2	RFT1-2026 - List of tenders received	*Confidential*
	A3	RFT1-2026 - Tender Evaluation Report	*Confidential*

DCP AMENDMENT - TO ALIGN WITH STATE GOVERNMENT HOUSING REFORMS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT:	For Council to consider the amendment to update the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* (KDCP) so that it is consistent with, and applicable to, development introduced by the recent low and mid-rise housing reforms and for Council to endorse the public exhibition of the proposed amendment.
BACKGROUND:	The recent NSW Government Low and Mid-rise (LMR) and Transport Orientated Development (TOD) housing reforms have resulted in overriding amendments to the *Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015* (KLEP) via the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*. The reforms now enable certain development types in zones where those typologies were previously not permitted under the KLEP 2015. The KDCP currently links and limits residential development types to those permitted in the KLEP 2015 land use zones prior to the LMR and TOD reforms. Proponent planners are now claiming that the KDCP does not apply to development outside the zones stated in the KDCP.
COMMENTS:	Council has received legal advice stating the KDCP controls do continue to apply despite the KDCP not being updated to reflect the new zonings; however, it advises Council to make a timely amendment to the KDCP. This report states the proposed amendments to address this issue.
RECOMMENDATION: (Refer to the full Recommendation at the end of this report)	That Council endorse the proposed amendment to the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* to make updates consistent with state government reforms and to apply a uniform approach across the whole policy as detailed in **Attachment A2** of this report.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

For Council to consider the amendment to update the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* (KDCP) so that it is consistent with, and applicable to, development introduced by the recent low and mid-rise housing reforms and for Council to endorse the public exhibition of the proposed amendment.

BACKGROUND

NSW Government Housing Reforms

The recent NSW Government low and mid-rise (LMR) and transport orientated development (TOD) housing reforms have resulted in overriding amendments to the *Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015* (KLEP 2015) via the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021*. The reforms now enable certain development types in zones where those typologies were previously not permitted under the KLEP 2015.

Challenges to Council's Development Control Plan

Council's KDCP has served to reinforce the KLEP 2015 standards and in certain sections makes direct reference to the KLEP 2015 zoning. These references link and limit the residential development types within the KDCP to the KLEP 2015 land use zone, an approach that was deemed suitable at the time of that previous drafting when it was necessary to clarify where those (at that time new) typologies would be delivered.

This wording is now being challenged with proponent planners arguing that the KDCP controls for particular development typologies only apply within the zones stated in the KDCP, and not to the newly permitted zones under the LMR. This interpretation was not then, nor now, the intention of the KDCP which seeks to provide design guidance by development typology wherever that development is permitted.

Specifically, the LMR now permits the following residential development typologies within an 800m walking distance of a transport hub/local town centre:

- Multi dwelling housing (townhouses, terraces) are now permitted in the R2 Low Density Residential zone, where previously the KLEP 2015 only permitted townhouses in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone, as mentioned in the KDCP.
- Residential flat buildings (2-storey manor houses) are now permitted in the R2 Low Density Residential and R3 Medium Density Residential zone where previously the KLEP 2015 only permitted residential flat buildings in the R4 High Density Residential zone, as mentioned in the KDCP.
- Residential flat buildings (6-storey buildings) are now permitted in the R2 Low Density Residential and R3 Medium Density Residential zone within 400m of a transport hub/local town centre, where previously the KLEP 2015 only permitted them in the R4 High Density Residential zone, as mentioned in the KDCP.

In recent development applications, proponents argue that the KDCP Part 6 Multi-dwelling Housing controls only apply to the R3 Medium Density Residential zone mentioned in that section, and do not apply to their multi-dwelling applications located in the R2 Low Density Residential zone.

Consequently, multi-dwelling housing applications are being submitted that ignore Council's controls for townhouse development, including setbacks, deep soil, landscape, access, communal open and private open space controls. This approach results in poor development outcomes that make little attempt to assimilate new development into Ku-ring-gai's landscape character and the built-in KDCP environmental considerations.

Legal Advice

Council's Development Assessment team are facing multiple disputes on this issue and have now obtained legal advice (Confidential Attachment A1). The advice states that the controls do continue to apply despite the KDCP not being updated to reflect the new zonings; however, it advises Council to make a timely amendment to the KDCP to remove ambiguity on this issue. This amendment would provide more clarity and certainty to applicants, improve development outcomes, and reduce the growing number of disputes and court appeals.

New residential typologies not mentioned in Council's Development Control Plan

Another issue raised by the LMR and TOD reforms is that of the introduction of new residential typologies not previously permitted under the KLEP 2015 and therefore not included in the KDCP. These include terraces, manor houses, high density residential and mixed-use buildings of greater height and floor space ratios.

Without KDCP objectives and controls for these typologies, proponents are likely to apply their own standards in their development applications. Council's assessment officers will have to make merit assessments and argue for the delivery of outcomes consistent with Ku-ring-gai' s standards across other existing development types.

It is noted that the NSW government has made statements referring Councils to their *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (DPHI 2020)* where a local DCP has not yet included standards for the newly permissible typologies. However, since the SEPP (Housing) 2021 does not make a direct reference to this document for the development application pathway, there is currently no mechanism to ensure it is considered as an alternative design guide in the absence of locally relevant DCP standards.

Why this Amendment is Required

The consequences of the current KDCP ambiguities are as follows:

- Where proponents ignore the design guidelines of the KDCP:
    - development will be inconsistent with Council's underpinning considerations of character, landscape, ecology and amenity, and
    - undermine Council's long-standing efforts to ensure development proposals deliver high quality built form that assimilates into and retains the local area values.

- Where proponents ignore the NSW government's *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide (DPHI 2020)* in the absence of local DCP standards for particular housing typologies:

- development will be delivered in an ad-hoc manner without basic guiding principles, and
- require Council's assessment offices to apply merit considerations on every development and enter disputes on the validity of the merits.

COMMENTS

To clarify the application of the KDCP standards and the *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (DPHI 2020),* it is proposed to amend the KDCP as listed below and detailed at Attachment A2 to this report:

1. Delete all references to the KLEP 2015 land use zones and, where required, replace them with generic terms, to make the KDCP relevant to the housing typology regardless of the zoning. This will mean that the KDCP will apply to any multi-dwelling housing or residential flat building development within the local government area. . Clarify inconsistent controls within Part 6.

2. Re-title the existing *Part 6 Multi-Dwelling Housing* to *Part 6 Multi-Dwelling Housing (excluding terraces)* to clarify this section of the KDCP applies only to townhouse and villa type development.

3. Introduce a new *Part 6.1 Multi-Dwelling Housing – Terraces* and note all development applications are to comply with the *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (DPHI, July 2022)* as an interim measure while Council develops its local standards for terrace development.

4. Introduce a new *Part 7.1 Residential Flat Building - Manor House* and note all development applications are to comply with the *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (DPHI, July 2022)* as an interim measure while Council develops its local standards for 2-storey residential flat buildings.

5. Amend and introduce definitions that relate to the low and mid-rise development types as defined in the *Ku-ring-gai Local Environmental Plan 2015* and the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008* (Codes SEPP).

Work is underway to engage an architectural consultant to develop locally sensitive controls to populate the two new sections with interim reliance on DPHI's design guide: *Multi-Dwelling Housing - Terraces* and *Residential Flat Building - Manor House.* These controls will then replace the *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (DPHI 2020)* proposed to be referenced in those sections of the KDCP.

INTEGRATED PLANNING AND REPORTING

Outcome 2: Sustainable urban growth and change

Community Strategic Plan Strategy	Delivery Program Term Achievement	Operational Plan Action
U2: Ensure land use strategies, plans and processes are in place to protect existing character and effectively manage growth and change.	U2.3: Strategies, plans and processes are prepared, implemented and reviewed to effectively manage the impact of new development.	U2.3.2: Investigate the inclusion of Local Character Controls within the Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan.

GOVERNANCE MATTERS

The recent NSW Government low and mid-rise (LMR) and transport orientated development (TOD) housing reforms have resulted in overriding amendments to the KLEP 2015 via the SEPP (Housing) 2021. The reforms now enable certain development types in zones where those typologies were previously not permitted under the KLEP 2015. The KDCP has not yet been updated to reflect the new permissibility and the new housing typologies. The proposed KDCP amendment will ensure the KDCP captures development being delivered under the new reforms and require their compliance with local controls.

