



# Ordinary Council

Monday 9 September 2024  
6.30pm

## Agenda



## Council Meeting

Council will be holding Council (i.e. Ordinary and Extraordinary) meetings with the Mayor, Councillors and staff participating in person.

Members of the public are invited to attend the Council meeting in person on watch and/or listen live (via Council's website). Public participation online or by phone will be managed in accordance with meeting procedures.

Members of the public may also submit late correspondence. Instructions on how to do this are provided below:

- **To watch and/or listen to the meeting live (from 6.30pm)**  
Details on how to watch and listen to the meeting live will be available at Council Agendas, Audio Recordings and Minutes.  
<https://www.youtube.com/@woollahracouncil5355/streams>
- **To request to address the Council (pre-register by 10.00am on the day of the meeting)**  
Pre-register to address the Committee by 10.00am on the day of the meeting by using the relevant registration form on Council's website - [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au)
- **To submit late written correspondence (submit by 10.00am on the day of the meeting)**  
Members of the public may submit late written correspondence on an agenda item being considered at the Council meeting. If you wish to make a written submission on an item on the agenda, please email your submission to [records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au) by 10.00am on the day of the meeting.

The audio recording and late correspondence considered at the meeting will be uploaded to Council's website by 5.00pm on the next business day.

### Disclaimer:

By using conferencing technology or by teleconference, listening and/or speaking at Council meeting members of the public consent to their voice, image and personal information (including name and address) being recorded and publicly available on Council's website. Councillors, staff and members of the public are advised that meeting are being lived streamed, accessible via a link from Council's website.

By addressing a Council meeting, members of the public consent to their voice and personal information (including name and address) being recorded and publicly available on Council's website.

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The audio recording of each meeting will be retained on Council's website for a minimum period of 6 months. After that period has passed, recordings of meetings may be disposed of in accordance with the *State Records Act 1998*.

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**Ordinary and Extraordinary Council Meeting Membership:** 15 Councillors (including the Mayor)

**Quorum:** The quorum for Council meeting is 8 Councillors



# Woollahra Municipal Council

## Notice of Meeting

5 September 2024

To: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Richard Shields ex-officio  
Councillors Sarah Swan (Deputy Mayor)  
Sean Carmichael  
Peter Cavanagh  
Luise Elsing  
Nicola Grieve  
Mary-Lou Jarvis  
Harriet Price  
Lucinda Regan  
Matthew Robertson  
Isabelle Shapiro  
Mark Silcocks  
Merrill Witt  
Susan Wynne  
Toni Zeltzer

Dear Councillors,

### Ordinary Council – 9 September 2024

In accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1993, I request your attendance at Council's **Ordinary Council** meeting to be held in the **Mansfield Room, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay - held via teleconference, on Monday 9 September 2024 at 6.30pm.**

Members of the Public may:

- Register to address the meeting (via Zoom) by completing the relevant form available on Council's website: <https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/v/1/forms/code-of-meeting-practice-comp-public-forum-registration-form-items-not-on-the-agenda-2023-2024.pdf> and email the completed form to [records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au) **by 10.00am on the day of the meeting.**
- Submit late correspondence for consideration by Councillors by emailing [records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au) **by 10.00am on the day of the meeting.**

Watch and listen to the meeting live via Council's website:

[https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings\\_and\\_committees/council\\_meetings/council\\_agendas\\_and\\_minutes](https://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au/council/meetings_and_committees/council_meetings/council_agendas_and_minutes).

An audio recording of the meeting will be uploaded to Council's website following the meeting by 5.00pm on the next business day.

If you have any difficulties accessing the meeting please contact (02) 9391 7001.

Regards,

Craig Swift-McNair  
General Manager



# Ordinary Council Meeting

## Agenda

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## 6. Confirmation of Minutes

<b>Item No:</b>	6.1
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES - 26 AUGUST 2024</b>
<b>Author:</b>	Sue O'Connor, Governance Officer
<b>File No:</b>	24/141624
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	The Minutes of the Council of 26 August 2024 were previously circulated. In accordance with the guidelines for Committees' operations it is now necessary that those Minutes be formally taken as read and confirmed.
<b>Alignment to Delivery Program:</b>	Strategy 11.3: Ensure effective and efficient governance and risk management.

### Recommendation:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 26 August 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

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### Executive Summary:

This report presents the Council Minutes of 26 August 2024 for confirmation.

### Discussion:

The Council Meeting Minutes are presented as a procedural matter. Any matter arising from the Minutes can be discussed.

A copy of the Minutes are provided as **Attachment 1**.

### Options:

Submission of Minutes to the [insert meeting] is a procedural matter for the adoption of the Minutes.

### Community Engagement and / or Internal Consultation:

No internal or external consultation has taken place in the preparation of this report.

### Policy Implications:

There are no direct policy implications as a result of this report.

### Financial Implications:

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

### Resourcing Implications:

There are no direct resourcing implications as a result of this report.

### Conclusion:

The Minutes are presented for confirmation by the Council Meeting.

### Attachments

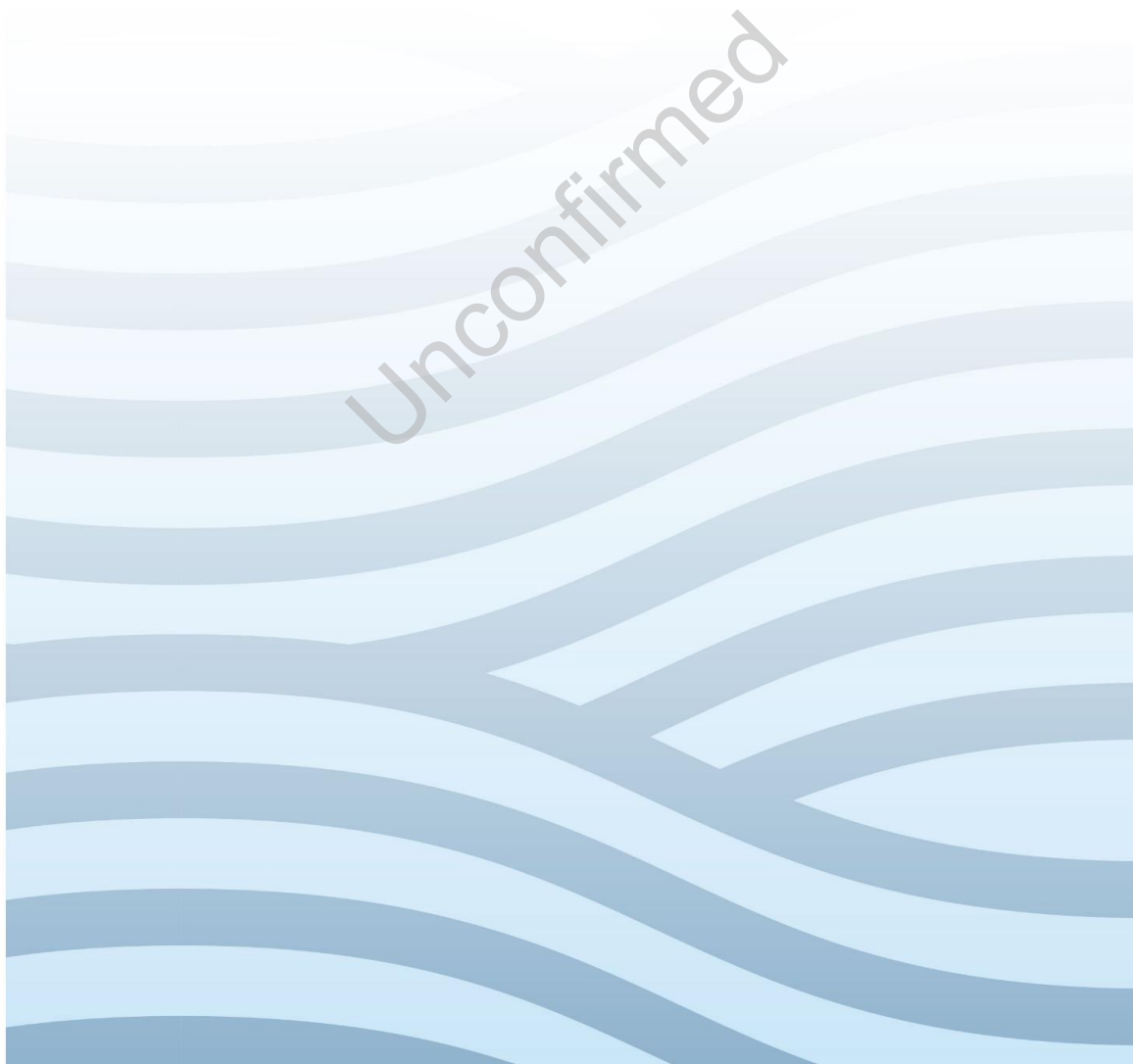
1. Unconfirmed Council Minutes - 26 August 2024 [!\[\]\(723a37e46f3c754ef97346200f7c029c\_img.jpg\)](#) 



# Ordinary Council

Monday 26 August 2024  
5.30pm

## Minutes



## Ordinary Council Meeting

**Monday 26 August 2024**

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Unconfirmed



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Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

26 August 2024

## Ordinary Council Meeting

### Minutes of the Meeting of Ordinary Council held at the Council Chambers, 536 New South Head Road, Double Bay, on 26 August 2024 at 5.30pm

Present: His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Richard Shields ex-officio  
Councillors Sarah Swan (Deputy Mayor)  
Sean Carmichael  
Peter Cavanagh (joined at 5.47pm during Item 15)  
Luise Elsing  
Nicola Grieve  
Mary-Lou Jarvis (via Zoom) (in person at 6.03pm for Items 1 to 15 only)  
Harriet Price  
Lucinda Regan  
Matthew Robertson  
Isabelle Shapiro (left the meeting at 6.39pm during Item 15)  
Mark Silcocks (joined at 5.35pm during Item 6.1)  
Merrill Witt  
Susan Wynne

Staff: Jennifer Chenhall (Manager – Governance & Risk)  
Rhys Johnson (Governance Coordinator)  
Sue Meekin (Director – Corporate Performance)  
Carolyn Nurmi (Governance Officer)  
Patricia Occelli (Director – Community & Customer Experience)  
Sue O'Connor (Governance Officer)  
Tom O'Hanlon (Director – Infrastructure & Sustainability)  
Scott Pedder (Director – Planning & Place)  
Craig Swift-McNair (General Manager)

Also in Attendance: Nil

## 1. Opening

The Mayor declared the Ordinary Council Meeting of 26 August 2024 open and welcomed Councillors, staff and members of the public who are watching and listening to this evenings meeting.

## 2. Prayer

The Mayor read the Prayer:

Almighty God, you have given us a beautiful place to live in. We pray for your gift of wisdom that the decisions of this Council may benefit those we serve.

Be with us in our deliberations that this Municipality may know your blessing. Amen.

## 3. Acknowledgement of Country (Gadigal People and Birrabirragal People)

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

*I would like to acknowledge that we are here today on the land of the Gadigal and Birrabirragal people, the traditional custodians of the land. On behalf of Woollahra Council, I acknowledge Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people attending today and I pay my respects to Elders past, present and emerging.*

## 4. Acknowledgement of the Sovereign of the Day (King Charles III)

The Mayor read the following Acknowledgement of the Sovereign of the Day (King Charles III):

*I also acknowledge, the King of Australia, King Charles III.*

## 5. Leave of Absence, Apologies and Attendance by Audio-Visual Link by Councillors

An apology was received and accepted from Councillor Toni Zeltzer and leave of absence granted.

**General Item No:** 5.1 Attendance by Audio Visual Link

**(Wynne/Swan)**

### 154/24 Resolved:

THAT in accordance with clause 5.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice, Council approves the following Councillor participation in the Council Meeting of 26 August 2024 via Audio-Visual Link:

- Councillor Jarvis

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*Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

**For the Motion**

Councillor Carmichael  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Shields  
Councillor Swan  
Councillor Wynne  
Councillor Witt

**Against the Motion**

Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Grieve  
Councillor Elsing  
Councillor Regan

6/4

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## 6. Confirmation of Minutes

**Item No:** 6.1  
**Subject:** CONFIRMATION OF COUNCIL MINUTES - 12 AUGUST 2024  
**Author:** Sue O'Connor, Governance Officer  
**File No:** 24/139870  
**Purpose of the Report:** The Minutes of the Council of 12 August 2024 were previously circulated. In accordance with the guidelines for Committees' operations it is now necessary that those Minutes be formally taken as read and confirmed.  
**Alignment to Delivery Program:** Strategy 11.3: Ensure effective and efficient governance and risk management.

(Wynne/Swan)

155/24 Resolved:

THAT the Minutes of the Council Meeting of 12 August 2024 be taken as read and confirmed.

*Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

**For the Motion**

Councillor Carmichael  
Councillor Elsing  
Councillor Grieve  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Price  
Councillor Regan  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Shapiro  
Councillor Shields  
Councillor Silcocks  
Councillor Swan  
Councillor Witt  
Councillor Wynne

**Against the Motion**

Nil

13/0

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**7. Late Correspondence**

**Note:** Council resolution of 27 June 2011 to read late correspondence in conjunction with the relevant Agenda Item Notice of Motion 16.1.

**8. Disclosures of Interest**

Nil

Unconfirmed

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Ordinary Council Meeting Minutes

26 August 2024

## 9. Petitions Tabled

**Petition No:** 9.1  
**From:** Tim Hirshman  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Witt

*The Petition was in terms, "We the undersigned members of the community respectfully petition Woollahra Municipal Council to:*

1. *Note that as at 25 August 2024 more than 270 people have signed the online petition at <https://chnq.it/MYb7gFDqxb> entitled "Preserve Trumper Park Tennis Courts in Paddington NSW for tennis use only";*
2. *Acknowledge the concerns and opposition expressed by users of the Trumper Park tennis centre and by local residents in the Woollahra Municipality about the resolution passed by Woollahra Municipal Council on 11 June 2024 to:*
  - A. *Initiate a Request for Tender for the lease and operation of Trumper Park Tennis Centre at 1 Quarry St. Paddington, comprising the six courts and operation of the Kiosk in connection with use of the courts.*
  - B. *Include provisions in the tender to allow for multi-sports use of two courts, ensuring diverse activities can take place to optimise usage of the courts (referred to as the "Resolution".*
3. *Rescind or otherwise vary the Resolution at the next Council meeting occurring after the receipt of this petition, so as to ensure that:*
  - (a) *the Request For Tender does not include any provisions to allow for multi-sports use of two courts, or*
  - (b) *if the Request for Tender has already been issued including provisions to allow for multi-sports use, that all parties who have received or expressed an interest in the Request for Tender and any other interested parties are promptly informed that such provisions no longer form part of the terms of the Request for Tender; and*
4. *Ensure that any new lease granted for the Trumper Park tennis centre contains the permitted use specified in the Plan of Management for Trumper Park, namely that the Trumper Park tennis centre tennis courts are for tennis play only."*

*There are 20 signatures on the tabled petition.*

**(Witt/Robertson)**

**156/24 Resolved:**

THAT the petition lie on the table for fourteen (14) days and referred to the relevant Council department for consideration.

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## 10. Mayoral Minute

Nil

## 11. Public Forum

Nil

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26 August 2024

## 12. General Manager and Officer's Report

**Item No:** 12.1  
**Subject:** **REPORT ON THE ALLOCATION OF GRANT FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF THE BONDI JUNCTION WESTFIELD INCIDENT**  
**Author:** Jamie Adams, Development Officer, Community & Culture  
**Approvers:** Vicki Munro, Manager Community & Culture  
Patricia Occelli, Director Community & Customer Experience  
Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager  
**File No:** 24/129652  
**Purpose of the Report:** To provide an update on the use of Council's \$20,000 grant funding in response to the 13 April, 2024 Bondi Junction Westfield incident.  
**Alignment to Delivery Program:** Strategy 2.2: Understand needs of our community so that we can facilitate access to support and services.

(Swan/Carmichael)

### 157/24 Resolved:

THAT Council note and receive the report on the allocation of grant funding in support of the Bondi Junction Westfield incident.

*Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

#### **For the Motion**

Councillor Carmichael  
Councillor Elsing  
Councillor Grieve  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Price  
Councillor Regan  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Shapiro  
Councillor Shields  
Councillor Silcocks  
Councillor Swan  
Councillor Witt  
Councillor Wynne

13/0

#### **Against the Motion**

Nil

## 13. Reports of the Committees

Nil

## 14. Rescission Motion

Nil

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## 15. Councillor Reports/Councillor Updates (Section 8.4)

**Note:** Councillor Reports/Councillor Updates are to be confined to condolences, congratulations, presentations and matters ruled by the Chair to be of extreme urgency (in accordance with Section 8.4 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice).

**Note:** Councillor Jarvis left the meeting (Zoom), the time being 5.45pm.

**Note:** Councillor Jarvis returned to the meeting in person, the time being 6.03pm.

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**General Item No:** 15.1 Opening Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** The Mayor, Councillor Shields

### The Mayor Councillor Shields Advised:

Thank you to Councillors for your indulgence for me to address you on what will be the last in person meeting of this term. As you know I am not standing for re-election and I would like to make some remarks about milestone events that have occurred during the last 12 months of my Mayoral term.

I also want to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to those who have helped us achieve so much this year, and to those who have offered their unwavering support during my time as Mayor.

It has been a great privilege to serve our community as Mayor of one of the most beautiful and unique municipalities In the world.

I have been outspoken in our community's opposition to the NSW Government's housing reforms. These reforms threaten the very fabric of our beautiful community by introducing unprecedented building density and height which will flow through to increased traffic congestion with no thought for the need to protect green canopy and no plans to grow vital infrastructure such as public transport, health and education. These plans will irreversibly change the character of our area.

I believe our planning strategies for Edgecliff and Double Bay represent the best way to balance the need for additional housing, with the need to maintain our local character, amenity and heritage protection.

I have also fought to protect the amenity of our municipality by opposing the plan by the NSW Government and Clover Moore to reduce one of our two major roads from four lanes to two. Make no mistake the Oxford Street cycleway will cause severe disruption to local businesses (doing it tough in this cost of living crisis). It will also cause severe disruption to everyone trying to move around the eastern suburbs.

I do see the need to move away from internal combustion engine vehicles and I am delighted to have seen the installation of additional EV chargers throughout the LGA, with the one's in Paddington being amongst the most popular in Sydney and to see the installation of 21 pole chargers powered by GreenPower. Although this decision was not popular with all I have practiced what we preach by retiring the Mayoral diesel Mercedes and replaced it with an EV.

I was pleased to support our Significant Tree register so we can protect our leafy giants and I am proud to be part of a Council that demonstrates its commitment to the local environment by adopting an ambitious and important tree canopy target through our Urban Forest Strategy.

There is no better place to get out and about than Woollahra and we have made some changes to make it even better. We have boosted outdoor recreation opportunities, Councillor Swan and I unveiled new mini basketball and netball courts at Harbourview Park and Moncur Reserve, we upgraded Spring Street playground and delivered an updated fitness station at Yarranabbe Park.

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In the last few weeks we have seen the opening of Lyne Park playground, which has received enormous praise and we have opened for public use and hire, the beautiful Vacluse Bowling Club.

I am very proud of leading and delivering alternative revenue streams that will see growth of \$60 million over a 10 year period, which may go some way to address the outrageous level of cost shifting from the NSW Government that damages our community in the order of \$14 million a year.

Talking about good financial decisions my position is very clear on the upcoming referendum which will see the community decide if they want to reduce the number of Councillors from 15 to 9. This is also about reducing our costs, operating more efficiently, with the primary driver that we can focus on local service delivery and benefits. Smaller and efficient government is what the community expects from a Liberal led council.

At Woollahra we are one of the most over represented Councils per head of population in the metropolitan area. We have 1 Councillor per 3,593 head of population. Our neighbours – City of Sydney has 1 Councillor per 21,485 head of population and Waverley has 1 Councillor per 5,782 head of population

The reality is Australia is one of the most overly governed democracies in the world and Woollahra Council typifies this statement. We need less politicians not more and the ratepayers will benefit with more services. I have mentioned before that a small and efficient government is what ratepayers expect from a Liberal controlled Council and they also expect for Council not to meddle in the decisions of the individual.

I am particularly proud that we pushed back on the anti-gas zeitgeist that gives individuals the right to decide if gas appliances should be used in their homes.

I know we regularly grapple with the concept that local council should stay out of national and global affairs. Our jobs as Councillors first and foremost is to represent our community and if the community is affected by an issue, federal, state or local, then it is our job to be their voice.

Recently our community was heavily impacted by the worst single day of Jews being murdered since the Holocaust. As a Council we pretty much unanimously resolved to condemn the abhorrent and unprecedented attack on innocent Israelis by Hamas. We showed our support to the local Jewish community and to those killed, injured or taken from their loved ones, by choosing to fly the Israeli Flag as a sign of solidarity for all Jewish people here and abroad.

I shared the proudest moment of my political life with Isabelle Shapiro when I stood in front of most of you wearing a Kippah and reciting the Shema. I have recently received criticism for wearing two hats. My decision to remain as Mayor was a direct result of an unprecedented rise in anti-Semitism following October 7 and a widespread fear in our community to publicly express our Jewishness. When my own daughter expressed concern about displaying a mezuzah at our door, I knew there was a problem.

I remained as Mayor because I was pleaded with privately by community and religious leaders to be a beacon of strength in our local community's greatest hour of need. I am proud that all significant Liberal leaders, including Peter Dutton, supported me in this decision. I do not, in anyway resile from this decision.