RISK IMPLICATION STATEMENT

Without DCP standards to guide the delivery of the now permitted development under the LMR, development applications will continue to be assessed on merit by Council staff. Merit assessment on a site-by-site basis will result in inconsistent outcomes for the typology across Ku-ring-gai and Court proceedings where there is dispute on the merit assessment.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The cost of preparing this report is covered by the Urban Planning and Heritage budget.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Updated KDCP references will ensure the application of the KDCP to the existing typologies now permitted in other zone areas and will stipulate the application of the NSW design guideline for housing typologies not yet included in the KDCP. The development of locally sensitive design guidelines for new typologies, terraces and townhouses, will ensure housing development is consistent with existing standards and takes into consideration key aspects of delivery of high quality built form, local character, deep soil, tree canopy and landscape. The inclusion of a reference to the Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (DPHI 2022), as an interim measure while Council develops its local standards for 2-storey residential flat buildings, will ensure proponents have some reference controls for new typologies in Ku-ring-gai.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

It is acknowledged that the NSW Government housing reforms have enabled development standards that challenge the environmental values of this LGA. Ensuring the KDCP continues to apply to development submitted via the DA pathway would enable due consideration is given to controlling both environmental impacts, and impact on the local character of built form within high quality landscaped garden settings including tall canopy trees.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

It is proposed to place the draft DCP amendment on public exhibition for 28 days, during which time the community will be invited to make submissions. The exhibition will be in accordance with Council's *Community Participation Plan* and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.*

INTERNAL CONSULTATION

Other sections of Council have been consulted in the preparation of this report including Strategic Planning staff and Council's Development Assessment Team.

SUMMARY

The recent NSW Government low and mid-rise (LMR) and transport orientated development (TOD) housing reforms have resulted in overriding amendments to the KLEP 2015 via the SEPP (Housing) 2021. The reforms now enable certain development types in zones where those typologies were previously not permitted under KLEP 2015.

The Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan (KDCP) links residential development types to their KLEP 2015 land use zones applicable prior to the LMR and TOD reforms. Proponent planners are now arguing that the KDCP does not apply to development outside the zones stated in the KDCP and therefore seek to ignore those standards.

In addition, the KDCP does not yet include controls for housing typologies that were previously not permitted in Ku-ring-gai. It is proposed to include references to those typologies and require their assessment against the *Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (DPHI 2022)* as an interim measure while Council prepares locally sensitive controls for inclusion into the KDCP. This will ensure some design standards are applied to these development types.

Council has received legal advice stating the KDCP controls do continue to apply despite the KDCP not being updated to reflect the new zonings; however, it advises Council to make a timely amendment to the KDCP to avoid ongoing dispute.

This report states the proposed amendments to address this issue with details at Attachment A2.

Next Steps

- The proposed amendments will be placed on public exhibition.
- A report will be brought back to Council following the public exhibition.
- Work will commence to develop standards for terraces and manor houses for insertion into the KDCP, and be reported to Council prior to exhibition.

RECOMMENDATION:

A. That Council endorse the proposed amendment to the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* to make updates consistent with state government reforms and to apply a uniform approach across the whole policy as detailed in Attachment A2 of this report.

B. That the proposed amendments to the *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* be placed on public exhibition in accordance with provisions under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Regulation 2000.

C. That delegation be given to the Director, Strategy and Environment to correct any minor amendments or errors and inconsistencies to the draft *Ku-ring-gai Development Control Plan* prior to public exhibition.

D. That a report be brought back to Council at the conclusion of the exhibition period.

Rathna Rana
Executive Urban Planner

Craige Wyse
Team Leader Urban Planning

Antony Fabbro
Manager Urban & Heritage Planning

Andrew Watson
Director Strategy & Environment

Attachments:	A1	Confidential Legal Advice - LMR and Part 6	Excluded	*Confidential*
	A2⇩	KDCP - Table of LMR amendments		2026/155829

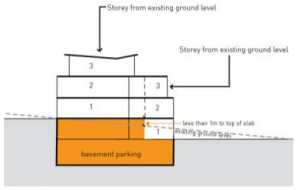
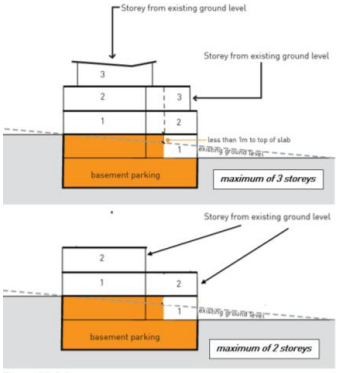
KDCP - proposed amendments to align with recent state government housing reforms

EXISTING KDCP	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
Part 1B Dictionary	
1B.1 Definitions	***attached dwelling*** *has the same meaning as set down in the KLEP.* *Note: The term is defined as follows:* *a building containing 3 or more dwellings, where* *a. each dwelling is attached to another dwelling by a common wall, and* *b. each of the dwellings is on its own lot of land, and* *c. none of the dwellings is located above any part of another dwelling.*
	manor house *has the same meaning as set down in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.* *Note: The term is defined as follows:* *a residential flat building containing 3 or 4 dwellings, where* *a. each dwelling is attached to another dwelling by a common wall or floor, and* *b. at least 1 dwelling is partially or wholly located above another dwelling, and* *c. the building contains no more than 2 storeys (excluding any basement).*
	multi dwelling housing *has the same meaning as set down in the KLEP.* *Note: The term is defined as follows:* *3 or more dwellings (whether attached or detached) on one lot of land, each with access at ground level, but does not include a residential flat building.*
	multi dwelling housing (terraces) *has the same meaning as set down in the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008.* *Note: The term is defined as follows:* *multi dwelling housing where all dwellings are attached and face, and are generally aligned along, 1 or more public roads.*
	semi-detached dwelling *has the same meaning as set down in the KLEP.* *Note: The term is defined as follows:* *a dwelling that is on its own lot of land and is attached to only one other dwelling.*
Part 4.1 Secondary Dwellings	
Introduction *Under KLEP, secondary dwellings may only be proposed within R2 and E4 zones.*	*Introduction* ~~*Under KLEP, secondary dwellings may only be proposed within R2 and E4 zones.*~~ *Secondary dwellings~~,~~*

KDCP - proposed amendments to align with recent state government housing reforms

EXISTING KDCP	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
Secondary dwellings, as defined in KLEP, provide for an alternate housing choice within the Ku-ring-gai region.	*~~as defined in KLEP,~~ provide for an alternate housing choice within the Ku-ring-gai region.*
Part 6 Multi-Dwelling Housing	Part 6 Multi Dwelling Housing (excluding terraces)
Introduction *Multi-dwelling housing, as defined in the KLEP, is to be located in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone. It includes all residential developments with 3 or more dwellings on one lot in the form of detached or attached town houses or villas.*	*Introduction* *This Part provides standards for multi dwelling housing in the form of detached or attached:* • *townhouses or villas.* *Multi dwelling housing~~, as defined in the KLEP, is to be located in the R3 Medium Density Residential zone. It~~ includes all residential developments with 3 or more dwellings on one lot.*
6A.5 Site Coverage *(2) When a site comprises land in an R3 Meduim Density Residential and/or R4 High Density Residential zone and land in another zone, only the R3 and/or R4 zone land is to be included in calculating site area.*	*6A.5 Site Coverage* *~~(2) When a site comprises land in an R3 Meduim Density Residential and/or R4 High Density Residential zone and land in another zone, only the R3 and/or R4 zone land is to be included in calculating site area.~~*
6C.6 Dwelling Placement and Room Design *(14) Where living and dining rooms are combined in an open plan, a minimum internal plan dimension of 8.0m is to be provided across both areas, with the secondary plan dimension remaining at 4.0m as in Figure 6C.6-2 to Figure 6C.6-4.*	*6C.6 Dwelling Placement and Room Design* *(14) Where living and dining rooms are combined in an open plan, a minimum internal plan dimension of 8.0m is to be provided across both areas, with the secondary plan dimension remaining at 4.0m as in Figure 6C.6-2. ~~to Figure 6C.6-4.~~*
(16) All bedrooms are to have a minimum internal plan dimension of 3.0m, as in Figure 6C.6-3.	*(16) All bedrooms are to have a minimum internal plan dimension of 3.0m, as in Figure 6C.6-~~3~~2.*
Figure 6C.6-2: Maximum internal plan depth controls. *Figure 6C.6-3: Minimum dimension controls for bedrooms - Level 1* *Figure 6C.6-4: Minimum dimension controls for bedrooms - Level 2*	*Figure 6C.6-2: Maximum internal plan depth controls.* *~~Figure 6C.6-3:~~ Minimum dimension controls for bedrooms - Level 1* *~~Figure 6C.6-4:~~ Minimum dimension controls for bedrooms - Level 2*
6C.9 Building Storeys *Objective1 - To ensure that buildings are responsive to the site.* *(1) Multi-dwelling housing is to have a maximum of 3 storeys as illustrated in Figure 6C.9-1. Note: The 1st storey is measured from a maximum 1m above the existing ground line.*	*6C.9 Building Storeys* *Objective1 - To ensure that buildings are responsive to the site, streetscape and amenity of adjoining properties.* *(1) Multi-dwelling housing is to have the following number of storeys:* *i) On land subject to a building height development standard of 11.5m - a maximum of 3 storeys as illustrated in Figure 6C.9-1.*