In late July Woollahra Council endorsed and adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism. This was a Notice of Motion I tabled along with my colleagues Councillor Isabelle Shapiro and Councillor Sean Carmichael. The adoption of the definition is an important tool for Council to identify and combat antisemitism and is an extension of the support the Council has demonstrated to the Jewish community.



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26 August 2024

I am proud that we also actively campaigned against the Russian invasion of Ukraine by raising the Ukraine Flag to mark their Independence Day (which was on Saturday) and to place street blade signs "We stand with Ukraine" in close proximity to the Russian Embassy.

Our community was directly touched by tragic events at Westfield on 13 April. The police, emergency services, bystanders, staff and the public responded with such courage. In attending the site, with DM Sarah Swan we demonstrated our support for the community and our neighbouring Waverley Mayor. In the aftermath, I witnessed incredible moments of compassion and community strength. As a Council we responded quickly via a Mayoral Minute offering \$20,000 in grant funding to support the community following this tragedy. Successful recipients *Lifeline Eastern Suburbs - Bondi*, *Art of Living Foundation* and *Bondi Beach Cottage* will now be supporting the health and wellbeing of the community with the assistance of the grant funding.

Extending our support to the community during difficult times is something this Council has a strong track record of doing. We demonstrate our capacity to care and support those in need. I am proud of the work we have done in this space and I hope it continues long after we are gone.

To lighten up my remarks, the biggest joy of my Mayoral responsibilities was conferring citizenship on new Australians. There is no better feeling than seeing the look on the faces of new citizens that have made a conscious decision to become Australians. Our country is built around the principles of democracy, fair elections, free speech and association and an independent judiciary not to mention the ethos of hard work and a fair go and it is these principles that will always attract new Australians to our shores.

It was for this reason that I have always supported holding citizenship ceremonies on Australia Day, we must never forget our past and our ancestral custodians, but we should never be ashamed of the modern foundations of our country that make us the envy of the entire world.

Continuing this legacy of embracing our proud heritage it was a personal highlight to launch the inaugural Mayor's Anzac Day Writing Competition. I was incredibly moved by the way in which young school students shared stories and poems in respect of our service men and women.

I also want to mention a local school student Ayla Khater who is a new Australian who fled with her mother from war torn Syria. I met Ayla because she organised an art exhibition of her own work, at Woollahra Gallery, with the proceeds going to Syrian refugees. With the outstanding young people I have met in Woollahra, and of course my own children, I know that the future of our community is in good hands.

Going from future inspirations to past inspirations it was a highlight to unveil a portrait of Woollahra's first female Mayor, Brenda 'Dutchie' Backhouse with the Deputy Mayor on International Women's Day, 'Dutchie' was a trailblazer to all the incredible women who have served and continue to dedicate their time and energy to Woollahra Council.

I know that there have been a couple of you who have silently tutted with my wearing of the Mayoral chains at official events. I wear the chains to honour all Mayors, and by extension all Councillors, that have served this great municipality since 1860. The Mayoral chains represent the great individuals that have come and gone. I wear the chains to continue their legacy.

Some of the names that I wear on this chain are here today. My staunchest supporter, Toni Zeltzer, hopefully is listening. My community and personal adviser, Isabelle Shapiro. My great mate and community conscience Susan Wynne; and my oldest Woollahra friend and wisest financial counsel in our municipality's history, Peter Cavanagh. I hope that I have done you and every other Mayor on these chains proud.

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There are some Councillors that don't make it onto the Mayoral chains but this should in no way diminish their excellent service and commitment to community and to this I acknowledge the retirement of Luise Elsing.

I would like to thank Councillor Sarah Swan who has been an outstanding Deputy Mayor. Her steady and consistent leadership and bi-partisan approach is to be commended. She has all the right qualities for a very successful community leader and I hope she too will have the chance to be Mayor of Woollahra. I also look forward to watching the continual progress of my friend Sean Carmichael, who I also have no doubt has all the attributes necessary to follow in the footsteps of those on the chains that I so proudly wear.

There have been some good times and some challenging times and I would also like to acknowledge the support across the aisle of Mark, Merrill, Lucinda and Luise.

I would also like to commend the General Manager, Craig Swift-McNair, the Directors, Tom, Scott, Sue and Patricia, and all staff. Their level of high quality advice and professionalism is second to none and we are lucky to have them. Thanks to Pat Vella who has managed my diary, correspondence and attendance at lots of community events. Her support is appreciated.

I would also like to thank in no particular order: Anne White, Zubin Marolia, Jody Rodas, Paul Fraser, Emilio Andari, and their teams, previous Manager of Governance Helen Tola, Jen Chenhall, Carolyn Nurmi, Sue O'Connor, Rhys Johnson, Danial Elahi, Justine Henderson, Alex McClintock, and Matt Frilingos.

I wish the next Mayor of Woollahra and the newly elected Council all the best. I hope you can continue the good work that has been set in place by all around this table, who regardless of party politics have been invested in the best outcome for Woollahra now and in the future. For those of you who are running again and are re-elected I wish you continued success.

I would like to thank my family and friends and the community. They are my motivation and they are a constant reminder of why I chose to become a Councillor. It has been an honour and a privilege.

In closing I would like to say that putting yourself on a ballot paper to strive to make our community better is one of the highest callings in life.

The personal rewards are non-existent and the risks are large. It is the positive impact that we can have on our community that should continually drive us to be courageous and continue to put ourselves forward for public service. Thank you.

**Other achievements:**

- Safety nets for Trumper Park and Trumper Park access pathways
- National Tree Day planting
- Push Up Challenge promotion for mental health fundraiser to support Lifeline Bondi
- German Cultural Day
- Congratulating SES volunteers at their award presentation ceremony
- Oppose 25 storey tower New McLean St Edgecliff
- Chanukah celebrations
- Support for Moore Park Golf Course
- Protecting the democratic rights of the individual to choose what kind of appliances they have in their homes
- The delivery of more than \$260K in grants for organisations to bring great projects and events for community connection to life
- Further work to support women and families escaping and healing from domestic violence
- After conferring citizenship on Australia Day, this year I have had the great honour of conferring citizenship on 218 new citizens.

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**General Item No:** 15.2 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Deputy Mayor, Councillor Swan

**Councillor Swan Advised:**

In a few weeks we will be losing some 67 years' worth of corporate knowledge from this Chamber, which is very daunting from my perspective. We have Councillor Shapiro who has been with this Council for 16 years and Mayor from 2010 to 2011. We have Councillor Wynn also 16 years with a makeup of Mayoralties. We also have Councillor Cavanaugh who has been with this Council for 16 years and we have Councillor Elsing who has been here for 12 years. The Mayor, Richard Shields, who has done a stoic seven years and a very efficient seven years, particularly the last 12 months as we have just heard and what has been done in that short period of time. So of those Councillors leaving, there are four Mayors and we all owe a huge debt to each of you for all the incredible work that you each have done. Woollahra is a better place for all of the hard work that you each have done during your respective terms on Council and as Mayors. Councillors Wynne and Shapiro, you both embody what it means to be fearless female leaders. You have governed with integrity, compassion, and from a place of true utilitarianism, and we are all lucky to have been able to work with you this term and for many others in previous terms.

As I said, our community owes you a great debt. Councillor Cavanaugh, you have been a very strong advocate for the Paddington community in particular and I know many local businesses who are very grateful for the strong work that you have done and I know that our community is grateful for the strong financial management that you have deployed during your tenure on this Council. Councillor Elsing and I can only assume from your position on the ballot box that you do not wish to be re-elected, but you never know. My fellow Cooper Ward Councillor, it has been an honour to have represented our community.

I know many people in our community in particular, especially around Queen Street. They remind me often of your activism and your engagement over the last 12 years and I certainly have learned a lot from you in meetings and the way that you carry yourself, and I am very grateful for that. Thank you very much.

Your Worship, I was going to point out some of the highlights of your last 12 months, but since you have done so eloquently, I won't. But all I will say is that you have a very strong and distinct leadership style and I'm glad that you didn't pull back from that, even in the face of opposition during very difficult times. It's only with that attitude of being forthright in the way that you carry yourself, that you've been able to achieve so much in the last 12 months and I thank each of you for all of the work that you have done this term and in previous terms.

**General Item No:** 15.3 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Shapiro

**Councillor Shapiro Advised:**

I would also like to be able to acknowledge the staff as such an important part of this Council.

I first joined Woollahra Council in 2004 for two terms and then followed by another two terms in 2017. I really feel that I'm leaving Woollahra in a much better place than when I started. I look back with pride at the initiatives which I was able to bring to fruition and the most important being Gap Park Master Plan for suicide prevention, a graffiti policy which still keeps Woollahra graffiti free and bringing public art to Woollahra, which will continue to enrich the LGA for many years to come. But I was also very fortunate to be part of the team which delivered Kiaora Place and the Woollahra Art Gallery.

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But by far the most important part of my time at Woollahra are the people I have worked with and the many friendships I have made, which will always remain an important part of my life. Starting at the top, Mr General Manager, Craig Swift McNair. One of the best decisions we ever made was to hire you. Under your stewardship Woollahra has emerged from the difficult COVID years as a more professional and financially stable organisation and I thank you for that.

We are fortunate to have Directors of such high calibre and I particularly thank Tom O'Hanlon who has probably one of the most challenging portfolios. Trees, traffic and infrastructure. Please also pass my thanks to Emilio Andari, Zubin Marolia, Paul Fraser, Mark Ramsay and all the others who have assisted us over the years.

Another challenging area of course is planning, and I thank Scott Pedder for always responding to my endless requests and Anne White for running such an outstanding Strategic Planning department. My special thanks go to Nick Economou, who I've worked with since 2004 and Nick has taught me so much over those years.

The icing on the top has been my involvement in public art and working with the team at Community & Customer Experience under Patricia Occelli and Vicki Munro. Our art and culture is going from strength to strength and I know I leave it in good hands.

The Governance team under Sue Meekin has been such a pleasure to work with and I have made so many friends in that team and my thanks to you all, I think I am going to get very emotional. Justine Henderson has been a wonderful support and you have taught me so much over the years. I have really special memories of our time together and I thank you for it Justine, and of course the real power behind the throng and nothing happens without her, Patricia Vella. Could I call her the real boss? Thank you Pat for handling everything in such a calm, efficient manner. Nothing is ever too much for you and I will always treasure our time together.

To fellow my Councillors starting with the Liberal team, the current Liberal team has been a most cohesive team and I have enjoyed working with you all. My special thanks go to Sean Carmichael, our co-Bellevue Hill Liberal Councillor. It has been such a delight working together with you representing Bellevue Hill and I feel confident you will carry on as a great representative. Toni Zeltzer is not here, but Toni, Peter, Susan and I have all had four terms and created such a strong bond and friendship, my thanks to you all. Sarah, it has given me such pleasure watching you grow into your new role. Mary-Lou, you will be such an important part of the new team adding your experience and now to the two mayors from this term who have made such an important contribution.

Susan Wynne, I was so fortunate to serve as your Deputy in this final term and I acknowledge and thank her for her outstanding and longstanding contribution to this Council. Susan, I know we will always have a special bond and I treasure our time together. Richard, I have been so grateful to have you as Mayor over the past year and thank you for your excellent, strong and decisive leadership. It has meant so much to me.

Lucinda Regan, I enjoyed having you with us in Bellevue Hill and I also acknowledge the retirement of Luise Elsing and thank her. Thanks and appreciation to the other Woollahra Councillors who supported Richard and I following the Hamas massacre on October 7 and in the fight against antisemitism. As the LGA with the largest Jewish community, I'm proud that Woollahra provided much needed support to the community during these distressing times and I thank you all for it.

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**General Item No:** 15.4 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Regan

**Councillor Regan Advised:**

I do want to particularly thank staff very much for all their support and assistance that they have personally given me in the last term of Council and in the term before that. We would not be able to do anything without you guys. I am very thankful to our General Manager, to our Directors, Mr O'Hanlon, Ms Meekin, Mr Pedder, Jennifer Chenhall and all the support staff. Truly thankful. I think we have come a long way over the last three years. I think the retiring Councillors will probably have even come further. We have been through a whole COVID period, we have gone on to online streaming, I think you have seen a lot of changes and I am anticipating there will be more to come.

We are a team and I know a lot has been said about whether we are Liberal, Green, Independent or Labor, but we come together as team, we work as a team and I think that that's important to remember. The forward facing of non-Liberal Councillors, that we all work together to deliver outcomes that are very good for the community and there is good robust debate and we usually get it, I would say 99% right. I would also like to thank the outgoing Councillors for their service to the community and I wish them very well with their life beyond the Chambers. A special thanks to our outgoing Residents First Councillor, Luise Elsing who has worked tirelessly for her community as have the other outgoing Councillors since being elected as a Councillor in 2011.

In addition to her work on Council, Luise has been involved with the community of Woollahra as a Director of the Holdsworth Centre for some eight years and as active member of the Queen Street West Woollahra Association where she also found time to research and publish her book, *The History of Queen Street and West Woollahra* in 2013. Councillor Elsing's forward thinking of strategic vision has led to many great outcomes at Council, which are far too numerous to recount in detail, but we have much to thank Luise for in particular.

I just want to highlight a few things and one big thing that stands out for me is the implementation of our Domestic Violence Housing Program, which has helped families in our community escaping domestic violence and to get back on their feet. I think that that's something you should be incredibly proud of.

In addition, to now stand reporting in our Environmental Planning Committee, of Land and Environmental Court proceedings and the outcome of those proceedings so that we can keep track of how we are monitoring our development controls. The now standard reporting on our housing targets, to go to Mayor Shield's point about making a very good point to advocate, to have grounding and basis for advocating in relation to housing targets and strategic planning and also advocacy to retain open space in public hands, not only with the Vaucluse Bowling Club, but also with the community facilities that sit underneath the Redleaf Gallery. So she (Luise Elsing) has been a great personal mentor and I am hopeful that we can carry on, as a Council her good work and I wish her well in her future endeavours and I'm excited to see where it lands her, including in the crochet artwork.

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**General Item No:** 15.5 Opening of Vaucluse Bowling Club  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Regan

**Councillor Regan Advised:**

I did really want to mention my pleasure at being at the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club on the 17 August and I know I was there with Councillors Swan, Carmichael, Witt and Jarvis. I think that it is really, to me, indicative of one of the reasons we are all here. It took seven years to come to fruition and I am delighted that to see it has opened as a community facility and it wasn't so long ago that we asked as a Council, for investigation to be done on this asset to see if we could take it from the Crown Lands and back into community hands to make sure that we could keep it as community open space.

I am delighted that that's happened and I want to particularly thank Director O'Hanlon and his team including Mr Marolia for picking up on the Notice of Motion and actually putting it into action. It is all very well and good for us to have an idea come up, but it is the staff that really translate that into a deliverable. Not only did director of O'Hanlon and his team successfully negotiate the transfer and management of this Crown Land to Council, thus preserving the incredibly important open space for community use, but they are also able to negotiate and maintain a relationship with the Vaucluse Bowling Club for their access to the green as well. I think even after achieving this amazing outcome, Director O'Hanlon and his team also went on to successfully seek grant funding to upgrade the facilities to the amazing standard that they are and these grounds with amazing harbour views are now retained in community hands.

**Councillor Witt further Advised:**

On Saturday the 17 August, apart from being my sister's 60th birthday, it was just a remarkable day for the Woollahra community after attending the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club.

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**General Item No:** 15.6 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Carmichael

**Councillor Carmichael Advised:**

Thank you for being an outstanding Mayor this past year. It is with tremendous pride that I listened to you mention so many of your achievements. Although, I did note you left out one achievement that I am particularly proud of in post-October 7. It was a very difficult time for people who are gay and Jewish and I brought this to your attention that the Dayenu Group, who were having a difficult time with members, basically coping with this issue and I came to you and I brought this to you and with the raising of the progress pride flag, you very kindly invited a '78'er and the President of Dayenu to come along and stand with us on that. That was a double minority group that has been given representation by you in your push for social cohesion. So thank you in giving a home to a very substantial community in the Eastern suburbs.

More broadly, someone that came in here first in 2008, and had my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party in the Mayor's office at the time I stand here having returned in 2021 and watching a great number of dear colleagues that I started with, such as Isabelle Shapiro, who I believe started in 2004, Susan Wynne, Peter Cavanaugh and Toni Zeltzer. All I can say is, as all of you depart from this place, we stand here on the shoulders of giants and in your leadership, but particularly with Isabelle Shapiro, we started together. Thank you so much for being such a tremendous mentor and friend.

Councillor Regan as well. I do want to say thank you for being such a tremendous colleague to work with. Councillor Peter Cavanaugh, I'm going to miss your outstanding friendship, your broaches, your lovely gold outfits and your amazing friendship. Thank you so much for everything.

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Council Wynne "Madam Mayor Emeritus", thank you so much as well. I actually must say to both you and to Mayor Shields, thank you for your support for the gay community. As someone that came out when I was 14 years of age, it was barely still just being tolerated even at that time. To have World Pride hosted in Woollahra Council was a very humbling experience.

Councillor Elsing, I remember as I was first leaving in 2012 your enthusiasm sitting in the Chambers watching Councillors making notes. That was not lost on me and I was proud to see you coming into the Chamber. Thank you to everybody coming into this Chamber, whether we consider ourselves first, best friends or consider ourselves ideologically different, I am thankful for all of you for being able to come together and work on issues of mutual interest to create good outcomes for our community.

As you said, Mr. Mayor, it is enormous risk and very little return to come and put your name on the ballot box. But we do it because it's the right thing to do, to stand up for what we believe in and to do the right thing by our community. Thank you all and those coming back or aspiring to come back. I look forward to working with you and to those leaving, have a lovely, lovely time.

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**General Item No:** 15.7 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Elsing

**Councillor Elsing Advised:**

Thank you so much for this opportunity to speak, I do want to say a few thank you's. I want to start by thanking Councillor Zeltzer. Without her, none of us would be here. She showed what she did when she was there, which I looked up was 2016 and together with Councillor Robertson and those around the table, Councillor Cavanagh and the other Councillors that were on Council at the time and Councillor Marano. It was the incredibly difficult thing for Councillor Zeltzer to do, she stood up to the Liberal Party, she got treated very badly and she was rejected.

All Councillors supported her in the resolution and also the General Manager we had at the time, Gary James, was very, very supportive and we were innovative and brave about the status. Without her we wouldn't be here, we wouldn't have Woollahra Council. I have always felt beholden to her and I will continue to do. I think that we need to somehow present that a lot more seriously. I want to pick up on our Ward Councillors. I really do believe the way you get things done is through collaboration and communication.

All of us are here to serve community. We have completely different ideas sometimes, how they are done and if we remain civil and on focus, that is when we deliver.

I wanted to thank staff, I particularly wanted to thank Nick Economou in Planning, Anne White and Sue O'Connor. Looking at everyone is fantastic on staff and I think it's something that we be grateful for is quality staff. Luckily, we've carried through that quality of Tom O'Hanlon and through everyone else.

I also want to thank the community. I'm going to be frank, sometimes the community is being too honest or have too much to say. It can be annoying, but thank goodness that they are engaged with this process. Even when I don't agree with their sentiments, I'm so grateful that they're engaged and that they care about what's happening in the parks. They care about the bike paths, they care about the skate parks, they care about the playing fields because that's why we're all here. Because that care and that engagement is what keeps the standards high and us responding to that engagement, whether we agree with it or don't agree with it, we have wonderful community members that are articulate.

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I can remember when I first came on Council and people got up to speak and I was just blown away with how articulate they are, how they have a sense of the place in community and how they're prepared to advocate for what they want. Without that we would be nothing. The community groups, we've got obviously Queen Street West Woollahra, the Double Bay Residents Association, and Paddington Society. I'm going to forget somebody who's very important, but they're made up of incredibly high quality people and it is just an absolute joy to work with our community and even the people whose views I disagree with, I so applaud them for engaging with us in the way they do.

Having said that, sometimes we get mountains of information and we have been heard to grumble, but really it's not the way I feel. I'm so grateful for the community and their engagement.

I thought I had better speak about my family. I have been on Council for 12 years and it does take an impost on your family and what you're doing, and as we speak, my husband is recovering from an operation on his own. Someone's supposed to be with him. I hope this doesn't turn out as a cruel outcome, but it does take a toll on the family members and my family has been very supportive in my role here and particularly in election times. That's when they all roll out and I'm very grateful for my children, particularly who I like to think are well known on the 'hustings' have been quite effective supporters.

I have been 12 years on Council and I did pluck out a few things I thought that I was proud of and funnily enough, the thing that I'm proudest of are the smallest things, the seats, the footpaths in Edgecliff Road when I'm walking down there, the dog parks, whatever those things where the community says, oh, that we could improve our lifestyle if this was fixed up here and we can work with staff and they're normally responsive and that fabulous app we've got. I mean it really is one of my greatest achievements. It's just all of that stuff and I know Mary-Lou does a lot of that sort of work at micro level and it's very, very important and satisfying.

I think also the amalgamations was a big part of my life on Council, a really big part of my life. I think that was probably the most important thing that we did as Councillors with support through that process and worked together.

Protecting heritage, we all say we do it, I like to think I have done a lot of it personally. Heritage-listing Cooper Park and other things, sometimes being unsuccessful in my claims to heritage- list and also being proud that it is a way that we can protect the part of our community that's important to us and it is a very important part of our identity.

Like my colleagues, I'm very proud that we are part of a community that champions the rights of the LGBTQA+ community and the World Pride, and I thank Councillor Harriet Price because I think she really initiated that on Council and also the support for marriage equality, which all of us supported and it's great to work in that community.

And something I feel so proud of, initiating the *Racism Not Welcome*, which is probably one of my most hated initiatives. I'm so proud of it and I don't want to say it was really during COVID, but it's just when we're under pressure, there is a trend to move into that behaviour and I think we have to keep our mind's eye on managing that to work cohesively together. I know it's been mentioned already, but I want to recognise Councillor Robertson in supporting the initial movements in supporting Ukraine and the Russian invasion on the 24th of February 2022. I really thank you for that. I know that we've had discussions about it, but anyway, we've done what we've done and we are where we are as a result.

I was going to say initiating together with the Councillor Regan about domestic violence. I won't say any more about that, but the whole of Council has been so great in that and I really hope that that continues and that once again has turned out to be incredibly on-point when a society is under pressure, it's well known that these are the areas that suffer and we have to support our communities when they're under pressure and I suspect we're going into a big economic pressure zone. I suspect this will become a very big thing going forward.



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Being on the EPC was important for me. I loved it. Environmental Planning Committees, I think I was on it for 10 years and I will say something political, it's the worst thing that happened, taking the planning decisions off Councillors and it was something that they're having a lot of problems trying to get the amalgamations unravelled and I don't know if they'll ever unravel this, but it was terrible because I think we did such fantastic work, and it's the fondest memories I have of being on EPC and with Councillor Marano, Councillor Robertson, and probably for Councillor Zeltzer.

The tools that we invented, the height poles, that was an achievement that I had forgotten about. I was very keen that people didn't utilise the thing where they have transparency through the fencing. And people came up with that very clever thing of doing it on an angle, and blades to try and stop you seeing it. I don't know how successful I've been. I know that the Turkish Consulate was a big success, but thank you.

I wanted to also say that it's a controversial issue about what Councillors do in relation to International affairs, but it was a great honour for me to support Councillors and their initiative in supporting Israel and the attacks from Hamas on the 7th of October 2023. I don't think us as a community have got over that. I think the hardship and everything we're seeing there is just incredible and an ongoing pain to us all, and it can be divisive and disruptive and I am proud to support Israel through this and I really, really appreciate the opportunity to do so.

Lastly, I'm going to finish off on the promoting the recognition of women in our community. My plan when I leave Council is to do a lot of work in that space in trying to get more recognition of the women in our community that are not recognised. I feel that quite strongly, you see women in positions of power being themselves, not just being excellent women, not just the brilliant women but the women who have just been working tirelessly. I think that as you see those women represented in day-to-day life and respected and recognised, we've got a long way to go in that area and I'd like to do more work on that. So thank you.

I say thanks to all my current colleagues for all your support. It has been a wonderful last term. I've particularly loved working with my Residents First Colleagues and I know that we have a bond that will go much further than Council life and I look forward to being an ongoing support to you and I know that you will achieve so, so much in the next term because it's going to be tricky. The next four years is tricky. You'll have a lot of new Councillors, you've got economic problems, you've got the State Government, there's some terrible planning controls and it's just going to be a tricky time. So thank you.

Thank you for Councillor Silcocks and Councillor Price and Councillor Regan and Councillor Witt for all of your support to me and how we've worked with each other. I really appreciate it.

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**General Item No:** 15.8 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Grieve

**Councillor Grieve Advised:**

I want to thank Councillor Shapiro. I was elected with her the first time and then I had the pleasure of having a second term with her. I've much appreciated our mutual love of art and we bonded over that. Also, the Animal Advisory Committee. I took that pill for her and I think I successfully turned that from a dysfunctional committee to a functional committee in that first term. That was a great honour to be able to do that for her. She's always shown me great support and strength and has been an example to me. I will miss her because I have built up a very close bond with her over the years.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow Ward Councillor, Luise Elsing, who has done incredible things while she's been on Council. I think she is an exemplar of a community representative and why we do this. We do it for the community. We certainly don't do it for the money because it's almost non-existent and I acknowledge everything she's done.

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I did particularly want to acknowledge the Domestic Violence Program. I know throughout our neighbouring Councils, it's held in high esteem and they are all going through the process of introducing similar schemes. So all credit and kudos to Councillor Elsing for that. Also, to the Councillors who supported it initially and backed it and the staff. Sometimes you have these ideas, sometimes they're good and sometimes they're not and it really does need the staff and all the Councillors to come together and make these things work. This is an example of what Woollahra is and why we are so fantastic. Because once we're elected, the Woollahra way is to let go of all of those political divides and work together for the greater of the community. So I want to say thank you for that. And also, *Racism Not Welcome* is another one of those brilliant thought bubbles that just turned into fruition and of the moment.

I would like to acknowledge Councillor Susan Wynne. I genuinely enjoyed your Mayoralty, your inclusiveness and, we have a friendship. We again shared that first term with you, and so I've seen two different sides, two different parties. And to Peter Cavanagh, for his sartorial elegance. I'm a bit sad you didn't wear the emeralds tonight. I wore my emerald for you. Now he's worn the purple for my daughter, Jacaranda. So I thank you for that. My first term on the Finance Committee with Peter was brilliant and he taught me so much. I feel very comfortable in that committee, thanks to that grounding. Also I know that Peter and I will stay friends afterwards.

Councillor Zeltzer, she's not here, but she can again reiterate what everyone else has said about the amalgamation. She took a political hit for that. She basically gave up her political career to save Woollahra. There's nothing more you can say better for somebody as a local representative, that they put the community first before everything else and so for that, I'm forever grateful. I'm sad she's not here because we would've had some "Toni-isms", and there's been some crackers over the years.

For all the retiring Councillors, I wish you well in your next phase of life. And for all of us that are contesting, I hope we all get elected and I very much look forward to working with you if I'm so lucky to be elected.

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**General Item No:** 15.9 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Price

**Councillor Price Advised:**

Thanks very much Mr. Mayor, this will probably be the last time we thank you. So thank you for your service to the community and I look forward to hearing what your next chapter involves.

Thank you to all the former Mayors. I know everybody has spoken of you and all the great achievements that you have done over the years that I've worked with you. Special mention to Susan Wynne. I know COVID was a tough gig, seeing all our faces on Zoom all over that time. I know it was very stressful for you, but you handled it with dignity and grace and I'll always thank you for that because a lot of people were going through really tricky times and you showed great leadership. I thank you for that. I want to also thank my fellow Ward Councillor, Peter Cavanaugh. We'll miss you very much on the 'hustings' on the 14<sup>th</sup>, the three of us staring at each other for nine hours, at 'The Five Ways' is always a true, true highlight. But thank you for your dedication to the Paddington community over the last 16 years. Seven years seems like a long time for me, only two terms, but it really is a commitment to your community and I do know that the Paddington community holds you in high regard for that. So thank you for your service.

To all the Councillors who are obviously going for the next election. I wish you all the very best.

Staff, you have all been absolutely fantastic for the last seven years. So thank you for your dedication and your work and I think obviously it's repeating what everyone has said, but we wouldn't be able to do what we do without your tremendous professionalism and dedication. So thank you. Thank you very much.

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Mr. General Manager, it's been a pleasure working with you, getting to know you and I do echo Councillor Shapiro, I think it was one of the best decisions that we've all made. So thank you very much.

Councillor Elsing I think stole the show up there, so it's obviously very difficult to come after her in terms of highlighting some of her great achievements on Council. I did prepare something for the record. So I will read from this because I am immensely proud of what you've done on Council. Councillor Elsing represented the Cooper Ward for 12 years, which was three terms of Council. Her achievements and contribution to the Cooper Ward and also the broader municipality are impressive and admirable as we've all heard tonight. Councillor Elsing was a valiant activist. I would call her during the tougher times of the Council amalgamation. She was determined and unrelenting in her efforts. I would often bump into her up at the Supreme Court when she had just been in various briefings with Senior Counsel and I admired her then for her tenacity and her passion for such an important issue. Thank you for all that you did, so that we can all be here today and serve our community so well.

Councillor Elsing, as she's pointed out, and a lot of you have as well, she served diligently on the DCC (Development Control Committee) as well as the Sydney Eastern Planning Panel. Both those roles require focus, discipline, and lengthy time commitments. We all know as Councillors, the amount of time that we have to spend on it, but those particular endeavours put on a lot of pressure and time needed, and I think she was always extremely thorough and showed very sound judgement in relation to her deliberations there. So thank you for that.

As Councillor Regan mentioned, Luise served on the board of Holdsworth for many years and she contributed greatly to its reputation for providing exceptional community services. Luise is well-respected for her interest in heritage and heritage protection. She instigated many local heritage listings, her knowledge is well-documented and we've mentioned her terrific book, *'The History of Queen Street and West Woollahra'* should be on everyone's bookshelf. As we've all heard, Councillor Elsing is indeed a woman of many talents. She's recently completed her Master of Law as well as launching herself as artist extraordinaire with her debut crochet exhibition.

She never ceases to amaze us in terms of her energy and I suppose, wide interest from crochet to the Master of Law. Her smarts and intellect will be greatly missed around this table and so too will her flare and energy. On a personal note, Councillor Elsing, as many of you know is a very dear friend of mine and obviously, lots of other colleagues around here, but your support and encouragement over the years is something that I actually will never forget and I will cherish for a long time. I'll hold very dear, the memories of driving home after being around this table and sitting outside your house and dissecting what's happened on Council. I think my husband would often say, "How did the meeting go for that long?" and I said, "Well actually it didn't. We spent more time talking about it with Luise". As we all know, she's got the gift of the gab. It is very difficult to stop a conversation with her. So, thank you Councillor Elsing for your service to your community, your leadership, you are a fine example to win in elective office. Go well.

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**General Item No:** 15.10 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Robertson

**Councillor Robertson Advised:**

I apologise for turning my back on you, Mr. Mayor and the other deities, I won't be having anything to say about the staff.

So I want to begin by saying thank you very much Mr. Mayor, for the opportunity and for your service to our community over the past 12 months, and I want to thank everyone around the table for their contributions in what has been a short but productive term. I particularly want to call out your contribution, Councillor Witt because you were the only one who was a hundred percent new to Council and it's really tough. We had other people new, I beg your pardon, Councillor Swan.

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I have been very impressed with the way that you've thrown yourself into the full policy gamut of Council and your engagement with community groups as far as my area. So I just want to acknowledge that and commend you, And also, Councillor Swan, rising to the heights of Deputy Mayor in your first term and serving our community. My congratulations to you.

It's a terrible shame Councillor Shapiro had to depart early. But I did want to say that I've had the very great pleasure of working with Councillor Shapiro over the last seven years. I have learned so much from Councillor Shapiro, from her very wise perspective that she brings on every issue and I want to say that I've really valued that, where we've disagreed we have done so with respect and what has brought us together as always is our common commitment to serve the people of Woollahra.

I want to acknowledge the very special contribution that Councillor Shapiro has made, both in the areas of the arts that's been spoken about widely, but as someone who's worked in community services for a long time, I want to underscore that Councillor Shapiro's work in the suicide prevention space is widely respected and to be commended. So if I am lucky enough to be re-elected and come back here, I'm going to miss that great wisdom that Councillor Shapiro has brought to this place. The grace with which she's made her contribution and the generosity of her spirit. So in her absence, thank you very much, Councillor Shapiro.

Councillor Wynne, you were the first person whoever welcomed me when I set foot in this building, when I was doing my research, too, Councillor Elsing 12 years ago. I will never forget the warmth of that welcome and the encouragement that you gave me because I think across party lines, you've always just been so passionate about Woollahra and you've supported everybody who's ever served here. You kept our community safe during COVID. You became the Mayor and your whole Mayoral term became interrupted by the biggest global disruption in a lifetime. But you kept us safe and I think it was your incredible leadership and support of our community through that difficult period.

Notwithstanding COVID, you usher in decades in the making, cultural change to our Council organisation through the recruitment and selection of our new General Manager. Your leadership is what put people at the centre of that change and it supported a smooth transition. Thank you and congratulations on what you've achieved for Council in terms of modernising and professionalising our organisation, the benefits of which our community will continue to reap for generations to come. I will miss serving alongside you, Councillor Wynne. I will miss drawing inspiration and enthusiasm from the dedication that you've shown our community over 16 years. You will be missed, but I do suspect you're going to be back in some form or another.

Councillor Peter Cavanaugh, I simply cannot imagine serving in Paddington without you anymore. For the last 12 years as Councillor Price said, we've stood at 'The Five Ways' every election, State, Federal, and Local. You have been a very central character in our Paddington democracy for such a long time. It's just going to feel terribly strange without you, and I'm sure it's going to be far less humorous throughout the generosity of your incredible wit, which has sustained me throughout many-an election day. In 12 years Councillor Cavanagh, I don't think you could count on one hand the number of times you and I have voted differently on heritage matters. So I want to acknowledge your staunch support for the conservation of Paddington's heritage and that unwavering support, and to be able to work as a Ward in unity where we have all supported the same position on heritage has been very influential.

Of course, I was always the one that took on the planning and your natural domain is the finance area and when I did have a very short tenure on Corporate and Works (Committee) a long time ago, I remember one meeting where there was a refinancing of the Kiaora Lands came up, and with this utter professionalism and efficiency, you completely and politely redirected the staff to what would be a multi-billion dollar saving. We all agreed and then it was the end of the meeting. So efficiency to the end, but a very quiet contribution in so many ways on the financials over so many years, Peter and that's not always what gets the headline recognition and that's why I'm saying it tonight.

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However, in closing, I want to touch on your time as Mayor, which was anything but quiet. You were the Mayor for the times after we came through that 'Churchillian battle' under Councillor Zeltzer to retain our very existence as Woollahra Council. It was a time to celebrate everything that was wonderful about Woollahra and you turned on the pomp, you turned on the ceremony, you got the gowns on, and you made it special and you made people realise what is wonderful about this municipality. So I thank you for that out.

My nana has always had a fridge magnet that says who you spend time with is who you become. And I do want to acknowledge that you did turn me into an Elizabethan, but as a staunch Republican after so many years alongside Peter Cavanaugh for a brief time there, I was honoured. I'm back in order now. Thank you very much Peter for your contribution over the last 16 years. I don't know what Paddington will be like without you. I will miss your contribution. I will miss your wit and I'll miss your wisdom. Thank you.

Lastly, but by no means least I want to speak about my dear colleague, Councillor Luise Elsing. You and I were the last two, I think who started in that group in 2012 when we had 10 new Councillors come on board, so it was quite a changeover. I don't know how to sum up what to say about an incredible woman I've spent every Monday night with for the last 12 years. I don't know how to summarise that quickly, but I do want to touch on what you mentioned about the amalgamations. And I want to acknowledge that was a very difficult period and that you were a staunch support to Councillor Zeltzer as Mayor at the time, and that support was incredibly influential in achieving the outcome that we achieved. I want to acknowledge that alongside the Domestic Violence Policy that's been articulated already, that being blacklisted by President Putin alongside you, and then the Visa ban because of the advocacy we took for the people of Ukraine, is one of my most proud moments on Council. So I thank you very much for that and lastly, I just want to say that your intellectual contribution to Council has been enormous and I have sat across from you for 12 years always wondering and never knowing, what perspective you're going to take on any particular issue. You are an ideological mystery to me, and I love that about you and alongside your friendship, that's going to be something I'll miss the most.

So thank you again for the enormity of your contribution and wish you well in your future career as an artist amongst other things, and to all the Councillors who are retiring or not contesting again, then I'd say you can have your Monday nights back and all the best for the future.

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**General Item No:** 15.11 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Cavanagh

**Councillor Cavanagh Advised:**

Well, as most people around this table know, I have the reputation for holding the shortest Council meetings, so I will try and go out on the same basis. All I'd like to do is thank everybody in total, not one by one. You have all been very special in many ways. I will say one particular one, my adopted wife, she knows who that is. But other than that, it's been a great privilege to be on the Council. It was a great privilege to be Mayor. It's a wonderful, wonderful thing to make people citizens, to see the work that people in the community do that goes totally inherited.

Until I became Mayor, I didn't know many of these organisations and individuals existed and I tried to publicise that as much as possible and I think future Mayors will find that it's a very rewarding time to be Mayor. Certainly the two greatest years of my life and I thank everyone for the privilege, particularly Susan Wynne, who was so helpful in rounding up the troops and I wouldn't have missed it for the world and thank you to everybody and I'm not quite dead yet, so I am still around and I will still be interfering here and there where I can. But to all my Green colleagues who I am very friendly with, I'm happy to retire to France and chop down even more trees. Thank you all.

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**General Item No:** 15.12 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Jarvis

**Councillor Jarvis Advised:**

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the contribution of so many of those that are retiring tonight, and I should probably start with Councillor Zeltzer because Councillor Zeltzer was the one I first met, and Councillor Zeltzer to me epitomises what is doing the right thing rather than necessarily the most popular thing, and I will recall driving Council Zeltzer or just Toni Zeltzer, she was up to a State Council and you, Your Worship, where I think we were practising in the car going up her speech to the State Council, which is a governing body of the Liberal Party, to try and persuade them to go along with the idea that there shouldn't be amalgamations, and I think Mr. Hughes, who's in the room here tonight, was the person that seconded that motion, which was to try and convince the Liberal Party that amalgamations weren't the way to go.

So I want to acknowledge Councillor Zeltzer because she did show that leadership. Then Councillor Wynne, of course, I think of Councillor Wynne, not just as my Vaucluse Ward buddy, but the 'Mayor of Care'. She found herself thrown into the deep end with COVID, and I think anyone that was closely aligned to Councillor Wynne at the time would know the tireless work that she did, and of course the General Manager at that point had just put his feet under the desk and he and Councillor Wynne were having to react day by day if not hour by hour to the unfolding crisis because the problem then of course, we didn't know what we know now, that you didn't know what was ahead. Councillor Wynne I want to congratulate you for your leadership in that and also leading the council for most of the time that I've been here since 2017.

I want to acknowledge Councillor Cavanagh because under Councillor Cavanagh, I had the honour of serving as his Deputy. Councillor Cavanagh was a fine Mayor, he virtually went to every single event that went, so I didn't actually have much to do, but as everybody knows that Councillor Cavanagh is always impeccably dressed with his mother's diamonds and the like so one of my fondest memories with Councillor Cavanaugh was when we went up to National Tree Day and planted trees and Councillor Cavanaugh doesn't know what to wear when he's gardening, but I'm pleased to say that back at National Tree Day, which some of us were at earlier this 28th of July, we saw the fruits of some of your digging that day, Councillor Cavanagh, I'm not sure that many things survived, but some did. Councillor Shapiro sorry that she's not here, but of course it's a mark of her that she's putting her mother first to be with her tonight.

But of course, Councillor Shapiro was best known for her work on suicide prevention, the work at the Gap, and also elevating our art to the standard we see today. The Linda Lee sculpture that we see in Blackburn Gardens now is testament to the work or a result of a lot of the work that Council Shapiro put in and of course that is one of the finest artworks that we will see that I suspect in this municipality. Councillor Elsing I must actually say to echo Councillor Robertson's comments, it was at times a very frustrating thing to sit across the table from you or in particular chair a meeting that you were wanting to say something, but I do want to say thank you because of your particular position that you took on things, It basically made me and many others reconsider their positions and I think that the contribution you made to this Council should not be underestimated and that in fact I would perhaps confess on occasions, very few occasions perhaps, but you persuaded me of the correctness of your position.

That is of course what this council is about. It is about to look at what should be said as well as what is said, so thank you for that Councillor Elsing because sometimes it's easy just to stay quiet. I also want to pay tribute to you, Your Worship. Under your leadership we set things on a right course on many occasions and I also want to say thank you for the opportunity you gave me to represent you on a number of occasions and work with you.

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Behind the scenes, for example, the meeting we had with the Principals of Kambala and Kincoppal recently, but also representing you at the Grants Award on the 24th of July, which was a grant that went to 52 organisations where we gave \$260,000.00 to help our community and partner with our community to improve our community and of course, a grant of \$20,000.00 is included in that to try and address the health and wellbeing of those affected by the tragedy of Bondi Junction that occurred earlier in the year.

It was my pleasure to represent you at the Rotary change over on the 30th of July where, following the comment about Bondi Junction, NSW Police Inspector Amy Scott was recognised for her bravery and her prevention of what was a dreadful tragedy on that day.

We had the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club last the weekend before and that is an amazing facility and as I have mentioned that day, congratulations to Councillor Regan and others for identifying that we needed to get that out of Government hands and get it into Council managed hands. I think I am most proud there to think that there is a baby facility because some of you might be aware, I became a first time grandmother this week, so I will be definitely able to use that facility. I want to say thank you to everybody for this term. It has been one I think that we can look back on with pride that we really did get an awful lot done and we took a position I think on things that was perhaps much needed in the current economic circumstances.

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**General Item No:** 15.13 Friendship Walk  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Jarvis

The Friendship Walk on Sunday 25 August where I represented you (Mayor) at Vaucluse Public School. People such as Rabbi Kastel were there. It was a great initiative to support young children with disabilities. We all went out in our purple t-shirts from Vaucluse Public School and went down to Watson's Bay. Those there included hopefully the future member for Wentworth Ro Knox and Rabbi Kastel, and locals such as Dr. Julian Parmegiani.

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**General Item No:** 15.14 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Witt

**Councillor Witt Advised:**

I know that everyone has said a lot already, but I did actually want to acknowledge first of all Councillor Cavanaugh, not only for his contribution to Paddington but to Vaucluse. Recently when I got involved with the community group up at Derby Reserve, it came to my attention how instrumental you were in actually fixing that up and making that a very usable space and one that the community up there are very proud of, so I thank you for that. I'd also like to thank Councillor Shields, the Mayor for his leadership and contribution and especially the way he runs meetings, He's been very tolerant of me sometimes not always getting things right, and letting me express my viewpoint. So I do thank you for that.