KDCP - proposed amendments to align with recent state government housing reforms

EXISTING KDCP	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
	ii) On land subject to a building height development standard of 9.5m - a maximum of 2 storeys as illustrated in Figure 6C.9-1. *Note: The 1st storey is measured from a maximum 1m above the existing ground line.*
Figure 6C.9-1  Figure 6C.9-1 Building Storeys	*Figure 6C.9-1*  Figure 6C.9-1 Building Storeys
	Part 6.1 Multi-Dwelling Housing - Terraces
	Introduction *This Part provides standards for multi dwelling housing in the form of:* • *terraces.* *Terraces are a type of multi dwelling housing with 3 or more dwellings, where all dwellings are attached and face, and are generally aligned along, one or more public roads* *All development applications are to comply with the 'Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications, 2020 (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure)'; and, applications are to be accompanied by a Design Verification Statement that provides an assessment against the Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications, 2020.* *Note: Once prepared, LGA specific controls will be inserted into this Part.*
Part 7 Residential Flat Building (excluding manor houses)	
Introduction *Residential flat buildings, as defined in the KLEP, may be located within the R4 High Density Residential and R1 General Residential zones.* *The development of residential flat buildings in the MU1 Mixed Use zone is covered by this Part of the DCP.*	*Introduction* ~~*Residential flat buildings, as defined in the KLEP, may be located within the R4 High Density Residential and R1 General Residential zones.*~~ *The development of residential flat buildings ~~in the MU1 Mixed Use~~ is covered by this Part of the DCP.* *Where residential uses are provided to any part of the ground floor street frontage within a mixed use zone*

KDCP - proposed amendments to align with recent state government housing reforms

<table>
<tr><th>EXISTING KDCP</th><th>PROPOSED AMENDMENT</th></tr>
<tr><td>Where residential uses are provided to any part of the ground floor street frontage within a MU1 Mixed Use zone, then the development is to be treated as a Residential Flat Building and meet the standards of this Part.</td><td><s>MU1 Mixed Use zone</s>, then the development is to be treated as a Residential Flat Building and meet the standards of this Part.</td></tr>
<tr><td>7A.5 Site Coverage

(1) The site coverage may be up to a maximum of 30% of the site area, provided that the deep soil landscaping requirements in Section A Part 7A.6 Deep Soil Landscaping can be met.

Note: Site coverage is not the inverse of deep soil landscaping. Refer to Part 1B Dictionary for clarification of site coverage.

Note: Certain sites in E1 and MU1 zones have reduced maximum site coverage. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites.</td><td>7A.5 Site Coverage

(1) The site coverage may be up to a maximum of 30% of the site area, provided that the deep soil landscaping requirements in Section A Part 7A.6 Deep Soil Landscaping can be met.

Note: Site coverage is not the inverse of deep soil landscaping. Refer to Part 1B Dictionary for clarification of site coverage.

Note: Certain sites <s>in E1 and MU1 zones</s> have reduced maximum site coverage. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites.</td></tr>
<tr><td>7A.6 Deep Soil Landscaping

(1) Residential flat development is to have a minimum deep soil landscaping area as follows:
<table><tr><td>Site Area</td><td>Minimum Deep Soil Landscaping</td></tr><tr><td>Less than 1800 m^2</td><td>40% of the site</td></tr><tr><td>1800 m^2 or more</td><td>50% of the site</td></tr></table>
Note: For the purpose of this section, the site excludes any access handle.

Note: Certain sites in the E1 and MU1 zones have a reduced maximum deep soil landscaping area. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precinct and Sites.</td><td>7A.6 Deep Soil Landscaping

(1) Residential flat development is to have a minimum deep soil landscaping area as follows:
<table><tr><td>Site Area</td><td>Minimum Deep Soil Landscaping</td></tr><tr><td>Less than 1800 m^2</td><td>40% of the site</td></tr><tr><td>1800 m^2 or more</td><td>50% of the site</td></tr></table>
Note: For the purpose of this section, the site excludes any access handle.

Note: Certain sites <s>in the E1 and MU1 zones</s> have a reduced maximum deep soil landscaping area. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precinct and Sites.</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Part 7.1 Residential Flat Building - Manor House</td></tr>
<tr><td></td><td>Introduction

A manor house is a type of residential flat building with no more than 2 storeys (excluding any basements).

A manor house contains 3 or 4 dwellings where each dwelling is attached to another dwelling by a common wall or floor, and at least 1 dwelling is partially or wholly located above another dwelling.

All development applications are to comply with the 'Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications (Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure)'; and, applications are to be accompanied by a Design Verification Statement that provides an assessment against the Low Rise Housing Diversity Design Guide for Development Applications, 2020.</td></tr>
</table>

KDCP - proposed amendments to align with recent state government housing reforms

EXISTING KDCP	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
	Note: Once prepared, LGA specific controls will be inserted into this Part.
Part 8 Mixed Use Development	
Introduction *Mixed use buildings, as defined in the KLEP, are located within the E1 Local Centres, MU1 Mixed Use and B1 Neighbouhood Centres, and are composed of a mixture of two or more of the following uses:* *i) retail or business premises at ground and lower levels; and* *ii) residential apartments on upper levels; and/or* *iii) offices on upper levels.* *Where a development in the E1 Local Centre, or MU1 Mixed Use, is proposed to only incorporate commercial uses with no residential component, the proposal is to comply with and will be assessed under the controls for Non-Residential and Office Buildings in Part 9 of this DCP.*	*Introduction* ~~*Mixed use buildings, as defined in the KLEP, are located within the E1 Local Centres, MU1 Mixed Use and B1 Neighbouhood Centres, and are composed of a mixture of two or more of the following uses:*~~ ~~*i) retail or business premises at ground and lower levels; and*~~ ~~*ii) residential apartments on upper levels; and/or*~~ ~~*iii) offices on upper levels.*~~ *Where a development* ~~*in the E1 Local Centre, or MU1 Mixed Use, is proposed to*~~ *only incorporates commercial uses with no residential component, the proposal is to comply with, and will be assessed under, the controls for Non-Residential and Office Buildings in Part 9 of this DCP.*
8A.3 Building Setbacks *(1) In E1 and MU1 zones, mixed use buildings are required to be built to the street alignment with a zero setback, except when variations are stated in Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites. These variations facilitate building articulation, modulation, the provision of landscaped setbacks and the development of appropriate building forms. Setbacks within E1 zones warrant merit consideration.*	*8A.3 Building Setbacks* *(1)* ~~*In E1 and MU1 zones*~~ *Mixed use buildings are required to be built to the street alignment with a zero setback, except when variations are stated in Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites. These variations facilitate building articulation, modulation, the provision of landscaped setbacks and the development of appropriate building forms. Setbacks* ~~*within E1 zones*~~ *may warrant merit consideration.*
(2) Mixed use buildings on sites in the R4 zone where commercial uses are permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP, are to provide street setbacks as specified in Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites of this DCP.	*(2) Mixed use buildings on sites in* ~~*the R4*~~ *a residential zone where commercial uses are permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP, are to provide street setbacks as specified in Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites of this DCP.*
(3) In E1 and MU1 zones, mixed use buildings are generally not required to provide side and rear setbacks, except where variations are required as specified in Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites of this DCP. These variations are designed to facilitate building articulation, modulation and the provision of new or widened streets and through site pedestrian walkways.	*(3)* ~~*In E1 and MU1 zones,*~~ *Mixed use buildings are generally not required to provide side and rear setbacks, except where variations are required as specified in Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites of this DCP. These variations are designed to facilitate building articulation, modulation and the provision of new or widened streets and through site pedestrian walkways.*
(5) Mixed Use buildings on sites in the R4 zone where commercial uses are permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP, are to	*(5) Mixed Use buildings on sites in* ~~*the R4*~~ *a residential zone where commercial uses are permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP, are to provide minimum 6.0m*