I would like to especially thank my fellow Ward Councillor, Councillor Wynne, who I knew from other outside circles. She didn't try to talk me out of not coming onto Council, so I thank her for that. I do remember at trivia night, we both attended not long before the election, and Councillor Wynne, was attentive to the game but also spent a lot of time answering her phone, responding to what she told me later were text messages related to Council business and I was like, "Oh boy, wow, what am I getting into?" So I really know that she worked overtime during her term as Mayor and I really want to thank you for your contributions, they are very much appreciated.

Of course, I do want to thank Councillor Shapiro, as you know, I have taken a real interest in arts and culture since I have been on the Council and have been so impressed with the enormous contribution that Councillor Shapiro has made over the years, especially with the Public Art program which is really exemplary.

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We did a lot of work this term on an Arts and Cultural Strategy. It's been really exciting and I really hope that we can push initiatives forward in the next term to make Councillor Shapiro even prouder of her legacy. Finally, of course, I really do want to thank Councillor Elsing and I have to say when she spoke about community, it really resonated because I was one of those community members who would bug her a lot, even before I got involved with the Vaucluse Residents Association and the Double Bay Residents Association, I can kind of recall bugging her ear about saving Moore Park. She was always open to having these conversations, and what was amazing, I think given the number of phone calls that Councillor Elsing and Councillor Regan fielded from me before I got onto Council, they still encouraged me to come on board and I really appreciate that.

In preparing for some late correspondence for tonight I found some correspondence or a Notice of Motion we were working on together back in 2022 and how detailed it was and how much research and effort Councillor Elsing put into that and it's been a real inspiration for me. I've learned so much from working with her and I really do appreciate it and really wish you well in going forward and pray, hope that you will stay in touch because we will really miss her wisdom.

I do want to also thank the staff. I know I've been challenging at times because I'm a newbie and sort of learning the ropes and occasionally being quite strident in some of my views about things, but I think everyone's been just really, really professional. As Councillor Regan highlighted, it really shone through, especially with the opening of the Vaucluse Bowling Club, I can't congratulate you enough on that.

Mr Marolia reminded me, you secured from the previous State Government over \$3.7million in funding to fund that, and you can really see that reflected in the results, and kudos too for what you've done with the baby centre. I really wish I've had that one when my kids were little as it looks absolutely spectacular.

I wanted to thank Councillor Robertson for his very kind words, I have to admit he's probably been one of my biggest critics while I've been on Council, but it has helped me to certainly hone my skills and to hopefully get better at what I do and if I'm to be re-elected, I think that will serve me well in the next term.

I really just wanted to also thank Councillor Silcocks, Councillor Regan, all my fellow Residents First colleagues, and also, Councillor Jarvis because I know on many initiatives we've worked quite closely together and I certainly look forward to your contribution and I certainly have learned a lot about process and the procedures from Councillor Price. I think she makes an enormous contribution to the Council for the work she does, especially in that area. So thank you very much.

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**General Item No:** 15.15 Lyndsay Fundraiser  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Witt

**Councillor Witt Advised:**

I went to the Lyndsay Afternoon fundraiser of the Darling Point Society. It was such a fantastic day. The Sun came out, so many of my fellow Councillors were there Councillor Swan, Councillor Grieve, and Councillor Silcocks. It was a really wonderful afternoon and it was topped off by an invitation to attend the Critical Paths Cure Awards.



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**General Item No:** 15.16 Critical Path Awards  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Witt

**Councillor Witt Advised:**

I attended the Critical Path Awards. I don't know if anyone knows about Critical Paths, but I have only really learned about them recently. But they are a choreographic research group that was started in 2005 and they occupy the ground floor of Drill Hall, Sir David Martin Reserve in Darling Point, it is a spectacular space. The fact that the whole building at the moment is dedicated to performing arts. I hope that is something that we can continue to invest in going forward because I really do think it could be a real showcase for our community.

**General Item No:** 15.17 Queen Street & West Woollahra Annual Dinner  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Witt

**Councillor Witt Advised:**

I attended the Queen Street and West Woollahra Association's Annual Dinner and I did pick up a copy of Councillor Elsing's wonderful book. So I think if you are still keen to get hold of one, you should definitely get in touch with the Society.

**General Item No:** 15.18 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Silcocks

**Councillor Silcocks Advised:**

I'm not leaving and I'm never going to leave. I'm now never leaving because the leaving speeches are just far too intimidating. I'm not going to be able to follow that. There was one slight contradiction in your otherwise very erudite speech, Mr. Mayor, which was you talked about how Woollahra is the most wonderful municipality in the entire world and then you did slot in there that we are overrepresented by Councillors and may be the part, as well as our amazing staff, part of the reason it is such a wonderful place is because we have 15 Councillors and we might lose something by reducing that.

Certainly I feel like I've learned something from everybody who turns up here every Monday night and whilst 15 may seem a lot, it's amazing the diversity of views. It's very interesting to listen to everyone and it is amazing how often somebody will come up with something that nobody else has thought of that actually everybody ends up agreeing, so at our peril we reduce that representation. I'm not going to add to all the other things, I agree with everything that's been said but I will just thank Luise Elsing, she was the eldest statesman of our little group of residents first and so thank you but you didn't really tell us much though, I mean you were sort of there and you were kind of good, but you just went, just do whatever you want to do which we all like.

The three Mayors I would say who've been here whilst I've been on, because I know Toni and Isabelle were there before me, but whilst I've been here, the three mostly have all been very fair, I think throughout. When they've chaired meetings, they've always allowed people to have their say within reason, so they didn't talk too long, which I won't. So thank you very much.

Thanks to all and I don't know why we're all saying goodbye because you are all in the community. You're not going anywhere actually, you can still ring us up and complain.

**General Item No:** 15.19 Statement  
**Tabled by Councillor:** Councillor Wynne

**Councillor Wynne Advised:**

Thank you, Councillor Silcocks for letting me have the last word. So through you, Your Worship, I'm going to be informal tonight. Thank you, Richard. I'm just going to start with some reflections. I thought I'd actually be standing here really, really happy and I've spent the whole evening trying not to cry because I do feel like I'm saying goodbye to family. You've all become such dear and close friends of mine. It seems like just yesterday that I remember turning up to the Mayoral Office and former Councillor Petrie was hosting drinks to welcome everyone. I can actually still remember what I was wearing, which was flair jeans, a white shirt and wedges, and not much has changed, except that I was a whole lot younger then and I had no idea what I was doing. I think I even had to look up where were Woollahra Council was.

So I've done four elections, four terms, and have most importantly built the most incredible friendships. I consider you all here tonight, friends and former Councillors, friends, and I just want to reflect on something I think it might've been, what Councillor Elsing said around family and the commitment that they give to each and every one of us. Certainly my children, I've watched them grow up through this time. I've watched Teddy grow up through this time, my favourite child and I just want to acknowledge the time and work that each and every Councillor puts into their commitment to the community. I think I've heard words like collaboration spoken a lot about and community. I've always believed that we are here to serve and this may be controversial, but I don't believe we're here to serve a political party.

I don't believe we are here to serve ourselves, but we are here to serve the community and when I reflect and think about the legacy I've left, I'm hoping that people will remember me as someone who has served the community above everything else, and just for those of you that are thinking about running again and hopefully you will be elected, I just ask you to remember that as you go forward and reiterate what Councillor Regan said around great outcomes are achieved through collaboration. So take that with you.

I have to acknowledge Isabelle who's not here, and Toni who are such dear friends, I'm laughing about Toni because when I was put next to her and poor Richard had to put up with us through many a meeting that Toni has saved this Council. We would not be standing here. We might be somewhere else in not so nice Chambers.

If it wasn't for her and the hard work and commitment and also all the Councillors who stood, I remember standing and aiming for those 10,000 signatures that we needed. But really, Toni has saved us, an incredible credit and I'm absolutely delighted that she has put her hand up to stand again. A tip to any of you if she starts to go a little bit crazy, just say, "Toni, too much Greek" and then she'll say, "Yes, yes, yes, you're right". That is my tip with Toni for you all.

Isabelle, I don't have enough words to speak about how wonderful Isabelle is and a true friend, and I think she's all taught us what it's like to lead with elegance and grace and kindness and compassion and she's a true person who serves the community. So I'm very sad she had to leave and my thoughts and prayers are with her and her family as well.

Peter Cavanaugh, I know you said it's the best two years of your life and I'm so very glad and I think you gave Woollahra Council the best two, one of the two years of its life served with elegance and in all your finery and you made it your own and you are an absolutely true and dear friend and I thank you for your service. I do feel like we are crossing between obituaries and the Oscars tonight.

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I also want to thank my Vacluse colleagues for everything. I know that you two are going to stand again so I know that Vacluse is in good hands and it's always that time of when is it the right time to hand that batten on and knowing that you two will still be there makes me feel very happy and comfortable. So thank you.

To Luise who is leaving, it feels odd not watching you knit or crochet, but I do want to acknowledge everything that you have brought to Council, your intellect and the way that when every one of us was trying to pull sentences and words together, you would just step right in and really be able to articulate that perfectly. It is a huge loss that you are not going to be running again for the Cooper Ward and for the Woollahra community as well.

I'm going to go around Matthew and Nicola, you are dear friends of mine and I know that it will continue after Council.

Harriet, Lucinda and Mark, Residents First Councillors. I think there is an absolute importance of having a diverse group, diverse thinking, and that's what I love about a democracy, so I'm delighted that you are all running again. You're crazy perhaps, but I wish you well in your endeavours.

To Sean, thank you for everything that you have done and when we started in 2008 and now back again, I've watched my kids grow up, not that you're a kid, but I feel that way about you and it's just been wonderful to watch you grow through this.

To Sarah, our Deputy Mayor, what a privilege, as someone who likes to inspire women and encourage women, you have just done that so well and with such grace and I know and hope that you'll go onto bigger and even better things. I also know that in your heart it's all about community and you are committed to Woollahra like nothing I've ever seen.

The Staff, I'm not going to thank each and every one of you. You all know how I feel. I think my greatest sadness is not saying goodbye to Councillors, but saying goodbye to you all. I promise you, I will not be one of those people that rings up and complains about everything unless it's maybe Tom. I cannot thank you enough for your support and your passion for Woollahra.

I do have to acknowledge Gary James who supported me through that initial time of COVID. He also supported me when I was mayor in 2011 and 2012 as well and it was big shoes to fill, but what a great job we did with Craig, with you. I remember sitting in this room, we had Charrill Charlie's for lunch. There were three candidates. It was COVID, Anthony Marano was more worried about where you lived and what your house looked like and that we were eating Charrilled Charlie's, but I still remind him of that, there's just so many memories.

I don't actually know where to start and as I said, I thought I'd be celebrating and really happy, but I'm actually feeling quite sad.

I want to finish up on you, Richard, because when you're the Mayor at the end of a term, it's quite weird because everyone's thanking each other and you are often overlooked for the work that you've done. So, Your Worship, I know that I've given you a hard time about wearing those chains, but what I would say is that they are very heavy and it is a commitment. I think it's a reminder of the weight of office, more so conscious of what you've been through in the past month and sometimes when you take on a position of leadership, then you are unfairly targeted. I heard you say that you were criticised about wearing two hats. To any person that wants to be the Mayor, I think you should be able to wear as many hats as you want. I would not make excuses for that. I think you've done an exceptional job. You've made the role your own in a very short space of time and I would just ask that you hold your head up high and reflect on all the incredible things that you listed in your speech, and as someone who's been in that chair, so many more things that people have no idea what you do behind the scenes.

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I want to say, I'm sorry for what you've been through in the public domain. It just does come with the role and it is unfair. Never, ever apologise. You have been extraordinary and particularly your support of the Jewish community in Woollahra, you have left an incredible legacy and they are big shoes to fill. I want to thank you for your leadership, I know it's been short, but you have achieved so much. So please remember that and thank you on behalf of the community. Thank you.

Unconfirmed

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## 16. Notices of Motion

**Item No:** 16.1  
**Subject:** NOTICE OF MOTION - LITIGATION PROTOCOL POLICY  
**From:** Councillors Matthew Robertson, Isabelle Shapiro and Susan Wynne  
**Date:** 07 August 2024  
**File No:** 24/139845

**Note:** Late correspondence was tabled by Councillor Merrill Witt.

**(Robertson/Wynne)**

### 158/24 Resolved:

THAT Council:

- A. Notes Council's adopted Litigation Protocol Policy has been in operation since late 2022.
- B. Requests that going forward, the General Manager present a six-monthly report in February and August of each year to Council (via the Environmental Planning Committee) on the operation of the Litigation Protocol Policy and any live legal matters captured by the Litigation Protocol Policy and any other related matters deemed appropriate by Councillors.

**Note:** *In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

#### **For the Motion**

Councillor Carmichael  
Councillor Cavanagh  
Councillor Elsing  
Councillor Grieve  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Price  
Councillor Regan  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Shields  
Councillor Silcocks  
Councillor Swan  
Councillor Witt  
Councillor Wynne

**13/0**

#### **Against the Motion**

Nil

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**Item No:** 16.2  
**Subject:** **NOTICE OF MOTION - PROMOTING ONLY QUALITY CONSTRUCTION**  
**From:** Councillor Mary-Lou Jarvis  
**Date:** 13 August 2024  
**File No:** 24/144130

(Jarvis/Carmichael)

**159/24 Resolved:**

THAT Council:

- A. Applauds the work of the Building Commissioner David Chandler OAM and regrets that his term as Building Commissioner expires in August. Woollahra Council particularly thanks him for his examination and action in relation to poor or defective building work in the Woollahra Council area.
- B. Request the Mayor writes to the Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading to:
  - i. Urge the NSW Government to continue the important work of Project Intervene upon the appointment of a new Building Commissioner, noting that registrations for that project are now closed yet defective building work will continue;
  - ii. Note that given the target of 1900 net additional dwellings required by the NSW Government (which will be mostly apartment buildings and a handful of dual occupancies), we anticipate instances of defective work will no doubt multiply and it is important owners have redress;
  - iii. Support a future focus work by the Builder Commissioner on class 1 buildings as well (being single dwelling Housing) to ensure that defective buildings can be remediated.
- C. Request the General Manager writes to Charas Constructions Pty Ltd and advise that Woollahra Council notes that the Woollahra Council award that their website promotes does not appear to have been awarded to Charas Constructions and that it should remove all endorsement by or reference to the Council award.
- D. Request the General Manager table a report at a future meeting of Council detailing building works in the Woollahra Council area that have been subject to orders by the Commission so that the public and in particular owners or prospective property purchasers can be informed of relevant building work orders in our area.

*Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

**For the Motion**

Councillor Carmichael  
Councillor Cavanagh  
Councillor Elsing  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Regan  
Councillor Shields  
Councillor Silcocks  
Councillor Swan  
Councillor Witt

**Against the Motion**

Councillor Grieve  
Councillor Price  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Wynne

**9/4**

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## 17. Questions With Notice

(Wynne/Robertson)

160/24 Resolved:

THAT the Questions with Notice be received and noted.

*Note: In accordance with Council's Code of Meeting Practice a Division of votes is recorded on this matter.*

**For the Motion**

Councillor Carmichael  
Councillor Cavanagh  
Councillor Elsing  
Councillor Grieve  
Councillor Jarvis  
Councillor Price  
Councillor Regan  
Councillor Robertson  
Councillor Shields  
Councillor Silcocks  
Councillor Swan  
Councillor Witt  
Councillor Wynne

13/0

**Against the Motion**

Nil

**QWN:** 17.1  
**From:** Councillor Robertson  
**Subject:** Questions with Notice - Stormwater Harvesting

**Councillor Robertson asking:**

Would Council staff please provide an overview of Council's current approach to storm water harvesting and comment on future opportunities which could be pursued in this space with respect of the objectives of the following:

1. Managing Urban Stormwater Harvesting and Reuse, Department of Environment and Conservation NSW (2006).
2. Stormwater-harvesting-how-to-collect-and-re-use-stormwater-from-sw-stormwater-system, Sydney Water (SW9 07/13).
3. Rainwater harvesting in urban environments: solutions for limited space - Smart Water 18 August 2024  
<https://smartwateronline.com/news/rainwater-harvesting-in-urban-environments-solutions-for-limited-space?srsId=AfmBOosUgCn0jvZQ8UYOjzPCP9ljKJbCsL7Ef52-nUT9FXiUhUdLqT>

**Team Leader Environment & Sustainability in response:**

Council's approach to stormwater harvesting is two-pronged.

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For Council's own sites, rainwater tanks have been installed and we have a number of other stormwater harvesting systems. For example, currently we are installing a second large tank at Christison Park to increase the amount of stormwater we can capture and reuse on the playing fields. We are also capturing some extra water through drainage improvements in the area.

Recently, a water conservation study was completed for Rushcutters Park, Yarranabbe Park and Lyne Park, our highest water using sites. The Study identified a number of improvements to stormwater capture that will be undertaken over the coming year, including maintenance on existing rainwater capture systems.

Larger scale stormwater harvesting systems are not often feasible, due to substantial costs and the need for large underground tanks which are not possible to install from a topographic perspective. An example of a smaller system is the stormwater harvesting system planned for Collins Avenue Rose Bay, where stormwater will be diverted for use in the amenities block at Percival Park.

For stormwater harvesting on private property, Chapter E2 of Council's DCP has the objective 'to encourage ecologically sustainable stormwater management and the use of water sensitive urban design.' Controls include encouraging pervious surfaces to enable filtration of rainwater and the use of rainwater tanks to reuse rainwater onsite. In addition, the NSW Government BASIX standards (State Environmental Planning Policy (Sustainable Buildings) 2022) requires development to reduce potable water use by 40% from a benchmark. One way of achieving this is to use an alternative source of water such as rainwater or stormwater.

Council's Environmental Sustainability Action Plan includes actions relating to stormwater harvesting. For example, the Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation section contains an action to install additional rainwater tanks and other water reuse systems at Council facilities where opportunities are identified.

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**QWN:** 17.2  
**From:** Councillor Jarvis  
**Subject:** Questions with Notice - Boats trailers and Other Vehicles Overstaying their Welcome on Our Roads

**Councillor Jarvis asking:**

I refer to my question on notice answered on 15 November 2023 regarding action taken by Council regarding the Council boats and trailers parked on New South Head for weeks, possibly months and were being addressed under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and regulations.

Can staff please provide Council with updated figures from the last response provided by staff (November 2023) to the present time on the following questions:

1. How many fines by Woollahra Council have been issued since the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and regulations since the date the last advice was given?
2. How many items of property have been impounded in our area since the new Act and regulations came into effect on 1 November 2022 and since the date of the last advice?
3. Of the overall investigations how many boat trailers or other vehicles have been found to be unregistered and what action has been taken since the last advice?
4. What is the total monetary amount of such fines imposed and any amounts recovered where property has been impounded since the last advice?

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5. Is it possible to identify the cost of enforcement or at least the number of staff allocated to compliance within the Council area since the last advice?
6. More specifically in Vaucluse around Ray Reserve and Johnston's lookout, in response to the requests I submitted on 15 May 2024, on the Woollahra Council app (request 91173) where on 19 May staff marked 37 vehicles boats and trailers on New South head Road Vaucluse primarily between Ray Ave and Giralang; how many were eventually issued with infringement notices and fines (and the monetary amount) under the new rules, noting that in the last report 5 parking infringements were issued and a further 3 were being investigated as potentially "unattended vehicles".
7. Noting that on 21 June there were 35 such vehicles and by 24 June on New South Head Road the number had increased to 37 vehicles again, mostly boats and trailers but also one large truck and a caravan (12 around Johnston's lookout, 18 around Ray Reserve and 7 around St Michaels / Kincoppal). What action has been taken most recently?
8. More specifically on Wentworth Road on May 15 2024 (request 91175) regarding parked boat trailers, the advice on June 19 was that *"all trailers have been added to a separate IC each. This one will be finalised, the others are remaining open to send letters to registered owner"*. What action has been taken since then?

June 24 at Johnston's lookout



June 21 around Ray Reserve



**Regulatory Coordinator in response:**

A response will be provided at the next Council Meeting on 9 September 2024.

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## **18. Supplementary Responses to Previous Questions with Notice**

Nil

## **19. Confidential Matters**

Nil

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## **20. Conclusion of the Meeting**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.30pm.

**We certify that the pages numbered 524 to 559 inclusive are the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Woollahra Municipal Council held on 26 August 2024 and confirmed by the Ordinary Meeting of Council on 9 September 2024 as correct.**

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**General Manager**

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**Mayor**

Unconfirmed

## 10. Mayoral Minute

**Item No:** 10.1  
**Subject:** **RECOGNITION OF SERVICE - MR MARK RAMSAY**  
**Author:** Richard Shields, Mayor  
**File No:** 24/158436  
**Purpose of the Report:** To acknowledge the long service and outstanding contribution of Mr Mark Ramsay to Woollahra Municipal Council and our community.

### Recommendation:

THAT Woollahra Municipal Council formally acknowledges the exemplary service of Mr Mark Ramsay during his 36 years of employment and thanks him for his contribution to our community.

### Background:

On 27 September 2024, Mark Ramsay, Council's Manager Civil Operations, will retire from Council after 36 years of service. Mark's contribution to the Council organisation and the Woollahra community cannot be overstated.

Mark commenced with Council in 1988 as a mechanic. In the ensuing years he progressed his career in the roles of Plant Foreman, Supervisor and Plant and Fleet Coordinator. In 2005, Mark commenced his first management role, then titled Manager of Depot and Waste Services.

In 2011, Mark's role was expanded to include a broader range of civil maintenance tasks, with a new title of Manager Civil Operations. In this role, Mark has been primarily responsible for many of Council's most critical functions including waste collection and processing; public domain cleaning; footpath and road maintenance and after hours/emergency response.


Throughout his time at Council, Mark has been highly regarded by his colleagues and the elected Council. He is known for his sharp intelligence, wisdom, calmness and humour. He has been a coach and mentor to a generation of operational staff and has provided an enormous contribution to the management and executive levels of Council.

As Council's first responder and key liaison with emergency services, Mark has responded to countless late night, early morning and weekend calls. He has been instrumental in developing and managing a very strong working relationship with Waverley Woollahra SES, which provides support to our local community during extreme weather and emergency situations.

As well as being a first rate operational manager, Mark has been an innovator and contributor to broader industry improvement, particularly in the area of waste management. It is noted that under Mark's management, Woollahra Council introduced a 'Kitchen to Compost' service in 2008. This type of service, now commonly known as 'FOGO', is only now becoming mainstream across local government and has been mandated by the NSW Government for introduction across the industry by 2030.

I would also like to specifically acknowledge the central role that Mark played in Council's response to the Covid 19 Pandemic. As a key liaison with other emergency responders and as the manager responsible for the most critically threatened operations, Mark's experience, agility, calmness and practical approach were pivotal in keeping our staff and community safe during that very difficult time.

Councillors, I believe that the dedication and loyalty Mark Ramsay has demonstrated during his 36 years of service to our organisation and the community is worthy of recognition and admiration. Please join me in thanking him for his exemplary service and wishing him well in his retirement and future endeavours.



Cr Richard Shields  
Mayor of Woollahra

**Attachments**

Nil

**Item No:** 10.2  
**Subject:** **EASTS RUGBY SHUTE SHIELD - CONGRATULATIONS**  
**Author:** Richard Shields, Mayor  
**File No:** 24/159948  
**Purpose of the Report:** Acknowledge the Easts Rugby win of the Shute Shield - 2024

**Recommendation:**

THAT Council acknowledge and resolve that the Mayor write to congratulate the Eastern Suburbs District Rugby Union Football Club on their historic win of the 2024 Shute Shield.

**Discussion:**

Eastern Suburbs District Rugby Union Football Club (ESDRUFC) has a long and storied history in the Woollahra LGA, with the club's home having been Woollahra Oval (also known as Andrew Petrie Oval) in Rose Bay since 1949.

So it is with a great deal of pride that I and many members of the Woollahra community celebrated Easts' victory in the Shute Shield, the premier club rugby union competition in New South Wales, on Saturday 31 August – its first win in 55 years.


The club became first grade premiers for the first time since 1969 with a nail-biting one point victory over Norths, 36-35, at Leichhardt Oval. In addition to this historic win, the club also won premierships in 1st Colts, 3rd Colts and 4th Grade, wrapping up a fantastic year in which they also won the Club Championship. In the last three years, the club has won all of the eight competitions in which it competes, with a strong cohort of local juniors also now coming through.

Dominic Remond, CEO of ESDRUFC, said: *"This is a wonderful result for all the effort and hard work put in by our players, coaches, managers, volunteers and sponsors. To see the elation on faces at Leichhardt Oval and back at the clubhouse, was testament to the deep connections with our local community"* *"This has been somewhat a monkey on our back for over five decades and a great relief to have our names back on the Shute Shield."*

I know many of our Councillors have actively supported Easts Rugby and I am delighted that Woollahra Council's upgrade of Woollahra Oval to a sustainable synthetic turf playing surface, delivered in 2018, meant the facility could be used for 60 hours a week, year round, as opposed to its previous 20-hour limit. Both Easts and other local sporting clubs have benefited greatly from increased playing and training options in the years since.



Now the drought has been broken, we look forward to celebrating many more successes for the club into the future. Council will continue to work with Easts to look for ways to improve the amenities at Woollahra Oval and as per a recent resolution of Council, we are currently looking at how we can assist to deliver much-needed female change rooms as part of our commitment to supporting women and girls in local sport.



Cr Richard Shields  
Mayor of Woollahra

### **Attachments**

Nil

## 12. General Manager and Officer's Report

**Item No:** 12.1  
**Subject:** **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024**  
**Authors:** Henrietta McGilvray, Senior Corporate Accountant  
Esther Hii, Acting Senior Corporate Accountant  
Paul Ryan, Chief Financial Officer  
**Approvers:** Sue Meekin, Director Corporate Performance  
Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager  
**File No:** 24/149418  
**Purpose of the Report:** To present the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024, provide commentary on the budget result for 2023-24 and recommend to Council the adoption of Council's Statement in relation to the Financial Statements.  
**Alignment to Delivery Program:** Strategy 11.2: Secure Council's financial position.

### Recommendation:

THAT Council:

- A. Note Council's financial position at 30 June 2024 including:
  - i Net operating surplus for the year from continuing operations of \$13.757m
  - ii Net operating deficit for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes of (\$2.455m)
  - iii A working funds balance of \$5.186m
- B. Note that Council exceeded six out of six of the Office of Local Government (OLG) Performance Ratio benchmarks for 2023-2024, being the:
  - i. Operating Performance Ratio
  - ii. Own Source Operating Revenue Ratio
  - iii. Unrestricted Current Ratio
  - iv. Debt Service Cover Ratio
  - v. Rates and Annual Charges Outstanding Percentage Ratio
  - vi. Cash Expense Cover Ratio
- C. Having noted the statement of confirmation provided in the report by the General Manager and the Chief Financial Officer (Responsible Accounting Officer) and the review by the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee, adopt the following statement in relation to its Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024:

*That, in relation to the General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024, Council is of the opinion that:*

*The General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:*

- i. the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended) and Regulations made thereunder;*
- ii. the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board;*
- iii. the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*

*And to the best of our knowledge and belief, these Financial Statements present fairly Council's operating result and financial position for the year; and accord with Council's accounting and other records; and further, the signatories to the Statement, to the best of our knowledge and belief, are not aware of any matter that would render the Statements false or misleading in any way.*

- D. Formally refer the General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 for audit; and
- E. In anticipation of receiving the Auditor's Reports, sets the Council meeting to be held on Monday 28 October 2024 as the meeting at which the Financial Statements will be presented to the public.

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### **Executive Summary:**

Council's financial results for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 remain strong. Council has seen additional rates income from the special rates variation, significant additional income from advertising, a substantial uplift in interest income from higher interest rates; and sound budgetary control.

Council returned an operating surplus for the year of \$13.757m (LY: \$21.506m). Excluding capital grants and contributions the result was a deficit of (\$2.455m) (LY: surplus of \$12.901m).

Total income of \$136.37m was 4.3% higher than last year's \$130.806m. Income was higher across all line items with the exception of grants and contributions provided for operating purposes and the fair value increment / decrement on investment properties.

Total expenses of \$122.613m were higher than last year's \$109.3m by 12.2% with cost increases across all line items with the exception of borrowing costs. Section 4 of this report details the reasons for the expenditure increases compared to the prior year.

Council's working funds balance at 30 June 2024 was \$5.186m (LY: \$7.483m). This is higher than Council's benchmark level of \$2.887m (LY: \$3.274m) noting that we maintain a level of working funds to allow us to respond to issues not foreseen in the budget.

Council met six out of six of the Office of Local Government (OLG) performance ratio benchmarks. Importantly the Operating Performance Ratio (OPR) was positive at 5.44% versus last year's 3.64% and the prior year's -4.58% which was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The draft Financial Statements will be presented to the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) at their meeting on Friday 6 September 2024. The ARIC feedback, if any, on the Financial Statements will be provided as late correspondence before this Council meeting.

It is recommended that in anticipation of receiving the Auditor's Reports, Council set the Council meeting to be held on Monday 28 October 2024 as the meeting at which the 2023-24 Financial Statements will be presented to the public.

### **Discussion:**

Each year, all Councils in NSW are required to prepare a set of financial statements. The form and content of the statements is set down in the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting (the Code) updated and re-issued by the Office of Local Government (OLG) each year. The financial statements must comply with the Code, the Local Government Act and its Regulations and the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements set out the income and expenditure, financial position and cash flows of Council at each financial year ending 30 June, supported by detailed notes to the financial statements. The statements must be certified by senior staff as 'presenting fairly' the Council's financial results for the year and are required to be adopted by Council.



The five (5) primary financial statements are:

1. *Income Statement*

The Income Statement, at page 4 of Attachment 1, presents a summary of Council's financial performance for the 12 months ending 30 June 2024, showing all income and operational expenses. The statement also includes both the Council's original adopted budget for the year, and prior year figures. This enables comparisons between what was forecast and what actually happened and also how things have changed from the previous year.

It is important to note that only operational expenditure is included in the Income Statement and consequently recorded in the Net Operating Result for the year. Capital expenditure, that is expenditure incurred for the acquisition and construction of assets, or other purposes such as transfers to reserves, are not included in the Income Statement. Capital expenditure is recorded as movements in the value of assets in the Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet). Details of the value of reserves and assets are provided in Notes C1-3, C1-7 and C1-8 to the Financial Statements respectively.

References to the detailed notes to the financial statements are also provided.

2. *Statement of Comprehensive Income*

The Statement of Comprehensive Income, at page 5 of Attachment 1, presents a broader view of Council's total income through the inclusion of sources of income that are not included in the Income Statement, such as movements in equity resulting from the revaluation of assets. Details of these changes are provided in the notes to the statements.

3. *Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)*

The Statement of Financial Position (balance sheet), at page 6 of Attachment 1, provides a snapshot of Council's financial position at the end of 30 June each year, listing its assets and liabilities. Again references are provided to the detailed notes.

4. *Statement of Changes in Equity*

The Statement of Changes in Equity, at page 7 of Attachment 1, records the movement in total equity for the year ended 30 June 2024, across contributing components, including the net operating result for the year and any movements to/from asset revaluation reserves.

5. *Statement of Cash Flows*

The Statement of Cash Flows, at page 8 of Attachment 1, records where Council's cash receipts came from and how it was spent. Similar to the Income Statement, this statement also includes both the Council's originally adopted budget and prior year figures to provide comparisons between what was forecast and what actually happened and also how things have changed from the previous year. Supporting details and a reconciliation of cash and cash flows is provided in the notes to the statement of cash flows at Notes C1-1, C1-2 and G1-1.

The financial statements are required to be audited by external auditors. All councils in NSW are audited by the Auditor-General for NSW. The Auditor-General has again contracted Prosperity Advisers Group to conduct the 2023-24 audit. The Auditor-General provides two audit reports:

1. An opinion on whether the financial statements 'present fairly' Council's financial position and performance; and

2. Their observations on the conduct of the audit including Council's financial position and performance.

Following receipt of the Auditor's Reports, Council is required to send its audited financial statements to the NSW Office of Local Government no later than 31 October each year.

Like many other Council documents, the financial statements are publicly exhibited each year and submissions from the public invited. Under section 418 of the Local Government Act 1993, as soon as practicable after the Auditor's Reports are received, Council must fix a meeting at which it proposes to present its Financial Reports, together with the Auditor's Reports to the Public and must give the public notice of this meeting date.

In anticipation of receiving the Auditor's Reports, it is recommended that the Council meeting to be held on Monday 28 October 2024 be set as the meeting at which the Financial Statements will be presented to the public.

Any submissions received will be reported to Council with responses from staff. The submissions received are also sent to Council's auditor.

Supplementing the financial statements are a number of Special Schedules which include additional information on Council's condition of public works (building and infrastructure assets) and Rates compliance. The Special Schedules will be reported to the Council when the financial statements are presented to the public on Monday 28 October 2024.

This report presents the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 to the Council and seeks a recommendation to Council to adopt the required statement in relation to them. Out of necessity this is a quite lengthy and complex report, however it provides an overview of the following areas (shown in no particular order):

- An Executive Summary presenting a high level summary of Council's financial position and performance;
- A certification from senior staff in relation to the financial statements;
- A detailed review of the budget result for the year using key indicators reported on over the course of the year in quarterly budget reviews (refer Attachment 2);
- A detailed review of the changes from the previous financial year;
- Details of Council's restricted cash reserves;
- An overview of the performance of Council's investment portfolio;
- An overview of 'Other Entities' disclosed in the financial statements and
- Commentary on asset revaluations.

## **1. Statement by Council in respect of the Financial Statements:**

The general purpose financial statements must be prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended) and Regulations made thereunder, Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting.

Before the financial statements can be formally referred for audit, Council is required to adopt a statement on its financial statements. The statement must indicate:

- (a) whether or not the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:
  - 1) the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended) and Regulations made thereunder;
  - 2) the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
  - 3) the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting

- (b) whether or not the statements present fairly Council's operating result and financial position for the year;
- (c) whether or not the statements accord with Council's accounting and other records; and
- (d) whether or not the signatories know of anything that would render the statements false or misleading in any way.

The statement must be signed by the Mayor, at least one Councillor (generally the Chair of the Finance, Community & Services Committee), the General Manager and the Responsible Accounting Officer. Council's Chief Financial Officer is the Responsible Accounting Officer.

To assist Councillors with their decision in respect of the recommendations to this report, the following statement by the General Manager and Chief Financial Officer is provided:

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of the general purpose financial statements and we confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, the following:

- The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) (as amended) and Regulations made thereunder, Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting so as to present fairly Council's operating result and financial position for the year.
- There have been no irregularities involving management or employees who have a significant role in the accounting and internal control systems or that could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- We have made available to the auditors all books of account and supporting documents and all minutes of meetings of Council and the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee.
- The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions.
- The Council has complied with all aspects of contractual arrangements that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance. There has been no non-compliance with requirements of regulatory authorities that could have a material effect on the financial statements in the event of non-compliance.
- We have recorded or disclosed, as appropriate, all liabilities, both actual and contingent, and have disclosed all guarantees that we have given to third parties.
- There are no formal or informal set-off arrangements with any of our cash and investment accounts. Except as disclosed in the financial statements, we have no overdraft arrangements.

Accordingly, we believe that it is in order for Council to adopt its statement of certification in relation to the financial statements which is presented in Recommendation 'C' to this report.

## **2. Review by the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC):**

The draft Financial Statements will be presented to the Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee (ARIC) at their meeting on Friday 6 September 2024. The ARIC feedback on the Financial Statements will be provided as late correspondence before this Council meeting.

## **3. Overall Financial Position:**

At the end of the 2023-24 financial year Council's financial position remains strong. The introduction of the Special Rate Variation of 13.7% and advertising revenue in 2023-24 further strengthened Council's long term financial sustainability. A major risk to financial sustainability continues to be cost shifting by the state and federal governments along with the risk of a global economic recession, higher energy costs, and an IPART rate peg setting methodology in need of major overhaul.

A copy of the General Purpose Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 is provided at Attachment 1 and are referenced where appropriate.

### **Working Funds**

Working funds are accumulated funds that have not been set aside for a specific purpose and provide Council with some capacity to respond to unforeseen circumstances. Council's working funds decreased from \$7.483m in the prior year to \$5.186m as at 30 June 2024, a decrease of \$2.297m. During the year, Council restricted \$3.0m of funds for the Urban Forest Strategy. At \$5.186m, the workings funds balance is above Council's benchmark level of working funds Council has calculated for 30 June 2024, being \$2.887m. Council has traditionally calculated the benchmark level of working funds as the balance of arrears of rates plus the value of inventory at 30 June each year, with inventory defined as stores and materials held for daily works and services.

### **Performance Measurement Indicators (Note G5-1, Page 63 of Attachment 1)**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Benchmark</b>
<b>Operating Performance Ratio</b>	5.44%	3.64%	(4.58)%	> 0.0%
<p>The 2023-24 operating performance ratio at 5.44% exceeds the OLG benchmark of &gt;0% and has improved since prior year. This improvement is due to financial sustainability repairs including a special rate variation, additional income from advertising, efficiency reviews and the higher interest rate environment generating higher interest income on investment balances.</p> <p>2021-22 was impacted by significant decreases in income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and one-off redundancy costs from the organisation restructure. Excluding the impact of COVID-19 and the one-off redundancy costs, the ratio for 2021-22 would have been 2.44%, which is above the benchmark.</p>				
<b>Own Source Operating Revenue</b>	84.70%	86.68%	87.25%	> 60%
The ratio remains well in excess of the 60% benchmark.				
<b>Unrestricted Current Ratio</b>	4.42x	3.55x	3.49x	> 1.5x
Council's liquidity remains strong and well above the 1.5% benchmark.				
<b>Debt Service Cover Ratio</b>	4.18x	3.63x	2.10x	> 2.0x
The debt service cover ratio remains strong and well above the benchmark of 2.0x.				
<b>Rates Outstanding Percentage</b>	4.16%	5.18%	4.54%	< 5.0%
The ratio is within the benchmark of less than 5%. The favourable movement in this percentage is due to an extensive debt recovery process being undertaken in conjunction with third-party debt collectors and other state agencies.				
<b>Cash Expense Cover Ratio</b>	11.13	12.84	11.05	> 3 months
The ratio remains well in excess of the 3 month benchmark.				

### ***Operating Result – Comparison between 2023-24 and the prior year 2022-23***

The **Income Statement** (Page 4 of Attachment 1) discloses Council's income and operating expenses for the year along with a comparison to the original budget adopted by Council and to the prior year. It is set out in the table below, along with the revised budget forecasts from the March quarterly budget review.

<b>Original Budget 2023-24 \$'000</b>	<b>Revised Budget 2023-24 \$'000</b>		<b>Actual 2023-24 \$'000</b>	<b>Actual 2022-23 \$'000</b>
		<b>Income from Continuing Operations:</b>		
66,124	66,180	Rates & Annual Charges	66,136	59,700
13,201	14,562	User Charges & Fees	15,565	14,343
11,471	16,681	Other Revenue	16,230	10,864
4,796	6,099	Operating Grants & Contributions	5,676	7,561
10,552	11,687	Capital Grants & Contributions	16,212	8,605
1,929	4,954	Interest & Investment Revenue	5,626	3,247
17,370	17,210	Other Income	17,608	17,110
1,150	(6,670)	Fair value increment /(decrement) on investment properties	(6,683)	9,376
<b>126,593</b>	<b>130,702</b>	<b>Total Income</b>	<b>136,370</b>	<b>130,806</b>
		<b>Expenses from Continuing Operations:</b>		
49,252	49,520	Employee Benefits & On-Costs	47,706	45,055
43,823	49,193	Materials & Services	50,408	42,891
1,809	1,806	Borrowing Costs	1,806	1,933
14,834	15,919	Depreciation & Amortisation	15,348	14,752
4,792	4,797	Other Expenses	4,807	3,747
451	79	Net loss from disposal of assets	2,538	922
<b>114,961</b>	<b>121,314</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>122,613</b>	<b>109,300</b>
<b>11,632</b>	<b>9,388</b>	<b>Net Operating Result</b>	<b>13,757</b>	<b>21,506</b>
<b>1,080</b>	<b>(2,299)</b>	<b>Net Operating Result before Capital Grants &amp; Contributions</b>	<b>(2,455)</b>	<b>12,901</b>

The Net Operating Result for the year was a surplus of \$13.757m compared to 2022-23: \$21.506m and 2021-22: \$14.962m.

Items of note in the income statement impacting the result in 2023-24 are:

1. Extra income from the Special Rate Variation of +\$4.373m.
2. A fair value decrement on Council's investment properties of -\$6.683m. This is a non-cash item. The valuation in 2023-24 is discussed in detail on page 11 of this report.
3. Extra income from advertising of +\$5.091m.
4. Higher interest income +\$2.379m due to the increased interest rate environment.
5. Higher Materials and Services expense -\$7.517m primarily due to \$3.084m of capital project expenditure that is unable to be capitalised to the fixed asset register and \$1.568m of expenditure for projects funded from the special rate variation.

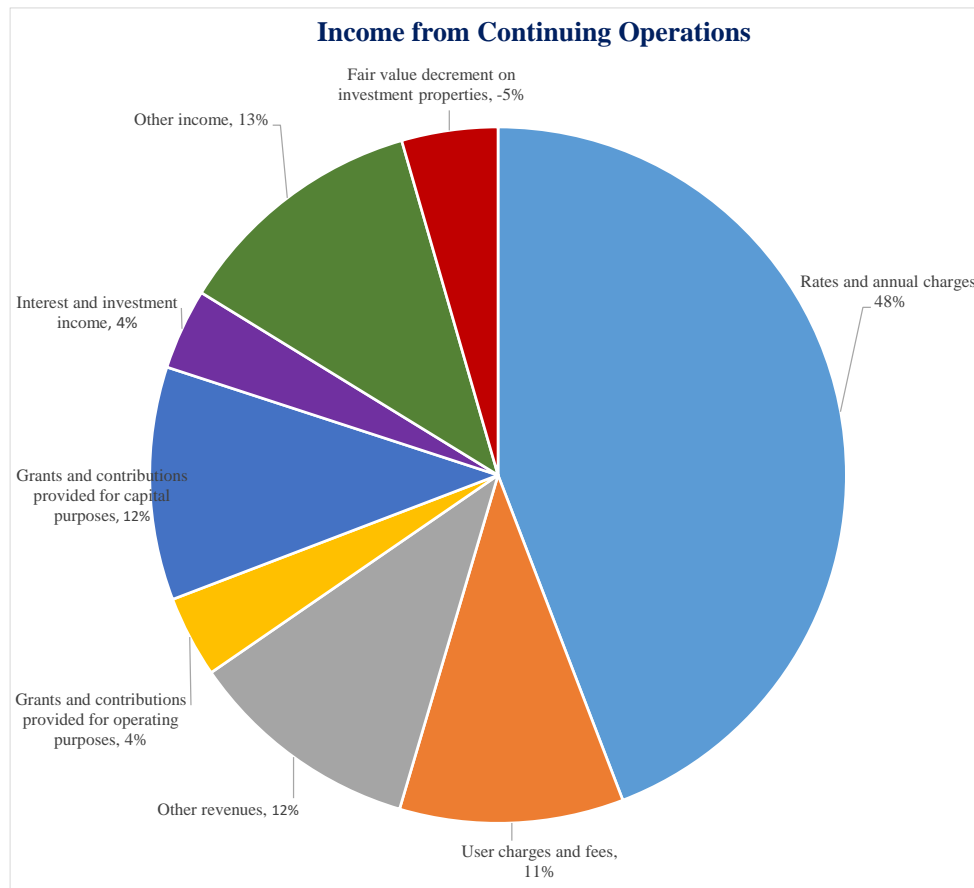
The net operating deficit before capital grants and contributions for 2023-24 was (\$2.455m) versus the Q3 forecast of (\$2.299m) and compared to a surplus of \$12.901m in 2022-23 and a surplus of \$6.812m in 2021-22.