KDCP - proposed amendments to align with recent state government housing reforms

<table>
<tr><th>EXISTING KDCP</th><th>PROPOSED AMENDMENT</th></tr>
<tr><td>provide minimum 6.0m side and rear setbacks and meet the building separation requirements of Part 8A.4 of this DCP</td><td>side and rear setbacks and meet the building separation requirements of Part 8A.4 of this DCP</td></tr>
<tr><td>8A.6 Site Coverage

Controls

The following controls are applicable only to mixed use buildings in R4 High Density Residential zones:

(1) The site coverage is to be .....

Note: Certain sites in E1 and MU1 zones have reduced maximum site coverage. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites.</td><td>8A.6 Site Coverage

Controls

The following controls are applicable ~~only~~ to mixed use buildings in ~~R4 High Density R~~ residential zones:

(1) The site coverage is to be .....

Note: Certain sites ~~in E1 and MU1 zones~~ have reduced maximum site coverage. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precincts and Sites.</td></tr>
<tr><td>8A.7 Deep Soil Landscaping

Design

(1) This section applies to all development that:
i) .... ii) ....
iii) is a mixed use building within the R4 High Density Residential zone</td><td>8A.7 Deep Soil Landscaping

Design

(1) This section applies to all development that:
i) .... ii) ....
iii) is a mixed use building within ~~the R4 High Density R~~ a residential zone</td></tr>
<tr><td>8A.7 Deep Soil Landscaping

(2) The development is to have minimum deep soil landscaping area as follows:
<table><tr><td>Site Area</td><td>Minimum Deep Soil Landscaping</td></tr><tr><td>Less than 1800 m^2</td><td>40% of the site</td></tr><tr><td>1800 m^2 or more</td><td>50% of the site</td></tr></table>Note: For the purpose of this section, the site excludes any access handle.

Note: Certain sites in the E1 and MU1 zones have a reduced maximum deep soil landscaping area. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precinct and Sites.</td><td>8A.7 Deep Soil Landscaping

(2) The development is to have minimum deep soil landscaping area as follows:
<table><tr><td>Site Area</td><td>Minimum Deep Soil Landscaping</td></tr><tr><td>Less than 1800 m^2</td><td>40% of the site</td></tr><tr><td>1800 m^2 or more</td><td>50% of the site</td></tr></table>Note: For the purpose of this section, the site excludes any access handle.

Note: Certain sites ~~in the E1 and MU1 zones~~ have a reduced maximum deep soil landscaping area. Refer to Section B Part 14 Urban Precinct and Sites.</td></tr>
<tr><td>8C.9 Building Facades and Articulation

(2) Street wall requirements do not apply to:

i) mixed use buildings in R4 zones where commercial uses are permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP;</td><td>8C.9 Building Facades and Articulation

(2) Street wall requirements do not apply to:

i) mixed use buildings in ~~R4~~ residential zones where commercial uses are permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP;</td></tr>
<tr><td>8C.13 Internal Ceiling Heights

(1) For all new buildings in the E1 Local Centre zone, the MU1 Mixed Use zone, and sites within the R4 High Density Residential zone where commercial development is permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP, the minimum ceiling heights, measured from finished floor level (FFL) to finished ceiling level (FCL), are to be:</td><td>8C.13 Internal Ceiling Heights

(1) For all new mixed use buildings ~~in the E1 Local Centre zone, the MU1 Mixed Use zone, and sites~~ including those within ~~the R4 High Density R~~ a residential zone where commercial development is permitted under Schedule 1 of the KLEP, the minimum ceiling heights, measured from finished floor level (FFL) to finished ceiling level (FCL), are to be:
i) .....</td></tr>
</table>

KDCP - proposed amendments to align with recent state government housing reforms

EXISTING KDCP	PROPOSED AMENDMENT
i)	
8C.15 Acoustic Privacy *(6) Commercial uses, where permitted in R4 (High Density Residential) zones, are to only operate within the following hours:* *i) .....*	*8C.15 Acoustic Privacy* *(6) Commercial uses, where permitted in residential ~~R4 (High Density Residential)~~ zones, are to only operate within the following hours:* *i) .....*
(7) Use of mixed use buildings in R4 (High Density Residential) zones providing medical services outside of the above hours and on public holidays will be permitted in the case of emergency services.	*(7) Use of mixed use buildings in residential ~~R4 (High Density Residential)~~ zones providing medical services outside of the above hours and on public holidays will be permitted in the case of emergency services.*
(8) Commercial uses, where permitted in E1 (Local Centre) zones are to only operate within the following hours:	*(8) Commercial uses, where permitted in ~~E1 (Local Centre) zones~~ a local centre, are to operate within the following hours:*
(9) Loading docks associated with commercial uses in E1 (Local Centre) zones are to operate within the following hours:	*(9) Loading docks associated with commercial uses in ~~E1 (Local Centre) zones~~ a local centre are to operate within the following hours:*
Part 9 Non-residential and Office Buildings	
Introduction *This Part is to be read in conjunction with KLEP. This section applies to all non-residential and office building developments within the E1, MU1 and E3 zones.*	*Introduction* *This Part is to be read in conjunction with KLEP 2015. This section applies to all buildings that are solely non-residential, ~~and~~ including office building developments ~~within the E1, MU1 and E3 zones~~.*
9A.1 Building Setbacks *(3) The following elements may encroach into setback areas within MU1 zones:* *i) .....*	*9A.1 Building Setbacks* *(3) The following elements may encroach into setback areas within mixed-use areas ~~MU1 zones~~:* *i) .....*
9A.2 Building Separation *(1) Buildings within E1, MU1 and E3 zones are to comply with the relevant building separation controls in Part 14 and Part 8A.2.*	*9A.2 Building Separation* *(1) Buildings on sites relevant to Part 14 and Part 8A.2 of this DCP ~~within E1, MU1 and E3 zones~~ are to comply with the ~~relevant~~ applicable building separation controls in those Parts.~~Part 14 and Part 8A.2.~~*
9C.10 Ground Floor Frontage *(11) Office buildings within E1 and MU1 zones are to comply with Part 8C.14 of this DCP.*	*9C.10 Ground Floor Frontage* *(11) Office buildings located in a local centre, neighbourhood centre or mixed use area ~~within E1 and MU1 zones~~ are to comply with Part 8C.14 of this DCP.*
9C.11 Awnings and Colonnades *(7) Office buildings within E1 and MU1 zones are to comply with the controls within Part 14, Parts 8C.15 and 8C.16 of this DCP.*	*9C.11 Awnings and Colonnades* *(7) Office buildings located in a local centre, neighbourhood centre or mixed use area ~~within E1 and MU1 zones~~ are to comply with the controls within Part 14, Parts 8C.15 and 8C.16 of this DCP.*

NOTICE OF MOTION

TULKIYAN HOUSE – FUTURE OWNERSHIP AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Notice of Motion from Councillor Taylor dated 29 May 2026

Tulkiyan is a State heritage-listed property bequeathed to Council by the Donaldson family in 1985. The property is currently managed under agreement by the Historic Houses Association of Australia and is intended to operate as a heritage house museum.

Council currently allocates operational funding toward the maintenance, management and conservation of the property, with additional capital expenditure proposed in future budgets for accessibility and associated improvements.

This Notice of Motion seeks to consult with the Heritage Committee at its next meeting, prior to undertaking an assessment of alternative custodial or ownership arrangements, including the legal pathway to a change in future ownership whether by sale or other form of transfer.