An analysis of the 2023-24 actuals compared to the original budget appears in Note B5-1 to the financial statements (page 25-26 of Attachment 1) while an analysis compared to the revised budget is detailed in Attachment 2. Commentary on variations between 2023-24 and 2022-23 is in the next section of the report.

#### 4. Financial Statements Comparison – year ended 30 June 2024 to 30 June 2023:

##### Income (Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Percentage composition of 2023-24 Income from Continuing Operations:



1 July 2023 - 30  
June 2024

##### Income Items

Actual

\$'000s

Rates and annual charges	66,136
User charges and fees	15,565
Other revenues	16,230
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	5,676
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	16,212
Interest and investment income	5,626
Other income	17,608
Fair value decrement on investment properties	(6,683)
<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>	<b>136,370</b>

Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Rates and annual charges	66,136	59,700	6,436	10.8%

(Note B2-1, page 15 of Attachment 1)

Ordinary Rates income increased by +\$5.249m (13.8%) from \$38.169m to \$43.418m. The special rate variation approved by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) was 13.7%, with the remaining increase resulting from an increase in properties to levy (number of assessments).

Council's Environmental & Infrastructure Renewal levy increased by \$620k (13.8%) from \$4.485m to \$5.105m. The special rate variation approved by IPART was 13.7% with the remainder of the increase resulting from an increase in properties to levy (number of assessments).

The Domestic Waste Management charge (annual charge) increased from \$590.20 to \$609.20 for 2023-24 or +3.2%, which in turn generated an increase in income of +\$568k (3.4%) from \$16.542m to \$17.110m.

Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
User charges and fees	15,565	14,343	1,222	8.5%

(Note B2-2, page 16 of Attachment 1)

Increases in income included the following items of note: construction zone charges +\$664k (+40.7%), parking meter income +\$357k (+16.1%), restoration charges +\$224k (+25.8%), rezoning requests +\$255k (+6375%). These were offset by a large decrease in hoarding fees -\$611k (46.3%).

Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Other revenues	16,230	10,864	5,366	49.4%

(Note B2-3, page 17 of Attachment 1)

Increases of note in Other Revenues include:

- \$5.091m income from advertising
- \$735k (12%) increased parking fines

This was offset by a decrease of \$727k (60%) in other revenue. In the prior year there were some one off income items received relating to Lehman Brother Australia final winding- up distribution payout (\$347k), Easement compensation revenue (\$284k) and positive covenant revenue (\$188k)

Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	5,676	7,561	(1,885)	-24.9%

(Note B2-4, page 18 of Attachment 1)

Material decreases in operating grants and contributions include:

- \$775k decrease in the Financial Assistance Grant which was 85% prepaid this year compared to 100% prepaid last year.
- \$480k decrease in the Roads to Recovery grant. This grant is on a 5 year cycle with 2023-24 being the last year of the cycle. All the funds relating to this grant have been spent in prior years.
- \$431k decrease in the Emergency Services Levy towards higher Fire & Rescue contributions
- \$75k decrease in the Faster Local Assessment grant

Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	16,212	8,605	7,607	88.4%

(Note B2-4, pages 18-19 of Attachment 1)

Revenue from capital grants can vary significantly from year to year depending on the nature of projects being undertaken and the timing of related expenditure.

The material increases of note in grants and contributions provided for capital purposes include:

- \$3.574m non cash contribution for the Vaucluse Bowling Club building
- \$1.661m increase in community facilities grant for the Vaucluse Bowling Club refurbishment
- \$2.833m increase in streetscapes grant for Bay Street pedestrianisation
- \$826k increase in the grant for Lyne Park playground, open space program

These increases were offset by the following decreases of note:

- \$690k decrease in grants for Cooper Park Community Hall refurbishment
- \$374k decrease for grants for the Trumper Park pathways project
- \$276k decrease in the Federal Stimulus Road Safety Program funding for pedestrian lighting upgrades



Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Interest and investment income	5,626	3,247	2,379	73.3%

(Note B2-5, page 20 of Attachment 1)

Actual interest earned on cash and investments increased +\$2.271m or +73.4% due to higher interest rates. In the prior year the monthly average rate of return ranged from 1.10% to 4.10% in June 2023. In 2023-24 the monthly average rate of return ranged from a low of 4.10% to 4.35% in June 2024.

Interest on overdue rates & annual charges increased by +\$108k (72%) in 2023-24 compared to the prior year.

Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Other income	17,608	17,110	498	2.9%

(Note B2-6, page 21 of Attachment 1)

Lease income from investment properties which includes Kiaora Place increased +\$384k (+3.4%).

Other lease income which includes income from Cross St carpark increased by +\$182k (+3.3%).

Income Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Fair value increment / (decrement) on investment properties	(6,683)	9,376	(16,059)	-171.3%

(Note C1-8, page 35 of Attachment 1)

Council's Investment Properties, comprising Kiaora Place, Grafton Street carpark and the Cosmopolitan Centre carpark are revalued annually by an independent valuer. The 2023-24 revaluation was a decrement of (\$6.683m) compared to an increment of +\$9.376m in 2022-23.

Kiaora Place decreased in value by (\$6.673m) or (3.6%) during the year (LY: +\$8.643m). The Kiaora Place decrease in valuation is primarily due to a change in the capitalisation rate from 5% to 5.25% from a softening of the selling market for shopping centres. In determining the capitalisation rate to use, the valuer assesses the gross passing or market rental per square metre of lettable area based on comparable sales evidence - sales of retail centres and comparable properties taking into consideration the nature of the property, the location, tenancy mix, level, lease terms, and weighted average lease expiry.

The table below shows the revaluation movements of the Kiaora Place investment property over 3 years. As can be seen in the table, the last two years have shown large favourable movements in the valuation of this property.

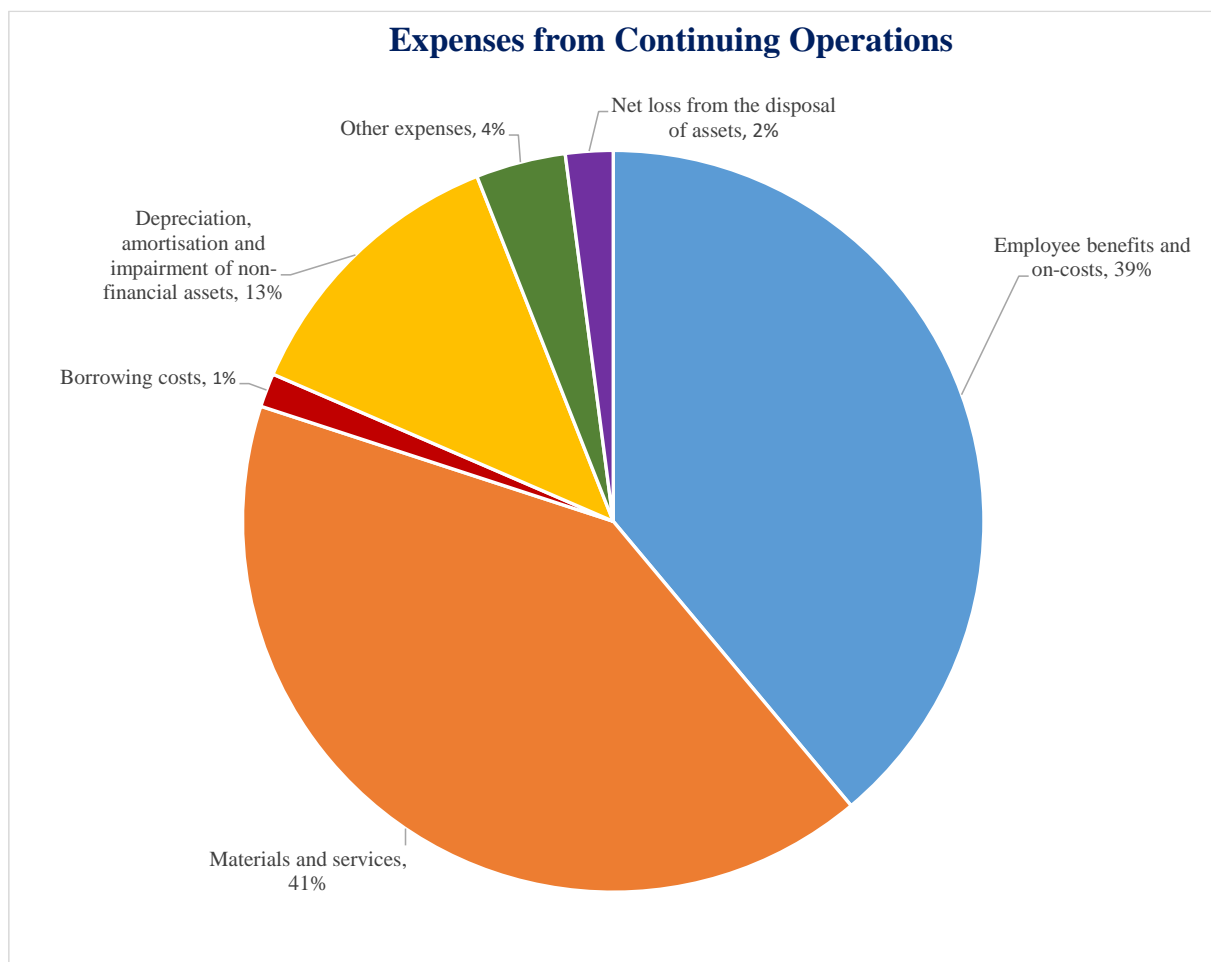
Year	Kiaora Place Revaluation Movement Favourable/ (Unfavourable)	Capitalisation Rate
2021-22 Actual	\$12.07m	5%
2022-23 Actual	\$8.64m	5%
2023-24 Actual	(\$6.673m)	5.25%

The independent valuation of the two car parks decreased by (\$10k) or (0.15%) (LY: +\$745k). The valuation is based on an income approach method, which takes into consideration the income that a property might be expected to generate if leased at a stabilised occupancy level and applying to that income a capitalisation rate reflecting the market standards and the investors' interest in property of this kind. The capitalisation rate stayed the same at 5.5% based on an analysis by the independent valuer of comparable car park property sales.

### **Expenses from Continuing Operations**

(Page 4 of Attachment 1)

Percentage composition of 2023-24 Expenses from Continuing Operations:



	1 July 2023 - 30 June 2024
Expense Items	Actual
Employee benefits and on-costs	47,706
Materials and services	50,408
Borrowing costs	1,806
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	15,348
Other expenses	4,807
Net loss from the disposal of assets	2,538
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>122,613</b>

Expense Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Employee benefits and on-costs	47,706	45,055	2,651	5.9%

(Note B3-1, page 21 of Attachment 1)

Employee benefits and on-costs increased year on year by \$2.651m or 5.9%. The annual award increase was 4.5% and the superannuation guarantee increased by 0.5%.

In the pie graph above, which shows employee benefits and on costs as 39% of total expenses, compared to 41% in prior year.

Expense Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024	Year Ended 30 June 2023	Increase / (Decrease)	
	\$'000s	\$'000s	\$'000s	%
Materials and services	50,408	42,891	7,517	17.5%

(Note B3-2, page 22 of Attachment 1)

Consultancy Costs (increased by \$470k or 26.5%)

Consultancy Costs at \$2.243m increased by \$470k or 26.5% due to increased usage of consultants. In particular, the use of independent valuers for the asset condition surveys and valuation of infrastructure assets which occurs once every 5 years and also consultant costs related to advertising income.

Raw materials and consumables (increased by \$4.309m or 59.1%)

Raw materials and consumables increased by \$4.309m or 59.1% primarily due to:

- \$3.084m of capital project expenditure that is unable to be capitalised to the fixed asset register as the expense was determined as operational in nature.
- \$563k increase in Information & Digital Transformation including Microsoft 365, increased Microsoft licensing costs, and FinanceOne annual maintenance fees.
- Projects funded from the special rate variation including Fig Tree Maintenance and progressing the heritage gap analysis

Insurance deductibles and claims payments (decreased by \$663k or 78.8%)

The decrease in insurance deductibles and claims payments was driven by lower self-funded losses for public liability, professional indemnity, and motor vehicle insurance claims. This expenditure can fluctuate year to year depending on the number and type of claims that occur.

**Maintenance and security contracts (increased by \$1.016m or 19.3%)**

The increase in maintenance and security costs is primarily driven by increased recurrent contract costs at Kiaora Place of \$640k (29.1%) including cleaning, security, management fees and carpark fees. In addition cleaning costs across Council buildings and venues has also risen \$127k (22%).

**Service Contractor (increased by \$754k or 11.4%)**

Service contractor costs increased by \$754k or 11.4% and was driven primarily by higher footpath maintenance (\$425k) and road pavement maintenance costs (\$369k) in Civil Operations. This was due to increased funding from the Regional and Local Road Repair grant program and increased maintenance work undertaken, some of which was funded from the special rate variation.

**Waste Disposal costs (increased by \$483k or 9.1%)**

The increase in waste disposal costs is driven by increased tipping charges, primarily in domestic waste management and garden refuse, the costs of which are recovered through the domestic waste management charge.

**Legal Expenses (increased by \$788k or 36.2%)**

Legal expenses relating to Planning & Development increased by \$525k or 33.2% due to the increased number of appeals.

'Other' legal expenses across the rest of Council also increased by \$263k or 44.1% primarily within the Building & Compliance area.

<b>Expense Items</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2023</b>	<b>Increase / (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>%</b>
Borrowing costs	1,806	1,933	(127)	-6.6%

(Note B3-3, page 22 of Attachment 1)

The 2023-24 repayment of interest on loans fell by \$127k in line with loan repayment schedules.

<b>Expense Items</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2023</b>	<b>Increase / (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>%</b>
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	15,348	14,752	596	4.0%

(Note B3-4, page 23 of Attachment 1)

Total depreciation and amortisation increased \$596k or 4.0%.

The increase was predominantly in Roads, which is the largest infrastructure category and has the most asset additions each year.

<b>Expense Items</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2024</b>	<b>Year Ended 30 June 2023</b>	<b>Increase / (Decrease)</b>	
	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>\$'000s</b>	<b>%</b>
Other expenses	4,807	3,747	1,060	28.3%

(Note B3-5, page 24 of Attachment 1)

An increase of \$1.060m (28.3%) in other expenses was due to:

- An increase of \$376k in impairment of receivables due to the prior year being impacted by a one off reversal of provision
- An increase of \$622k in the NSW Fire Brigades Levy and Emergency Services Levy.

Expense Items	Year Ended 30 June 2024 \$'000s	Year Ended 30 June 2023 \$'000s	Increase / (Decrease) \$'000s	%
Net loss from the disposal of assets	2,538	922	1,616	175.3%

(Note B4-1, page 24 of Attachment 1)

The increase in net losses on disposal of assets of \$1.616m arises from:

- An increase in the loss on disposal of Plant & Equipment of \$284k
- An increase in the loss on disposal of Infrastructure Assets of \$1.321m.

### **Balance Sheet - Assets and Liabilities**

(Page 6 of Attachment 1)

	30 June 2024 \$'000s	30 June 2023 \$'000s	Increase / (Decrease) \$'000s	%
<b>ASSETS</b>				
<b>Current assets</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	19,695	14,943	4,752	31.8%
Investments	90,755	92,727	(1,972)	-2.1%
Receivables	7,996	7,235	761	10.5%
Inventories	307	337	(30)	-8.9%
Contract assets and contract cost assets	843	1,795	(952)	-53.0%
Other	624	511	113	22.1%
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>120,220</b>	<b>117,548</b>	<b>2,672</b>	<b>2.3%</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>				
Receivables	136	152	(16)	-10.5%
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	1,085,274	1,056,285	28,989	2.7%
Investment property	184,750	191,420	(6,670)	-3.5%
Right of use assets	59	175	(116)	-66.3%
Other	175	279	(104)	-37.3%
<b>Total non-current assets</b>	<b>1,270,394</b>	<b>1,248,311</b>	<b>22,083</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>1,390,614</b>	<b>1,365,859</b>	<b>24,755</b>	<b>1.8%</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
<b>Current liabilities</b>				
Payables	60,326	56,075	4,251	7.6%
Contract liabilities	2,198	10,877	(8,679)	-79.8%
Lease liabilities	19	132	(113)	-85.6%
Borrowings	3,476	3,794	(318)	-8.4%
Employee benefit provisions	12,408	12,385	23	0.2%
Provisions	-	1,459	(1,459)	-100.0%
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>78,427</b>	<b>84,722</b>	<b>(6,295)</b>	<b>-7.4%</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>				
Contract liabilities	-	-	0	#DIV/0!
Lease liabilities	-	19	(19)	-100.0%
Borrowings	53,044	56,521	(3,477)	-6.2%
Employee benefit provisions	497	583	(86)	-14.8%
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>	<b>53,541</b>	<b>57,123</b>	<b>(3,582)</b>	<b>-6.3%</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>131,968</b>	<b>141,845</b>	<b>(9,877)</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>1,258,646</b>	<b>1,224,014</b>	<b>34,632</b>	<b>2.8%</b>

Cash and cash equivalents and investments increased \$2.780m or 2.6% from \$107.670m to \$110.450m.

(Note C1-1, C1-2, page 28 and G1-1, page 60 of Attachment 1)

The Statement of Cash Flows on page 8 of Attachment 1 details the cash inflows and outflows during the year from operating activities, investing activities and financing activities. The increase in cash position is predominantly due to a decrease in the cash outflow from investing activities of (\$11.333m) offset by a decrease in cash from operating activities of (\$7.345m).

Refer to section 5 of this report for the analysis of restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments.

Current Receivables increased \$761k or 10.5% from \$7.235m to \$7.996m.

(Note C1-4, page 31 of Attachment 1)

Increases came from increases in receivables of:

- \$935k in Interest Receivable on Investments due to higher interest rates on investment balances. This represents the accrual of interest earned on term deposits for the year ended 30 June 2024 not yet paid at year-end until maturity. These funds are received as the term deposits mature.
- \$679k in other debtors due to the new advertising income stream

These were offset by decreases in receivables of:

- \$493k in user charges and fees due to the timing of raising invoices and receiving payment
- \$326k in rates and annual charges due to an extensive debt recovery process being undertaken in conjunction with third-party debt collectors and other state agencies. Interest is charged on all overdue accounts.
- \$301k in the Net GST receivable as a result of lower payments processed at year-end and received in July.

Contract Assets decreased by \$952k or (53.0%) from \$1.795m to \$843k

(Note C1-6, page 32 of Attachment 1)

This balance represents grant income that Council has not yet received but has accrued for in line with project expenditure and the grant agreement. The decrease is due to the receipt of grant money for large capital projects that are now complete, namely, the Federal Stimulus for Road Safety Schools Program and Pedestrian lighting upgrades.

Infrastructure, property, plant & equipment (IPPE) increased \$28.989m or 2.7% from \$1.056b to \$1.085b

(Note C1-7, pp 33-34, and E2-1, pp 46-54 of Attachment 1)

Movements reflected

- +\$14.043m in asset renewals
- +\$15.971m in addition of new assets
- -\$4.152m of disposal of assets
- -\$15.232m of depreciation expense
- -\$2.516m of adjustments and transfers
- +\$20.875m of revaluation increments

The formal revaluation of Operational Land, Infrastructure assets (roads, bridges, footpaths, stormwater drainage, harbourside structures, seawalls, retaining walls) and Other Open Space Assets and the interim management's assessments of other assets resulted in an uplift of fair values of those infrastructure asset classes (the adjustment is processed through the asset revaluation reserve directly and not through the income statement) of \$20.875m. Refer to section 8 of this report for more information.

Investment Property decreased by \$6.670m or (3.5%) from \$191.42m to \$184.75m  
(Note C1-8, p. 35 of Attachment 1)

Council's Investment Properties, comprising Kiaora Place, Grafton Street carpark and the Cosmopolitan Centre carpark are revalued annually by an independent valuer. This movement is recognised as income in the income statement. Refer to page 11 of this report for a detailed explanation of this decrease.

Payables increased by \$4.251m or 7.6% from \$56.075m to \$60.326m  
(Note C3-1 p.38 of Attachment 1)

Increases of note include:

- Deposits, bonds and retentions which increased by \$4.786m to \$50.522m. It is noted this additional cash is transferred to Reserve to fund Council's liability to refund the deposits in the future. Council's Bonds, Deposits and Retentions Reserve totalled \$46.346m at 30 June 2024, which represents 92% of the amount held.
- \$940k increase in other payables due to a payment to be made to the Department of Communities & Justice Affordable Housing

This was offset by the following decreases:

- Goods and services – operating expenditure decrease of \$1.474m due to the timing of invoice payments at year end

Contract Liabilities decreased \$8.679m or (79.8%) from \$10.877m to \$2.198m  
(Note C3-2 p.39 of Attachment 1)

Contract Liabilities represents grants and contributions received in advance and payments received in advance.

The decrease in this balance is due to the following capital and operating grant projects being completed during the year:

- \$3.5m for the Bay St Double Bay Pedestrianisation Project
- \$2.5m for the refurbishment of the Vaucluse Bowling Club
- \$938k for Regional and Local Road Repair grant for road repairs
- \$320k under the Local Roads & Community Infrastructure Program Phase 3 to construct a number of capital projects including Hampden St Flood Mitigation Road Project and Swimming net in Parsley Bay Reserve
- \$189k for Lyne Park playground project

There was also a decrease in payments received in advance of \$954k.

Borrowings decreased \$3.795m or (6.3%) from \$60.315m to \$56.520m  
(Note C3-3 p.39 of Attachment 1)

The decrease in borrowings represents principal repayments made throughout the year in line with the loan repayment schedules.

Employee Benefit Provisions decreased \$63k or (0.5%) from \$12.968m to \$12.905m  
(Note C3-4 p.40 of Attachment 1)

Council's provision for Employee Benefits includes untaken annual leave, long service leave and sick leave. These balances are affected by the discounted cash flow analysis undertaken at year end to value the provisions and change year to year based on discount rates. There has been no material movement in the employee benefit provision balances since prior year.

## 5. Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments:

The table below details Council's transfers to and from restricted cash reserves over the course of 2023-24.

Purpose	Opening Balance July 2023 \$	Transfers To \$	Transfers From \$	Closing Balance June 2024 \$
<b>Externally Restricted Reserves</b>				
Section 7.11 Contributions	1,513,777	60,756	371,345	1,203,189
Section 7.12 Contributions	7,125,145	4,821,114	4,722,047	7,224,212
Unexpended Grants	16,749		16,749	0
Stormwater Mgt Charge	464,065	493,861	730,698	227,228
Domestic Waste – General	4,038,944	1,006,103	930,668	4,114,378
Domestic Waste - ELE	1,033,900	(43,077)	-	990,822
	<b>14,192,581</b>	<b>6,338,756</b>	<b>6,771,507</b>	<b>13,759,830</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves</b>				
Enviro & Infrastructure Levy	4,085,401	5,226,467	5,181,319	4,130,549
Employee Leave Entitlements	2,277,725	4,891,933	-	7,169,659
Plant & Vehicle Replacement	128	423,659	423,659	128
Insurance	444,648	292,808	54,793	682,663
Insurance Workers Compensation	116,556	319,338	-	435,894
Information Technology	381,227	-	(4,237)	385,464
Library IT	646,778	75,000	59,146	662,632
Election	157,436	164,100	-	321,536
Deposits	41,560,762	4,785,405	-	46,346,167
Preschool – General	438,079	35,645	31,670	442,054
Preschool - ELE	163,561	10,180	-	173,741
Property	10,806,327	566,963	1,778,566	9,594,723
Open Space & Community Facilities	655,442	-	292,803	362,638
Kiaora Place	4,479,890	697,480	385,164	4,792,207
Carry Over Works	3,943,167	3,100,572	2,243,937	4,799,802
Open Space Projects	313,820	-	25,223	288,597
Property Development Projects	23,359	-	1,675	21,684
Special Rate Variation	-	3,924,300	1,262,437	2,661,863
Urban Forest Strategy	-	3,000,000	-	3,000,000
Oxford Street Placemaking	205,529	-	-	205,529
Public Art Gallery	252,261	73,859	-	326,120
FAG Prepayment	1,972,866	1,633,013	1,972,866	1,633,013
Old Section 94	92,140	-	65,365	26,775
General	41,482	2,000	27,799	15,683
	<b>73,058,584</b>	<b>29,222,721</b>	<b>13,802,184</b>	<b>88,479,121</b>
<b>Total Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>87,251,165</b>	<b>35,561,477</b>	<b>20,573,691</b>	<b>102,238,951</b>



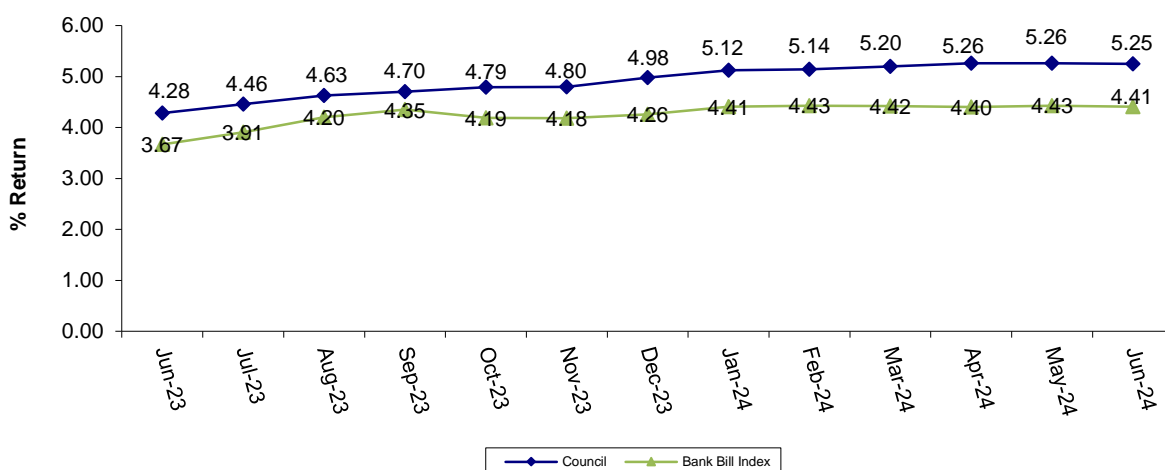
The table below shows how Council's total Reserves are disclosed in the Financial Statements

<b>Externally Restricted Reserves:</b>	
	<b>\$'000</b>
Externally Restricted Cash (Note C1-3, p.29 of Attachment 1)	14,474
<i>PLUS:</i> Externally Restricted Receivables (not disclosed due to minimum disclosure)	723
<i>LESS:</i> Externally Restricted Liabilities (not disclosed due to minimum disclosure)	(1,437)
	<b>13,760</b>
<b>Internally Restricted Reserves:</b>	
Internally Restricted Cash (Note C1-3, p.30 of Attachment 1)	88,569
<i>PLUS:</i> Internally Restricted Receivables (not disclosed due to minimum disclosure)	201
<i>LESS:</i> Internally Restricted Liabilities (not disclosed due to minimum disclosure)	(291)
	<b>88,479</b>
<b>Total Restricted Reserves</b>	<b>102,239</b>

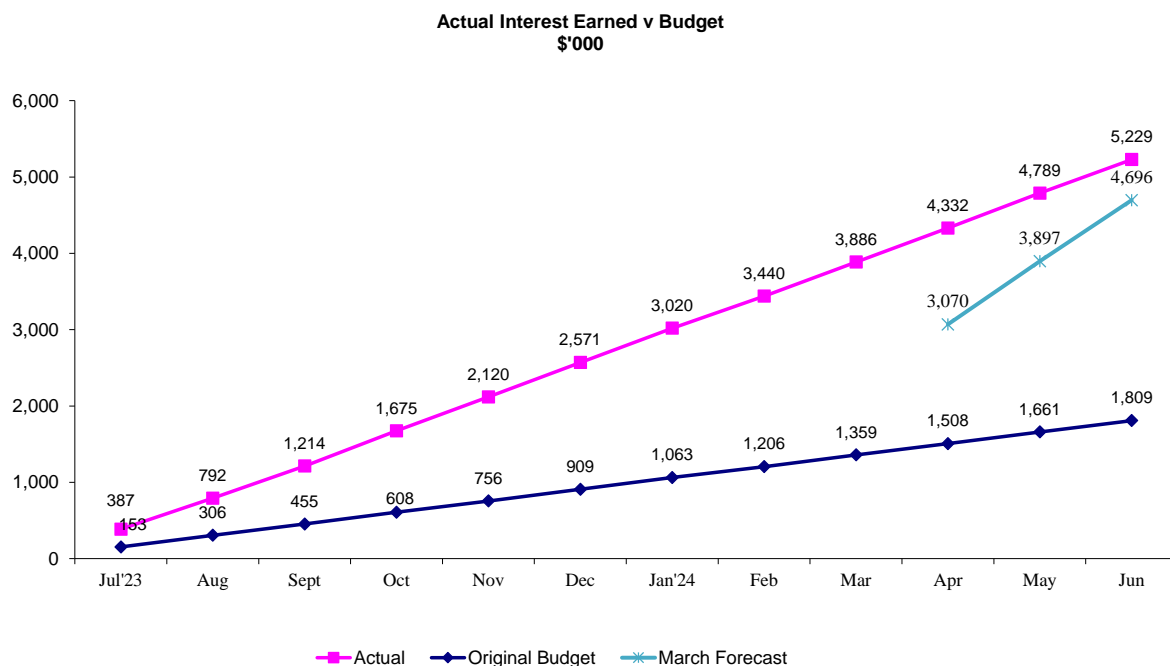
## 6. Investment Portfolio Performance and Valuation:

Council's weighted average return on its term deposit investments consistently outperformed the 90 day AusBond Bank Bill Index throughout the year. Council's weighted average return increased 97bps throughout the year to 5.25% at June 2024.

**Weighted Average Return v Bank Bill Index**



Total interest earned on investments for the year was \$5.229m, which is above the March forecast of \$4.696m, although it is a significant increase of +\$2.271m (73.3%) on \$3.096m in 2022-23, due to higher interest rates. This actual result vs March forecast is shown in the chart below.



## 7. Other Entities:

Consistent with last financial year, Council has continued to make additional disclosures related to interests in other entities on Note D1 to the Financial Statements. This disclosure is the joint operation between Waverley and Woollahra Councils in the running of our shared Bourke Road Depot.

## 8. Revaluation of Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment assets (Note C1-7, pp. 33-34 and Note E2-1 pp. 46-54 of Attachment 1)

Council's infrastructure, property and art collection assets are subject to a formal revaluation process, undertaken by an independent Valuer, on a rolling basis where each class of assets is revalued within every either 3 or 5 years.

In 2023-24 Council's Operational Land was formally revalued by Scott Fullarton Valuations Pty Ltd. Council's Infrastructure assets (roads, bridges, footpaths, stormwater drainage, harbourside structures, seawalls, retaining walls) were formally revalued by APV Valuers & Asset Management. Council's Other Open Space Assets were revalued by XYST Australia Pty Ltd. Council is required to make an interim management assessment of the fair value carrying amount of the other infrastructure assets that were not subject to a formal revaluation.

As part of the management interim assessment of the fair value carrying amount of those asset classes not subject to formal independent revaluation in 2023-24, management assesses the impact of changes to replacement cost on the fair values since the last independent formal revaluation. In 2023-24 this applied to Buildings (specialised and non-specialised). The fair value interim management assessment was undertaken using data from the NSW Valuer General, Australian Bureau of Statistics Heavy and Civil Engineering Construction Prices Indices and Rawlinson's Cost Index as recommended by the NSW Audit Office. This interim management assessment of fair value was subsequently discussed, reviewed and agreed with the external auditors.

The formal revaluation of operational land, infrastructure assets (roads, bridges, footpaths, stormwater drainage, harbourside structures, seawalls, retaining walls), Other Open Space Assets and the interim managements assessments of other assets, resulted in an uplift of fair values of those infrastructure asset classes (the adjustment is processed through the asset revaluation reserve directly and not through the income statement). The total change in fair value from formal revaluations and interim management fair value assessments was \$20.875m.

<b>ASSET CLASS</b>	<b>REVALUATION AMOUNT</b>
Operational Land	+\$26.078m
Buildings – non - specialised	+\$7.756m
Buildings – specialised	+\$1.223m
Roads	(\$26.887m)
Bridges	+\$44k
Footpaths	+\$16.579m
Stormwater Drainage	(\$9.634m)
Harbourside Structures	(\$1.010m)
Other Open Space Assets	(\$786k)
Seawalls	+\$4.395m
Retaining Walls	+\$3.117m
<b>Total</b>	<b>+\$20.875m</b>

## 9. Revaluation of Investment Properties

(Note C1-8 p.35 of Attachment 1)

Council's Investment Properties, comprising Kiaora Place, Grafton Street carpark and the Cosmopolitan Centre carpark are revalued annually by an external valuer. The 2023-24 revaluation was a decrement of (\$6.683m) compared to an increment of \$9.376m in 2022-23. Details of this valuation are provided in page 11 of this report.

## 10. Related Party Disclosures

Council has made the relevant disclosures on Note F1 (page 58 of Attachment 1).

### Options:

Council may resolve in line with the recommendation/s as included in this report or Council may choose to resolve in some other manner.

### Community Engagement and / or Internal Consultation:

Like many other Council documents, the financial statements are publicly exhibited each year and submissions from the public invited. Under section 418 of the Local Government Act 1993, as soon as practicable after the Auditor's Reports are received, Council must fix a meeting at which it proposes to present its Financial Reports, together with the Auditor's Reports to the Public and must give the public notice of this meeting date.

In anticipation of receiving the Auditor's Reports, it is recommended that the Council meeting to be held on Monday 28 October 2024 be set as the meeting at which the Financial Statements will be presented to the public.

Any submissions received will be reported to Council with responses from staff. The submissions received are also sent to Council's auditor.

### Policy Implications:

There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.

### **Financial Implications:**

The financial implications are as outlined in this report and attachments.

### **Resourcing Implications:**

There are no direct policy implications arising from this report.

### **Conclusion:**

Council returned an operating surplus for the year of \$13.757m (LY: \$21.506m). Excluding capital grants and contributions the deficit was (\$2.455m) (LY: surplus of \$12.901m).



The result for the year was a decrease in working funds of \$2.297m to a balance of \$5.186m at 30 June 2024 which is higher than Council's benchmark of \$2.887m (Arrears of Rates plus Inventory). It is important to remember that we maintain a level of working funds to allow us to respond to issues not foreseen in the budget.

At the end of the 2023-24 financial year Council's financial results remain strong. Council has seen additional rates income from the special rates variation, significant additional income from advertising, a substantial uplift in interest income from higher interest rates; and sound budgetary control.

However, as outlined to Council over recent years there are a number of external pressures on Council's budget, which continue to require strong financial management. These include a rate peg set by NSW government that is historically below the inflation rate; unplanned and excessive cost shifting from other levels of government; and higher inflation primarily driven by increased freight and energy costs. Increased Interest earnings from higher interest rates are expected to plateau or even decrease if the RBA cuts interest rates.

It is recommended that, in anticipation of receiving the Auditor's Reports, Council set the Council meeting to be held on Monday 28 October 2024 as the meeting at which the 2023-24 Financial Statements will be presented to the public.

### **Attachments**

1. Annual Financial Statements 30 June 2024 [!\[\]\(eb2da236c8e866008a78d7aa69bcc6c9\_img.jpg\)](#) 
2. Analysis of Variances between 2023-24 Actual Result and the March 2024 Forecast result [!\[\]\(6a874697c11eea69ddd49691fc21e83d\_img.jpg\)](#) 

# Woollahra Municipal Council

## GENERAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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Woollahra Municipal Council

General Purpose Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

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**Overview**

Woollahra Municipal Council is constituted under the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and has its principal place of business at:

536 New South Head Road  
Double Bay NSW 2028

Council's guiding principles are detailed in Chapter 3 of the LGA and includes:

- principles applying to the exercise of functions generally by council,
- principles to be applied when making decisions,
- principles of community participation,
- principles of sound financial management, and
- principles for strategic planning relating to the development of an integrated planning and reporting framework.

A description of the nature of Council's operations and its principal activities are provided in Note B1-2.

Through the use of the internet, we have ensured that our reporting is timely, complete and available at minimum cost. All press releases, financial statements and other information are publicly available on our website: [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au).

## Woollahra Municipal Council

### General Purpose Financial Statements

for the year ended 30 June 2024

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#### Statement by Councillors and Management made pursuant to Section 413(2)(c) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)

**The attached General Purpose Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with:**

- the *Local Government Act 1993* (NSW) and the regulations made thereunder,
- the Australian Accounting Standards and other pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board,
- the *Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting*.

**To the best of our knowledge and belief, these statements:**

- present fairly the Council's operating result and financial position for the year,
- accord with Council's accounting and other records.

**We are not aware of any matter that would render these statements false or misleading in any way.**

**Signed in accordance with a resolution of Council made on 9 September 2024.**

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Richard Shields  
Mayor  
10 September 2024

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Toni Zeltzer  
Councillor  
10 September 2024

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Craig Swift-McNair  
General Manager  
10 September 2024

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Paul Ryan  
Responsible Accounting Officer  
10 September 2024

Woollahra Municipal Council | Income Statement | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Woollahra Municipal Council

### Income Statement

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
<b>Income from continuing operations</b>				
66,124	Rates and annual charges	B2-1	<b>66,136</b>	59,700
13,201	User charges and fees	B2-2	<b>15,565</b>	14,343
11,471	Other revenues	B2-3	<b>16,230</b>	10,864
4,796	Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	B2-4	<b>5,676</b>	7,561
10,552	Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	B2-4	<b>16,212</b>	8,605
1,929	Interest and investment income	B2-5	<b>5,626</b>	3,247
17,370	Other income	B2-6	<b>17,608</b>	17,110
1,150	Fair value increment/ (decrement) on investment properties	C1-8	<b>(6,683)</b>	9,376
<b>126,593</b>	<b>Total income from continuing operations</b>		<b>136,370</b>	130,806
<b>Expenses from continuing operations</b>				
49,252	Employee benefits and on-costs	B3-1	<b>47,706</b>	45,055
43,823	Materials and services	B3-2	<b>50,408</b>	42,891
1,809	Borrowing costs	B3-3	<b>1,806</b>	1,933
14,834	Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets	B3-4	<b>15,348</b>	14,752
4,792	Other expenses	B3-5	<b>4,807</b>	3,747
451	Net loss from the disposal of assets	B4-1	<b>2,538</b>	922
<b>114,961</b>	<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>		<b>122,613</b>	109,300
<b>11,632</b>	<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>		<b>13,757</b>	21,506
<b>11,632</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year attributable to Council</b>		<b>13,757</b>	21,506
<b>1,080</b>	<b>Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>		<b>(2,455)</b>	12,901

The above Income Statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



Woollahra Municipal Council | Statement of Comprehensive Income | for the year ended 30 June 2024

Woollahra Municipal Council

Statement of Comprehensive Income  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Net operating result for the year – from Income Statement</b>		<b>13,757</b>	21,506
<b>Other comprehensive income:</b>			
Amounts which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result			
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-7	<b>20,875</b>	73,219
<b>Total items which will not be reclassified subsequently to the operating result</b>		<b>20,875</b>	73,219
<b>Total other comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>20,875</b>	73,219
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Council</b>		<b>34,632</b>	94,725

The above Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Statement of Financial Position | as at 30 June 2024

## Woollahra Municipal Council

### Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	C1-1	19,695	14,943
Investments	C1-2	90,755	92,727
Receivables	C1-4	7,996	7,235
Inventories	C1-5	307	337
Contract assets and contract cost assets	C1-6	843	1,795
Other	C1-9	624	511
<b>Total current assets</b>		<b>120,220</b>	<b>117,548</b>
<b>Non-current assets</b>			
Receivables	C1-4	136	152
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)	C1-7	1,085,274	1,056,285
Investment property	C1-8	184,750	191,420
Right of use assets	C2-1	59	175
Other	C1-9	175	279
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		<b>1,270,394</b>	<b>1,248,311</b>
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>1,390,614</b>	<b>1,365,859</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current liabilities</b>			
Payables	C3-1	60,326	56,075
Contract liabilities	C3-2	2,198	10,877
Lease liabilities	C2-1	19	132
Borrowings	C3-3	3,476	3,794
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	12,408	12,385
Provisions	C3-5	–	1,459
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<b>78,427</b>	<b>84,722</b>
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>			
Lease liabilities	C2-1	–	19
Borrowings	C3-3	53,044	56,521
Employee benefit provisions	C3-4	497	583
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		<b>53,541</b>	<b>57,123</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>131,968</b>	<b>141,845</b>
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>1,258,646</b>	<b>1,224,014</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Accumulated surplus		596,345	582,588
IPPE revaluation reserve	C4-1	662,301	641,426
<b>Council equity interest</b>		<b>1,258,646</b>	<b>1,224,014</b>
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>1,258,646</b>	<b>1,224,014</b>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Statement of Changes in Equity | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Woollahra Municipal Council

### Statement of Changes in Equity for the year ended 30 June 2024

\$ '000	Notes	2024			2023		
		Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity	Accumulated surplus	IPPE revaluation reserve	Total equity
Opening balance at 1 July		582,588	641,426	1,224,014	561,082	568,207	1,129,289
Net operating result for the year		13,757	–	13,757	21,506	–	21,506
<b>Net operating result for the period</b>		<b>13,757</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>13,757</b>	<b>21,506</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>21,506</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>							
Gain (loss) on revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment	C1-7	–	20,875	20,875	–	73,219	73,219
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>–</b>	<b>20,875</b>	<b>20,875</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>73,219</b>	<b>73,219</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		<b>13,757</b>	<b>20,875</b>	<b>34,632</b>	<b>21,506</b>	<b>73,219</b>	<b>94,725</b>
<b>Closing balance at 30 June</b>		<b>596,345</b>	<b>662,301</b>	<b>1,258,646</b>	<b>582,588</b>	<b>641,426</b>	<b>1,224,014</b>

The above Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Statement of Cash Flows | for the year ended 30 June 2024

## Woollahra Municipal Council

### Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 30 June 2024

Original unaudited budget 2024	\$ '000	Notes	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
66,092	Rates and annual charges		<b>66,554</b>	59,434
13,232	User charges and fees		<b>15,049</b>	15,082
1,948	Interest received		<b>4,684</b>	1,882
4,160	Grants and contributions		<b>11,480</b>	17,519
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions received		<b>12,313</b>	10,485
29,151	Other Revenue including Rental Income		<b>33,033</b>	27,910
<b>Payments:</b>				
(48,297)	Payments to employees		<b>(47,801)</b>	(47,237)
(42,818)	Payments for materials and services		<b>(51,853)</b>	(39,598)
(1,822)	Borrowing costs		<b>(1,817)</b>	(1,950)
–	Bonds, deposits and retentions refunded		<b>(7,527)</b>	(5,211)
(4,656)	Other		<b>(5,292)</b>	(2,148)
16,990	<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	G1-1	<b>28,823</b>	36,168
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>				
<b>Receipts:</b>				
–	Sale of investments		<b>92,000</b>	108,000
1,409	Proceeds from sale of IPPE		<b>1,614</b>	1,552
<b>Payments:</b>				
(19,829)	Payments for IPPE		<b>(23,745)</b>	(17,195)
–	Purchase of investments		<b>(90,000)</b>	(123,000)
–	Purchase of investment property		<b>(13)</b>	(834)
(18,420)	<b>Net cash flows from investing activities</b>		<b>(20,144)</b>	(31,477)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>				
<b>Payments:</b>				
(3,932)	Repayment of borrowings		<b>(3,795)</b>	(3,664)
–	Principal component of lease payments		<b>(132)</b>	(101)
(3,932)	<b>Net cash flows from financing activities</b>		<b>(3,927)</b>	(3,765)
(5,362)	<b>Net change in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>4,752</b>	926
74,110	Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<b>14,943</b>	14,017
68,748	<b>Cash and cash equivalents at end of year</b>	C1-1	<b>19,695</b>	14,943
–	plus: Investments on hand at end of year	C1-2	<b>90,755</b>	92,727
68,748	<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>		<b>110,450</b>	107,670

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

## Woollahra Municipal Council

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## Woollahra Municipal Council

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## A About Council and these financial statements

### A1-1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements were authorised for issue by Council on 10 September 2024. Council has the power to amend and reissue these financial statements in cases where critical information is received from public submissions or where the OLG directs Council to amend the financial statements.