It is therefore recommended that Council seeks advice from the Heritage Committee on the following items:

A. That Council receive a report that outlines:
    a. the legal, statutory and heritage considerations applying to Tulkiyan House;
    b. the operational and capital expenditure associated with the property over the past 10 years and forecast for the coming five years;
    c. the current management arrangements associated with the property;
    d. the current and proposed use of the property and associated community benefit outcomes;
    e. potential alternative custodial or ownership models for Tulkiyan House and its contents;
    f. constraints on the transfer of ownership or disposal by sale of the property; and
    g. the indicative statutory and planning processes associated with any such options.
B. That the forthcoming Heritage Strategy refresh includes a review of heritage assets that the Council owns or manages.

Advice received from the Heritage Committee will be reported to Council once received, and expenditure on Tulkiyan will be limited to basic maintenance until council has considered it.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

Councillor Alec Taylor
Councillor for Roseville Ward

NOTICE OF MOTION

MARIAN STREET THEATRE REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT: FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY, STRATEGIC ACCOUNTABILITY AND COMMUNITY MANDATE

Notice of Motion from Councillor Ward dated 29 May 2026

The Marian Street Theatre redevelopment project has been before Council and the community for many years as a significant proposed investment in arts and cultural infrastructure.

The Save Marian Street Theatre Fundraising Feasibility Study was undertaken in October 2017. A business Plan, based on the recommendations from the fundraising feasibility study, was developed by the Save Marian Street Theatre Committee (SMSTC) in May 2018. The Feasibility Study and Business Plan provided a strategy for the refurbishment and re-opening of the Marian Street Theatre through a $4m public fund-raising campaign (no funds were raised). The Feasibility Study and Business Plan also required a capital contribution from Council of approximately $6m, plus up to $900,000 for fundraising costs, an operational subsidy of $1m p.a. for the first 2 years followed by an annual subsidy of $546,000, and a 25-year lease on the theatre to the SMSTC. Council received and noted the Feasibility Study and Business Plan in June 2018 but did not commit to the financial model presented.

In March 2019 Council considered a feasibility study and business case, both now outdated, that provided three recommendations to Council. The three design Options were as follows:

1. 'Minimum Option'. A slight improvement on the existing facilities prior to the building's closure (estimated $8.5m),

2. 'Medium Option'. An improvement on the building and facilities prior to its closure but within the existing building shell (estimated $10.5m),

3. 'Maximum Option'. Based on the 'Save Marian Street Theatre' design including a new child learning Centre. This Option explores extending the building to the east into Selkirk Park (estimated $22m).

While Council adopted the 'Medium Option' at $10.5 million, scope creep subsequently saw the project looking more like Option 3 than Option 2. Consequently, with the progress of time, change of scope, cost escalation throughout Covid and beyond, due diligence, delays in commencement, and costs of satisfaction of conditions of development consent saw the "all in" cost of the project increase from $10.5m to $30.3m by October 2024.

Possible delivery of the Marian Street Theatre redevelopment in recent years has principally been linked to potential funding associated with a Special Rate Variation.

However:

1. Council's final Special Rate Variation package submitted to IPART does not include Marian Street Theatre redevelopment funding,
2. No confirmed State Government or Commonwealth Government funding pathway has been identified for delivery of the full project,
3. Approximately $500,000 has been allocated in the current financial year for works associated with preserving the existing Development Consent,
4. Council presently has multiple competing capital priorities across community infrastructure, transport infrastructure, public domain improvements, sporting infrastructure, parks and cultural infrastructure investment opportunities.

Council recognises and supports arts and culture as a critical component of community life. However, Council also recognises that contemporary cultural delivery models increasingly incorporate:

1. Distributed community arts spaces,
2. Partnership opportunities with mixed-use developments and strategic centres,
3. Co-location opportunities within community hubs,
4. Multiple accessible cultural facilities rather than concentrated investment in a single location.

Council further notes that where no identified funding pathway or implementation strategy exists, it is appropriate that any further expenditure be supported by strategic justification, community mandate and appropriate financial accountability.

Council also notes the NSW Office of Local Government Capital Expenditure Review framework requirements relating to strategic justification, options appraisal, community consultation and risk management.

I, therefore, move that:

Financial accountability

A. Council notes that no identified funding source presently exists for the delivery of the Marian Street Theatre redevelopment project,

B. Council notes that the project has been subject to successive increases in budget estimates:

    1. $6m June 2018 (forecast Council co-contribution. The report also indicated "that theatres operated by local government generally rely on subsidies of anywhere between on $0.5m up to $1.5m per annum"),
    2. $10.5m March 2019 (approves a capital funding budget of $10.5m for refurbishment of the Marian Street Theatre),
    3. $30.3m October 2024 (quantity surveyor report).

C. Council notes that Council's final Special Rate Variation package, following extensive community consultation, and submitted to IPART does not include funding for the Marian Street Theatre redevelopment.

D. The following elements be incorporated into the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategy commencing in 2026/2027, where possible:

    1. Continuation of the existing Marian Street Theatre redevelopment proposal;
    2. Distributed smaller arts and cultural spaces across the LGA,
    3. Partnership opportunities associated with strategic centres and mixed-use development opportunities,
    4. Co-location opportunities within community hubs and emerging centres;
    5. Alternate cultural infrastructure delivery models that maximise community accessibility and usage,
    6. Comparative capital and operating costs across alternate options;
    7. Comparative assessment of geographic accessibility outcomes across the Local Government Area,
    8. Comparative assessment of activation outcomes, including opportunities to support night-time economy activity and precinct development,
    9. An assessment of the estimated cost and strategic feasibility of delivering multiple connected performance, exhibition and community arts spaces distributed across the Local Government Area compared to delivery of a single legacy venue.

Community mandate

E. Council notes that expenditure of this scale warrants demonstrated contemporary community support prior to committing further expenditure,

F. In conjunction with and to inform the Community and Cultural Facilities Study referred to in D above, Council conduct representative (not opt-in) community consultation through an external provider, with a budget of $30,000, regarding priorities for future cultural infrastructure investment including:

    1. Resident preferences regarding delivery of arts and cultural infrastructure,
    2. Comparative information regarding costs, benefits and strategic trade-offs associated with alternate delivery models,
    3. Geographic accessibility and distribution of arts and cultural opportunities across the Local Government Area,
    4. Reporting outcomes back to Council no later than March 2027.

Strategic accountability

G. No expenditure associated with preserving, substantially commencing or otherwise extending the life of Development Consent DA0144/20 occur until Council has considered and determined the outcomes of this review process,

H. Subject to the outcomes of the Community and Cultural Facilities Strategy and representative survey in Items D and F above, Council undertake and complete a Capital Expenditure Review consistent with NSW Office of Local Government requirements and relevant OLG guidance material, including:

    1. Strategic justification,
    2. Option appraisal,

3. Community consultation requirements,
4. Risk assessment and risk management,
5. Whole-of-life financial implications,
6. Funding pathway identification,
7. Opportunity cost assessment relative to competing Council infrastructure priorities.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above Notice of Motion as printed be adopted.

Councillor Barbara Ward
Councillor for Gordon Ward

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

TOD ACQUISITIONS

QUESTION:

Question from Councillor Sam Ngai dated 29 May 2026

As background, the business papers for the Extraordinary Meeting of Council held on 22 May 2025 said the following.

"*Council's Preferred TOD alternative includes the proposed acquisition of a number of properties for open space and new road links. They are intended to be identified as acquisitions in a reservations map to be gazetted as part of the package of planning controls forming an alternative to the TOD.*

Council is proposed to be the nominated acquisition authority for these reservations.
Some of these prospective acquisitions have been previously adopted by Council, and partially implemented, though not always reflected in LEP reservations (Roseville Avenue and Dumaresq Street for example). The need for others arises specifically because of extra demand generated by the TOD or a Council alternative to the TOD (Pockley/Shirley and Bent/Newark).

Proposed rezoning for future land acquisition understandably has a significant impact on owners and their families. Council acknowledges this. Council has an ongoing role to plan for future needs for public land for the whole of the community.

The time and timeframes of the current proposals for acquisition have been driven by factors emanating from actions of the NSW government, and it is acknowledged that this has led to a greatly expedited process of public consultation.

Council also recognises the uncertainty arising, particularly in relation to timing, amenity impacts, and the valuation of compensation.

It is instructive to note that:

- *The compulsory acquisition of land for public purposes, including open space, is a long-established part of the planning system and follows a structured legal process.*
- *Acquisition is generally not immediate and in the past Council has not initiated compulsory acquisition, with a preference for acquisition at a mutually convenient time. It is expected that Council will use the power to compulsorily acquire sparingly in the future.*
- *Council will endeavour to acquire land by negotiation if and when requested by an owner. Owner initiated compulsory acquisition can also be triggered in cases of hardship.*

- *The process for compulsory acquisition, including compensation, is governed by the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991, which includes independent valuation by the Valuer General.*
- *Whilst Council can indicate planning intent and facilitate owner-initiated acquisition requests where appropriate, Council is not the final arbiter of compensation offers under compulsory acquisition."*

As part of Council's alternate Transport Oriented Development (TOD) scenario, it was proposed that several private properties be acquired to provide for future road links and parks. My query is on behalf of affected residents from two separate suburbs, and it is regarding the mechanics and timing of the land acquisition.

These residents say that they are interested in selling up and moving on with their lives, however, they claim that when they approach Council to purchase the property Council has declined. These residents also claim that when they try to sell their property on the open market there are no interested buyers with reasonable offers as many are scared of purchasing a property that's flagged for acquisition. In other words, they claim that they are trapped in a detrimental position.

Can Council officers please provide more commentary on what mechanisms are available for purchasing the properties flagged for acquisition? If a property owner approaches Council to sell today, will Council honour it or is Council under no obligation to proceed?

RESPONSE:

Response from General Manager

Council may initiate an acquisition, either by negotiation or compulsory acquisition. If an owner requests that Council acquire their land prior to Council initiating the process, Council will engage in good faith negotiation to purchase it in accordance with Council's Acquisition and Divestment of Land Policy. An owner also has the option of seeking to initiate the acquisition under the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991 (the Act). For owner-initiated acquisition, owners must be able to demonstrate hardship as defined under the Act. Two fact sheets from the NSW Government are attached which provide information for property owners about owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship.

An internal acquisitions review panel will be established in June 2026 to monitor the acquisitions process, consisting of the General Manager and other key staff. Approaches received to date from property owners seeking to initiate acquisitions will be reviewed and the process and timing for acquisition clarified and communicated, if required, no later than July 2026. Update reports on acquisitions will be provided to Council every 6 months.

Councillor Sam Ngai
Councillor for Roseville Ward

Attachments:

A1⇩	Owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship: Fact sheet	2026/165052
A2⇩	Owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship: Minimum requirements	2026/165053

Owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship

Fact sheet

propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au

NSW GOVERNMENT

How to apply for hardship acquisition

Please follow these steps to apply for acquisition of your land:

1. Complete Form 4 - Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land available on the Centre for Property Acquisition website.

2. Provide supporting information for each of the following:

a) Information about the environmental planning instrument that your land is **designated** under, or a notice in writing from an acquiring authority that your land has been designated for acquisition for a public purpose.

b) Proof of title or other information to demonstrate that you **own** the land or are entitled to exercise a power of sale over the land.

c) Proof that you are **unable to sell** the land or unable to sell the land at market value because of the designation.

d) Any documentation that supports your claim for a **pressing personal, domestic or social reason** or to **avoid a loss or substantial reduction in income**.

3. Send your completed form and supporting documents to the relevant acquiring authority.

Who can apply for a hardship acquisition?

You can apply if you own the freehold land or have the legal power to sell the property.

If there are multiple owners, all must sign Form 4 – Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land, though only one needs to show hardship.

Public companies or their subsidiaries, including charities, cannot apply.

A public company is defined in the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth).

How to show you are unable to sell your land

Evidence to demonstrate you are unable to sell your land because of the designation may include:

- an opinion in writing from a licensed real estate agent to explain why a sales campaign would be inappropriate (for example, because the designation limits potential purchasers. Or because the designation prevents successful sale as the only realistic purchaser under the circumstances is the acquiring authority)
- a receipt or notice from a licensed real estate agent or appropriate website that shows a marketing campaign to sell your land was unable to attract a potential purchaser as a result of the designation.

How to show you are unable to sell your land at market value

Evidence to demonstrate you are unable to sell your land at market value because of the designation may include :

- copies of purchase offers that are below market value
- a property valuation report from a registered valuer
- a notice or letter from a licensed real estate agent or appropriate website that shows that you have not received any purchase offers

What reasons to sell your land without delay may be considered

Examples of reasons that demonstrate a necessity to sell the land without delay may include any one of the reasons below:

- the owner or his [their] spouse has been relocated to a job in another state.
- the family has to relocate for health reasons.
- the family has outgrown its accommodation.
- the owner needs to move closer to sick relatives.
- the owner's house is too big for them now and the maintenance of it is beyond their capacity.
- Alternatively, the owner may need to sell the land to avoid loss of their income where, for example, their business is in danger of insolvency and is secured against the family home.

Every case would need to be considered on its merits and the full range of personal, social and domestic reasons which might give rise to hardship cannot be anticipated[1].

How to demonstrate you need to sell your land

Examples of evidence to support the pressing personal, domestic, social or financial reason for which would need to sell your land may include:

- a written statement from you explaining the reason(s) you must sell your land without delay
- a letter from a doctor or other health professional
- if you need to sell the land to avoid a loss or substantial reduction in income, information which sets out these circumstances, including how the sale of the land will provide (or contribute to) a solution
- a copy of financial statements, a letter from your accountant, or a copy of relevant income tax returns.

What happens if you can demonstrate hardship

If you can demonstrate hardship, Form 4 - Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land is approved by the acquiring authority and your land is acquired. The landowner is notified in writing by the relevant Acquiring Authority on the outcome of the hardship application.

The acquiring authority has 90 days to acquire your land after accepting the hardship application.

You can agree to a longer time with the acquiring authority.

The acquiring authority can remove the designation on your land

Before the 90-day period has expired, the acquiring authority can remove the designation on your land.

If this happens, the acquiring authority does not have to acquire your land.

The acquiring authority can remove the designation by giving you written notice that your land is no longer designated for future acquisition.

Applying for a review of a hardship decision

You can seek an independent review of your hardship application if:

- the acquiring authority rejects your application for hardship
- the acquiring authority has not responded to your application for hardship within 90 days.

You have 28 days after this happens to apply for a review.

Please send your application for review to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) at hardship@planning.nsw.gov.au.

What to include with your application for review

Please include the following documents with your application:

- a copy of your Form 4 - Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land that you sent to the acquiring authority
- a copy of the decision on your hardship application and any associated documents from the acquiring authority
- all related correspondence between you and the acquiring authority in relation to your application for hardship, and
- any other relevant information you would like to provide.

You will receive confirmation that your application for review has been received.

Procedural fairness

If you provide new or additional information with your application for review, please make sure you point this out clearly.

This information will be shared with the acquiring authority to ensure procedural fairness.

The acquiring authority will be given the opportunity to comment on the new or additional material.

If the acquiring authority responds or provides material raising a significant new matter, this will be shared with you to give you the opportunity to respond.

Sharing of material and comments will in most cases occur before DPHI refers the application to the independent reviewer.

What happens when you apply for a review

Your application will be referred to an independent reviewer by DPHI to assess.

The independent reviewer may determine that:

- You have demonstrated hardship, and overturn the acquiring authority's decision . The acquiring authority must then acquire your land within 90 days.

  or

- You have not demonstrated hardship, and so the decision of the acquiring authority is confirmed. The acquiring authority does not need to acquire your land early.

The decision of the independent reviewer is final.

Where to send your application for review

Please email your application to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure.

Email: hardship@planning.nsw.gov.au

How compensation is assessed

Compensation under the Act is required to be on just terms and will include payment for market value of your property.

Depending on your individual circumstances, the following types of compensation may or may not be paid:

- any special value of the land,
- any loss attributable to severance or disturbance, and/or
- disadvantage resulting from relocation.

Acquiring authorities must look at your individual circumstances when making a decision on the compensation to be paid.

If the acquiring authority determines that any one of these types of compensation is not to be paid, it must explain to you why it is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

Any offer of compensation must specify the amounts being awarded for each head of compensation.

Visit The Centre for Property Acquisition website for more information.

Role of the NSW Valuer General

If you are unable to agree on the amount of compensation with the acquiring authority, the Valuer General will determine the compensation payable.

The Valuer General's website has more information on the role of the Valuer General.

A copy of the Claim for Compensation form is available on the Centre for Property Acquisition website.

Contact us

For more information, please contact the Centre for Property Acquisition:

Phone: 1300 029 146

Email: info@propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au

Do you need an interpreter?

Please call TIS National on 131 450 and ask for the Centre for Property Acquisition.

Copyright

Title: Owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship

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Any enquiries relating to these minimum requirements and guidelines may be addressed to the Centre for Property Acquisition at info@propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au

Author: Centre for Property Acquisition

Last updated: October 2024

Next due for review: October 2026 or sooner (if required).

Disclaimer

The Centre for Property Acquisition has prepared these minimum requirements and guidelines, however, they are not intended as a substitute for legal advice. Users should obtain their own advice when making decisions that draw upon this document.

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NSW GOVERNMENT

Owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship

Minimum requirements

propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au

NSW GOVERNMENT

Owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship

These minimum requirements provide direction for the acquisition of land following an application for owner-initiated acquisition due to hardship under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991.*

1 Context

1.1 Purpose

The minimum requirements:

- **apply to all authorities** that acquire land under the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991* (the Act)
- **define the minimum expectations** for the assessment of applications and compensation following owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship.

The minimum requirements and supporting guidelines aim to ensure:

- transparency in the assessment of applications for hardship
- consistency in the assessment of compensation
- procedural fairness to landowners.

1.2 Scope

The minimum requirements and guidelines apply to all acquiring authorities that acquire land under the Act.

The whole of a parcel of land or part of a parcel may be acquired following an owner-initiated application on the grounds of hardship.

These requirements do not apply to the acquisition of land owned by an authority of the State (including a local council), or land owned by a public company or a subsidiary of a public company, including if the public company is a charity, as provided in section 22 of the Act.

1.3 Property Acquisition Standards

The minimum requirements for owner-initiated acquisitions in cases of hardship will assist acquiring authorities to meet the following Property Acquisition Standards:

- Standard 1

  Property owners will be treated fairly and with empathy and respect.

- Standard 2

  Property owners will be provided with clear information about their rights.

- Standard 4

  The acquisition process will be consistent across projects and acquiring authorities.

1.4 Background

The 2013 review of the Act conducted by Mr David Russell SC recommended that the Act be changed to include a review mechanism for landowners where an acquiring authority rejects their hardship application.

Consistent with this recommendation, section 27A was inserted by *the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Amendment Act 2016* and commenced on 1 March 2017.

The objective behind this change was to improve transparency and fairness in hardship matters by ensuring that landowners can access a low-cost independent review of decisions made by an acquiring authority.

In addition, the NSW Government committed to improving the process by supporting landowners when preparing hardship applications and developing guidelines which acquiring authorities must follow.

2 Minimum requirements

2.1 Inform the landowner of the outcome of their hardship application

If an acquiring authority decides to reject the hardship application, it must communicate in writing:

1. the reasons for the decision.
2. that the landowner has a right to seek a review of the decision.
3. that the landowner seeking a merit review must apply within 28 days of receiving the written decision.

The acquiring authority must also forward the Centre for Property Acquisition (**CPA**) factsheet on Owner-Initiated Acquisition in Cases of Hardship.

2.2 All heads of compensation must be considered

- An acquiring authority must consider whether each head of compensation should be paid to ensure fair and just compensation to the landowner.
- An acquiring authority must be able to justify why any head of compensation has not been awarded.
- If relevant, any offer of compensation made by the acquiring authority must specify the amounts being awarded for special value, severance, disturbance and disadvantage resulting from relocation.

See section 3.6 for more information.

2.3 If a head of compensation has not been awarded, provide the reasons to the landowner

An acquiring authority must provide in writing to the landowner:

- the reasons explaining why any special value, severance, disturbance and/or disadvantage resulting from relocation have not been awarded.
- the information which the acquiring authority relied on when making its decision.

2.4 Inform landowners that they have the right to seek a determination of compensation by the NSW Valuer General

- If the hardship application is accepted, the acquiring authority must provide landowners with a copy of the CPA fact sheet on Owner-initiated acquisition.
- An acquiring authority must provide landowners with a copy of the claim for compensation form if the hardship application is accepted.

3 Guidelines

3.1 Application requirements

Landowner issues notice (s.23)

To make an application for hardship, a landowner must issue the acquiring authority with a Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land (in the form referred to below). A landowner may issue the Notice if the land is designated for acquisition by that authority for a public purpose, and the owner considers that they will suffer hardship if there is any delay in acquiring the land.

The Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land is a form approved by the Minister administering the Act and is available on the Property Acquisition website.

Who is a landowner (s.22)

For the purpose of the hardship provisions, a landowner is defined as someone who:

- owns the title to the land (that is, has a fee simple estate in the land); or
- has become entitled to exercise a power of sale over the land

but is not:

- a public company, or subsidiary of a public company, as defined by the *Corporations Act 2001* (Cth); or
- an authority of the State.

When there is more than one landowner (s.23)

All landowners are required to complete the Notice. Only one of the landowners needs to suffer hardship.

When a notice is received

Upon receiving a Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land, the acquiring authority should:

1. check whether the land is designated for acquisition by that authority for a public purpose.
2. check whether the designation is still required.
3. assess whether the landowner has provided sufficient information to demonstrate hardship.

3.2 Designation over land

When there is insufficient information

Where more information is required to assess the hardship application, an acquiring authority should contact the landowner without delay to inform the landowner that more information is required, and:

- to specify the type of information required and
- to ask the landowner to provide the information by a specified date and
- to ask the landowner to agree to extend the 90-day period in which land is to be acquired.

Where the land is not designated for acquisition

A hardship application can only be made over land that has been designated for acquisition for a public purpose, as described in section 21 of the Act.

If upon checking, the authority finds the land is not designated for acquisition or reserved by an environmental planning instrument, the acquiring authority must advise the landowner of this and for this reason, the hardship application cannot be accepted.

Check whether the land is required (s.21)

A hardship application can only be made over land that has been designated for acquisition for a public purpose, as described in section 21 of the Act.

A landowner is able to make a hardship application for all, or only part of, its land. However, an acquiring authority is only required to acquire as much of the land that is needed for the public purpose for which the land was designated.

Acquiring authority may lift designation (s.27)

An acquiring authority may remove the designation over the land within 90 days of the landowner issuing the Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land where the authority has previously, in connection with an application for development consent, notified the consent authority that the land has been designated by the authority of the State for future acquisition by it.

To remove the designation, the acquiring authority must give the landowner a written notice that the land is no longer designated for future acquisition by it.

Where land is designated for acquisition because it has been reserved under an environmental planning instrument for a public purpose, the acquiring authority must provide the landowner with both a written notice that the land is no longer designated by that authority for future acquisition, and a written undertaking that it will use its best endeavours to remove the reservation.

3.3 Assessing hardship

What is hardship (s.24)

To demonstrate hardship, a landowner must be able to meet the following criteria:

1. because of the designation of the land for acquisition for a public purpose, the landowner is:
    - unable to sell the land, **or**
    - unable to sell the land at market value.
2. It is necessary for the landowner to sell all or part of the land without delay:
    - for a pressing personal reason, a pressing domestic reason, or a pressing social reason, **or**
    - to avoid the loss of income, **or**
    - to avoid a substantial reduction in income.

When an owner is a corporation (s.24(3))

If the landowner is a corporation, it must be able to demonstrate that, as well as being unable to sell the land or unable to sell the land at market value, it has become necessary for the corporation to sell all or any part of the land without delay:

- for pressing personal, domestic or social reasons of an individual who holds at least 20 per cent of the shares in the corporation, or
- in order to avoid the loss of (or a substantial reduction in) the income of such an individual.

How an owner can show they are unable to sell the land

A landowner must be able to demonstrate that, because of the designation:

- they are unable to sell the land, **or**
- they are unable to sell the land at market value.

An inability to sell the land is different from an unwillingness to sell the land.

The inability to sell the land can be demonstrated by, for example:

- an opinion in writing from a licensed real estate agent setting out the reasons why a sales campaign would be inappropriate (e.g. because the designation limits potential purchasers, or prevents successful sale as the only realistic purchaser under the circumstances is the acquiring authority), **or**
- receipt or notice from a licensed real estate agent or appropriate website demonstrating a marketing campaign attempting to sell the land which has proved to be unsuccessful in attracting any potential purchaser as a result of the designation.

How an owner can show that it is necessary to sell the land without delay

A landowner must be able to demonstrate that it is necessary to sell all of the land, or part of the land, without delay, because of any one of the following:

- a pressing personal reason, or
- a pressing domestic reason, or
- a pressing social reason, or
- to avoid the loss of income, or
- to avoid a substantial reduction in income.

Examples of reasons that demonstrate a necessity to sell the land without delay may include any one of the reasons below:

- the owner or his [their] spouse has been relocated to a job in another state.
- the family has to relocate for health reasons.
- the family has outgrown its accommodation.
- the owner needs to move closer to sick relatives.
- the owner's house is too big for them now and the maintenance of it is beyond their capacity.
- Alternatively, the owner may need to sell the land to avoid loss of their income where, for example, their business is in danger of insolvency and is secured against the family home.

Every case would need to be considered on its merits and the full range of personal, social and domestic reasons which might give rise to hardship cannot be anticipated[1].

Examples of evidence to support these reasons may include:

- a written statement from the landowner explaining why they must sell the land without delay.
- an opinion from a treating doctor or other medical professional.
- a written statement from the landowner explaining how the sale of the property will prevent loss or reduction of income.
- a copy of financial statements, a letter from an accountant, or a copy of relevant income tax returns.

[1] Legislative Assembly, 11 April 1991, Second Reading of the Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Bill.

3.4 Merits review of a hardship application

Landowner can apply for review of decision (s.27A)

A decision by an acquiring authority to not accept an application for owner-initiated acquisition can be reviewed.

Section 3.3 above described the types of information that the reviewer may consider when making their determination.

A landowner can make an application for merits review:

- within 28 days after an acquiring authority has rejected their application for owner-initiated acquisition, **or**
- where an acquiring authority has not acquired the land, or removed the designation for acquisition over the land, 90 days after the application for owner-initiated acquisition was made.

To lodge an application for a merits review of a decision on hardship, landowners should send their application via email to the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) at hardship@planning.nsw.gov.au.

Reviewer's decision will be made on the papers

DPHI facilitates the merits review. DPHI allocates one of the independent expert panel members, appointed by the Minister responsible for the administration of the Act, that they retain to conduct the merits review.

The reviewer conducts their assessment 'on the papers' by examining:

- the application made by the landowner for owner-initiated acquisition
- the decision of the acquiring authority
- other relevant correspondence or information relating to the application.

Procedural fairness	If the landowner provides new or additional material with their application under section 27A of the Act, this will be shared with the acquiring authority to ensure that procedural fairness is given to the authority. The acquiring authority will be given the opportunity to comment on the new or additional material. If the acquiring authority makes a submission or provides material raising a significant new matter, this will generally be shared with the landowner who will also be given the opportunity to respond. Sharing of material and comments also will generally occur before DPHI refers the application to the independent reviewer.
Reviewer's decision is final (s.27A(5))	The reviewer may decide to either confirm the decision of the acquiring authority not to acquire the land, or if satisfied that the authority is required to acquire the land, quash the decision and decide the matter. The Act provides that the decision of the reviewer is final, and must be given effect to by the authority.

3.5 Method and timing of acquisition of land

Compulsory acquisition is the default method(s.25)	The Act provides that compulsory acquisition is the default method for owner-initiated acquisition where the Valuer General determines the amount of compensation payable. A Proposed Acquisition Notice is not required. However, this does not prevent the acquiring authority and property landowner from reaching an agreement on compensation.
Land to be acquired within 90 days (s.23(2))	Unless the hardship application is rejected, the acquiring authority must acquire the land within 90 days unless otherwise agreed between the landowner and the acquiring authority. The 90-day period commences from the date the landowner submits the Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land.

3.5 Assessing compensation

Compensation must be on just terms (s.26)

The Act provides that compensation payable under the Act is required to be on just terms.

Section 26 provides an acquiring authority with a discretion to not take into account the following heads of compensation:

- any special value of the land
- any loss attributable to severance or disturbance
- disadvantage resulting from relocation.

However, an acquiring authority should only exercise this discretion on a case-by-case basis.

If an acquiring authority determines that compensation under one or more of these heads is not payable, it must justify why it is fair and reasonable in the circumstances.

Acquiring authority should ensure fairness

The discretion in section 26 is designed to ensure fairness.

When exercising this discretion, an acquiring authority must ensure that compensation is on just terms. An acquiring authority should always consider whether all of the heads of compensation should be paid.

An acquiring authority should award these heads of compensation unless there is a good reason not to. This follows the approach of the NSW Land and Environment Court.

Valuer General's approach

When assessing compensation, the Valuer General considers each case on its merits. The general position taken by the Valuer General in awarding compensation is to resolve any reasonable doubts in favour of the landowner.

Refer to the Valuer General's policy on Compensation Following Compulsory Acquisition.

4 References

4.1 Laws and guidelines

Governing law	*Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*

4.2 Definitions

The Act	*Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*
CPA	Centre for Property Acquisition
Landowner	A person that has an interest in the land as defined under section 22 of the *Land Acquisition (Just Terms Compensation) Act 1991*

4.3 Useful resources

Factsheet	CPA factsheet on Owner-Initiated Acquisition in Cases of Hardship
Forms	Notice Requiring Acquisition of Land form Claim for Compensation form
Website	Property acquisition website

Version control

Version	Date published	Comments
1	2019	First published
2	October 2024	Updated to include new section on affording procedural fairness where new material is introduced in applications for review of hardship decisions.

Copyright

Title: Owner-initiated acquisition in cases of hardship

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Any enquiries relating to these minimum requirements and guidelines may be addressed to the Centrefor Property Acquisition at info@propertyacquisition.nsw.gov.au

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NSW GOVERNMENT

QUESTION WITH NOTICE

COUNCIL'S ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE POLICY

QUESTION:

Question from Councillor Sam Ngai dated 29 May 2026

The power and accessibility of Artificial Intelligence has significantly increased and while it provides substantial benefits, it is also not without risk.

Many of the larger organisations in the private sector have adopted AI Policies which lay out who can use AI, which AI systems they can use, where these AI systems are hosted, what data they can plug into the AI, and how they can us the outputs of AI.

QUESTIONS:

1. AI Use in Council

I am interested in knowing where Ku-ring-gai is along this journey.

a. Are we using AI anywhere?
b. Do we have a formal AI Policy yet and if not, are we about to establish one?
c. In the interim, what safeguards do we have in place to prevent unintended events such as the disclosure of private / confidential information or poorly made decisions informed by inaccurate or hallucinated AI output?

RESPONSE:

Response Councillor for Roseville Ward Councillor Sam Ngai and Director Corporate Angela Apostol *Angela Apostol*

1. AI Use in Council

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Management response:

Council is in the early stages of developing its approach to AI. Council has engaged a consultant to assist in preparing an AI Strategy and Policy. This includes reviewing current AI use, identifying suitable AI tools, and adopting the right governance, risk, recordkeeping, and security controls. The strategy and policy are expected to be completed by around September 2026.

The AI Strategy is intended to:

- *Make sure AI use meets legal, ethical and security requirements*
- *Identify practical AI solutions that could support Council's work*
- *Move from ad-hoc use to a more coordinated approach across the organisation*
- *Give staff the tools and guidance to use AI safely*
- *Make sure AI supports Council's long-term goals and priorities*

So far Council has conducted a survey across the organisation to better understand how AI is currently being used, along with staff concerns, opportunities and support needs. The results will inform the policy and provide guidance and training needed for safe and effective use of AI across Council.

Through various communication means and information awareness training sessions staff are reminded not to enter private, confidential or sensitive Council information into public AI tools. Staff must also check AI generated content for accuracy before using it.

Council's approach is being developed in line with NSW guidelines, privacy and recordkeeping requirements. The formal AI policy and strategy being developed will provide clearer rules for approved use, risk management and accountability.

Councillor Sam Ngai
Councillor for Roseville Ward

Angela Apostol
Director Corporate