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Australian Accounting Interpretations, the *Local Government Act 1993* (Act) and *Local Government (General) Regulation 2022* (Regulation), and the Local Government Code of Accounting Practice and Financial Reporting. Council is a not for-profit entity. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

#### **Historical cost convention**

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of certain financial assets and liabilities and certain classes of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment and investment property.

#### **Significant accounting estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Council's accounting policies.

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Council and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

#### **Critical accounting estimates and assumptions**

Council makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year include:

- i. fair values of investment property – refer Note C1-8
- ii. fair values of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment – refer Note C1-7
- iii. employee benefit provisions – refer Note C3-4.

#### **Significant judgements in applying the Council's accounting policies**

(i) Impairment of receivables: Council has made a significant judgement about the impairment of a number of its receivables – refer Note C1-4.

(ii) Determination of whether performance obligations are sufficiently specific and whether the contract is within the scope of AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and / or AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* – refer to Notes B2-2 – B2-4.

(iii) Valuation of Investment Properties: The valuation is performed by an independent valuer in accordance with AASB 140 *Investment Property* and AASB 13 *Fair Value Measurement*.

The income approach method is used in the valuation. This method takes into consideration the income that a property might be expected to generate if leased at a stabilised occupancy level and applying to that income a capitalisation rate reflecting the market standards and the investors' interest in a property of that kind.

## A1-1 Basis of preparation (continued)

### Monies and other assets received by Council

#### The Consolidated Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 409(1) of the Local Government Act 1993 (NSW), all money and property received by Council is held in the Council's Consolidated Fund unless it is required to be held in the Council's Trust Fund.

Cash and other assets of the following activities have been included as part of the Consolidated Fund:

- General purpose operations

#### The Trust Fund

In accordance with the provisions of Section 411 of the *Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)* (as amended), a separate and distinct Trust Fund is maintained to account for all money and other assets received by the Council in trust which must be applied only for the purposes of, or in accordance with, the trusts relating to those monies.

Trust monies and property subject to Council's control have been included in these reports.

### Volunteer services

Council does not have a material dependence on volunteer services. Volunteers are utilised in Library Services, Bushland Regeneration works, Cultural Events and Sustainability. These services are not recognised due to their non material nature and a significant proportion would not go ahead should there not be volunteers to undertake their roles.

### New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

#### New accounting standards and interpretations issued but not yet effective

Certain new accounting standards and interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2024 reporting period. Council has not applied any pronouncements before its operative date in the annual reporting period beginning 1 July 2023.

As at the date of authorisation of these financial statements Council does not consider that any of these new (and still to be applied) standards and interpretations are likely to have a material impact on the Council's future financial statements, financial position, financial performance or cash flows.

#### New accounting standards adopted during the year

During the year Council adopted all accounting standards and interpretations (as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board) which were mandatorily effective from the first time at 30 June 2024.

None of these standards had a significant impact on reported position or performance



## B Financial Performance

### B1 Functions or activities

#### B1-1 Functions or activities – income, expenses and assets

Income, expenses and assets have been directly attributed to the following functions or activities. Details of those functions or activities are provided in Note B1-2.

\$ '000	Income		Expenses		Operating result		Grants and contributions		Carrying amount of assets	
	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
<b>Functions or activities</b>										
A connected and harmonious community	6	3	432	411	(426)	(408)	2	2	14,124	10,183
A supported community	1,915	1,734	3,562	2,474	(1,647)	(740)	1,573	1,444	4,008	3,885
A creative and vibrant community	909	1,080	8,093	7,894	(7,184)	(6,814)	587	562	13,127	13,063
Well planned neighbourhoods	3,996	4,010	9,943	8,286	(5,947)	(4,276)	149	212	482	2,024
Liveable places	16,305	11,310	35,093	31,612	(18,788)	(20,302)	7,233	4,756	773,942	770,355
Getting around	16,683	13,735	4,850	4,597	11,833	9,138	1,396	1,495	123,925	95,433
Protecting our environment	379	426	3,028	2,556	(2,649)	(2,130)	18	74	75,475	82,834
Sustainable use of resources	19,107	18,461	13,343	12,451	5,764	6,010	–	43	3,775	3,595
Community focused economic development	7,082	20,990	10,750	7,030	(3,668)	13,960	1,198	622	180,154	186,678
Working together	17	11	1,722	1,579	(1,705)	(1,568)	–	–	59	26
Well managed Council	69,971	59,046	31,797	30,410	38,174	28,636	9,732	6,956	86,467	86,201
General purpose	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	115,076	111,582
<b>Total functions and activities</b>	<b>136,370</b>	<b>130,806</b>	<b>122,613</b>	<b>109,300</b>	<b>13,757</b>	<b>21,506</b>	<b>21,888</b>	<b>16,166</b>	<b>1,390,614</b>	<b>1,365,859</b>

## B1-2 Components of functions or activities

Details relating to the Council's functions or activities as reported in B1-1 are as follows:

### Theme: Community well-being

#### Goal 1: A connected and harmonious community

Woollahra will be a community where people care for each other, have a sense of belonging and can contribute meaningfully to their local community and neighbourhood through participation in community life.

#### Goal 2: A supported community

Woollahra will be a place where people have access to a range of effective and diverse social services and programs that meet the changing needs of our community.

#### Goal 3: A creative and vibrant community

Woollahra will be a place where people of all ages and backgrounds have access to lifelong learning opportunities, cultural and community activities.

### Theme: Quality places and spaces

#### Goal 4: Well planned neighbourhoods

Woollahra will have well planned, high quality and sustainable building development that respects and enhances our environment and heritage. It will complement and retain the local character of our suburbs, villages and neighbourhoods and provide access to a range of housing options.

#### Goal 5: Liveable places

Woollahra will be a community with accessible, integrated and well maintained public spaces and open spaces. We will have clean and well maintained infrastructure and community facilities. It will be a safe and attractive place with high quality public and private facilities and amenities.

#### Goal 6: Getting around

Woollahra will be a place where it is easy to get around, easy to access our foreshore, our recreation facilities, our green open space and our public and private institutions. We will also have easy access to the city and a wide range of services and facilities, and be able to access public transport, walking cycling routes within our area.

### Theme: A healthy environment

#### Goal 7: Protecting our environment

Woollahra will be a place where the natural environment will be protected and conserved from adverse impacts, to preserve our vegetation and wildlife habits.

#### Goal 8: Sustainable use of resources

Woollahra will reduce energy and water use, reduce emissions and develop adaption actions that will reduce the impacts of climate change. We will minimise waste generation and encourage resource recycling.

### Theme: Local prosperity

#### Goal 9: Community focused economic development

Woollahra will maintain the diversity of our local economic base and encourage new businesses into the area that will enhance and positively impact on community life.

### Theme: Community leadership and participation

#### Goal 10: Working together

Woollahra will be a place where residents are well informed and able to contribute to their community. Council will listen and respond to requests and concerns through open communication and engagement.

#### Goal 11: Well managed Council

Woollahra Council will be open and accountable to all stakeholders, encourage participation in decision making and make decisions that are in the public interest. Through effective long term planning, we will develop and implement strategies and ensure ongoing resources to fulfil long term community goals.

## B2 Sources of income

### B2-1 Rates and annual charges

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Ordinary rates</b>		
Residential	37,470	32,942
Business	6,007	5,282
Less: Pensioner rebates	(125)	(124)
<b>Rates levied to ratepayers</b>	<b>43,352</b>	<b>38,100</b>
Pensioner rate subsidies received	66	69
<b>Total ordinary rates</b>	<b>43,418</b>	<b>38,169</b>
<b>Special rates</b>		
Environmental and infrastructure levy	5,226	4,595
Less: Pensioner rebates	(121)	(110)
<b>Rates levied to ratepayers</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>4,485</b>
<b>Total special rates</b>	<b>5,105</b>	<b>4,485</b>
<b>Annual charges (pursuant to s496, 496A, 496B, 501 &amp; 611)</b>		
Domestic waste management services	17,110	16,542
Stormwater management services	494	492
Section 611 charges	42	45
Less: Pensioner rebates	(70)	(75)
<b>Annual charges levied</b>	<b>17,576</b>	<b>17,004</b>
Pensioner annual charges subsidies received:		
– Domestic waste management	37	42
<b>Total annual charges</b>	<b>17,613</b>	<b>17,046</b>
<b>Total rates and annual charges</b>	<b>66,136</b>	<b>59,700</b>

Council has used 2022 year valuations provided by the NSW Valuer General in calculating its rates.

#### Material accounting policy information

Rates and annual charges are recognised as revenue at the beginning of the rating period to which they relate. Prepaid rates are recognised as a financial liability until the beginning of the rating period.

Pensioner rebates relate to reductions in rates and certain annual charges for eligible pensioners' place of residence in the local government council area that are not subsidised by the NSW Government.

Pensioner rate subsidies are received from the NSW Government to provide a contribution towards the pensioner rebates and are recognised within the underlying revenue item based on their substance.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## B2-2 User charges and fees

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Specific user charges (per s502 - specific 'actual use' charges)</b>		
Waste management services (non-domestic)	1,894	1,780
<b>Total specific user charges</b>	<b>1,894</b>	<b>1,780</b>
<b>Other user charges and fees</b>		
<b>(i) Fees and charges – statutory and regulatory functions (per s608)</b>		
Advertising fees	415	486
Certificate fees	727	578
Development application fees	988	1,054
Hoarding fees	708	1,319
Inspection fees	162	121
Principal certifying authority fees	14	25
Registration fees and permits	1,248	1,113
Section 96 amendment application fees	506	381
Subdivision application fees	3	–
<b>Total fees and charges – statutory/regulatory</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>5,077</b>
<b>(ii) Fees and charges – other (incl. general user charges (per s608))</b>		
Restoration charges	1,092	868
Casual park hire	419	391
Credit card usage charge	119	110
Construction zone charges	2,296	1,632
Footpath crossing administration fees	80	68
Fire safety statement lodgement fee	161	153
Filming fees	111	123
File retrieval charges	80	86
Pre DA lodgement advice service fees	21	21
Other	724	761
Parking permits – residential	463	440
Parking meters	2,572	2,215
Preschool fees	306	274
Rezoning requests	259	4
Tree pruning income	159	303
Tree preservation order applications	38	37
<b>Total fees and charges – other</b>	<b>8,900</b>	<b>7,486</b>
<b>Total other user charges and fees</b>	<b>13,671</b>	<b>12,563</b>
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>	<b>15,565</b>	<b>14,343</b>
<b>Timing of revenue recognition for user charges and fees</b>		
User charges and fees recognised over time	5,551	4,487
User charges and fees recognised at a point in time	10,014	9,856
<b>Total user charges and fees</b>	<b>15,565</b>	<b>14,343</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Revenue arising from user charges and fees is recognised when or as the performance obligation is completed and the customer receives the benefit of the goods / services being provided.

The performance obligation relates to the specific services which are provided to the customers . There is no material obligation for Council in relation to refunds or returns.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## B2-3 Other revenues

\$ '000	2024	2023
Fines – parking	7,071	6,336
Fines – other	516	412
Advertising Income	5,091	–
Recycling income (non-domestic)	207	223
Other	475	1,202
Private use contributions	349	345
Recovered costs and reimbursements	2,521	2,346
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>16,230</b>	<b>10,864</b>

### Timing of revenue recognition for other revenue

Other revenue recognised over time	5,091	–
Other revenue recognised at a point in time	11,139	10,864
<b>Total other revenue</b>	<b>16,230</b>	<b>10,864</b>

### Material accounting policy information for other revenue

Where the revenue is earned the provision of specified goods / services under an enforceable contract, revenue is recognised when or as the the obligations are satisfied.

Parking fees and fines are recognised as revenue when the service has been provided, the payment is received or when the penalty has been applied, whichever occurs first.

Other revenue is recorded when the payment is due, the value of the payment is notified, or the payment is received, whichever occurs first.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## B2-4 Grants and contributions

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
<b>General purpose grants and non-developer contributions (untied)</b>				
<b>General purpose (untied)</b>				
<b>Current year allocation</b>				
Financial assistance – general component	10	319	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component	4	130	–	–
<b>Payment in advance - future year allocation</b>				
Financial assistance – general component	1,184	1,445	–	–
Financial assistance – local roads component	449	528	–	–
<b>Amount recognised as income during current year</b>	<b>1,647</b>	<b>2,422</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>				
<b>Cash contributions</b>				
Community care	5	4	–	–
Community centres	–	–	2,531	–
Library – per capita	152	167	–	–
Local Infrastructure Renewal Scheme subsidy	8	82	–	–
Local Roads Community Infrastructure Phase	66	45	668	–
Drainage	–	–	–	185
Environmental works	–	48	–	14
Library – special grant	59	45	–	–
Open space	21	93	935	1,278
Preschool	1,569	1,441	–	–
Street lighting	403	395	–	–
Transport for NSW contributions (regional roads, block grant)	156	149	70	357
Roads to Recovery	–	480	–	–
Transport (other)	1,001	1,084	3,639	2,751
Other specific grants	171	708	–	–
Other contributions	–	–	93	–
Contribution to works	45	47	–	–
Paddington library	373	351	–	–
<b>Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions – cash</b>	<b>4,029</b>	<b>5,139</b>	<b>7,936</b>	<b>4,585</b>
<b>Non-cash contributions</b>				
Community Centres	–	–	3,574	–
Other	–	–	198	–
<b>Total other contributions – non-cash</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3,772</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total special purpose grants and non-developer contributions (tied)</b>	<b>4,029</b>	<b>5,139</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>4,585</b>
<b>Total grants and non-developer contributions</b>	<b>5,676</b>	<b>7,561</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>4,585</b>
<b>Comprising:</b>				
– Commonwealth funding	1,712	2,947	668	1,199
– State funding	3,542	4,216	10,857	3,386
– Other funding	422	398	183	–
	<b>5,676</b>	<b>7,561</b>	<b>11,708</b>	<b>4,585</b>

continued on next page ...

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## B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

### Developer contributions

\$ '000	Notes	Timing	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
<b>Developer contributions:</b>						
<b>(s7.12 - EP&amp;A Act, s64 of the LGA):</b>						
<b>Cash contributions</b>						
S 7.12 – fixed development consent levies		2	–	–	4,504	4,020
<b>Total developer contributions – cash</b>			–	–	<b>4,504</b>	<b>4,020</b>
<b>Total developer contributions</b>			–	–	<b>4,504</b>	<b>4,020</b>
<b>Total contributions</b>			–	–	<b>4,504</b>	<b>4,020</b>
<b>Total grants and contributions</b>			<b>5,676</b>	<b>7,561</b>	<b>16,212</b>	<b>8,605</b>
<b>Timing of revenue recognition for grants and contributions</b>						
Grants and contributions recognised over time			1,304	797	7,937	4,586
Grants and contributions recognised at a point in time			4,372	6,764	8,275	4,019
<b>Total grants and contributions</b>			<b>5,676</b>	<b>7,561</b>	<b>16,212</b>	<b>8,605</b>

### Unspent grants and contributions

Certain grants and contributions are obtained by Council on the condition they be spent in a specified manner or in a future period but which are not yet spent in accordance with those conditions are as follows:

\$ '000	Operating 2024	Operating 2023	Capital 2024	Capital 2023
<b>Unspent grants and contributions</b>				
Unspent funds at 1 July	17	17	–	–
<b>Add:</b> Funds recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	–	–	–	–
<b>Less:</b> Funds recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	(17)	–	–	–
<b>Less:</b> Funds received in prior year but revenue recognised and funds spent in current year	–	–	–	–
<b>Unspent funds at 30 June</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Contributions</b>				
Unspent funds at 1 July	–	–	8,639	8,281
<b>Add:</b> contributions recognised as revenue in the reporting year but not yet spent in accordance with the conditions	–	–	4,882	–
<b>Add:</b> contributions received and not recognised as revenue in the current year	–	–	(5,094)	4,294
<b>Less:</b> contributions recognised as revenue in previous years that have been spent during the reporting year	–	–	–	(3,936)
<b>Unspent contributions at 30 June</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>8,427</b>	<b>8,639</b>

continued on next page ...

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B2-4 Grants and contributions (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Control over grants and contributions is normally obtained upon their receipt (or acquittal) and is valued at the fair value of the granted or contributed asset at the date of transfer.

Where grants or contributions recognised as revenues during the financial year were obtained on condition that they be expended in a particular manner, or used over a particular period, and those conditions were un-discharged at reporting date, the unused grant or contribution is disclosed below.

Council has obligations to provide facilities from contribution revenues levied on developers under the provisions of sections 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

A liability is recognised in respect of revenue that is reciprocal in nature to the extent that the requisite service has not been provided at reporting date.

B2-5 Interest and investment income

\$ '000	2024	2023
Interest on financial assets measured at amortised cost		
– Overdue rates and annual charges (incl. special purpose rates)	259	151
– Cash and investments	5,367	3,096
Total interest and investment income (losses)	5,626	3,247



## B2-6 Other income

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Rental income</b>		
<b>Investment properties</b>		
Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	11,812	11,428
<b>Total Investment properties</b>	<b>11,812</b>	<b>11,428</b>
<b>Other lease income</b>		
Room/Facility Hire	4,058	3,965
Other	1,711	1,622
<b>Total other lease income</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>5,587</b>
<b>Total rental income</b>	<b>17,581</b>	<b>17,015</b>
<b>Fair value increment on investments</b>		
Fair value increment on investments through profit and loss	27	95
<b>Total Fair value increment on investments</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>17,608</b>	<b>17,110</b>

## B3 Costs of providing services

### B3-1 Employee benefits and on-costs

\$ '000	2024	2023
Salaries and wages	36,061	32,856
Employee leave entitlements (ELE)	6,296	6,216
Superannuation	4,733	4,138
Workers' compensation insurance	1,083	2,246
Fringe benefit tax (FBT)	318	290
Other	39	(13)
<b>Total employee costs</b>	<b>48,530</b>	<b>45,733</b>
Less: capitalised costs	(824)	(678)
<b>Total employee costs expensed</b>	<b>47,706</b>	<b>45,055</b>

### Material accounting policy information

#### Retirement benefit obligations

All employees of the Council are entitled to benefits on retirement, disability or death. Council contributes to various defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans on behalf of its employees.

#### Superannuation plans

Contributions to defined contribution plans are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Council participates in a defined benefit plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, however, sufficient information to account for the plan as a defined benefit is not available and therefore Council accounts for its obligations to defined benefit plans on the same basis as its obligations to defined contribution plans, i.e. as an expense when it becomes payable – refer to Note E3-1 for more information.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## B3-2 Materials and services

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
Advertising		301	465
Audit Fees	F2-1	91	87
Bank charges		531	459
Consultancy		2,243	1,773
Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses	F1-2	462	449
Election expenses		164	157
Electricity and heating		575	474
File archival and retrieval costs		160	147
Infringement notice contract costs (SEINS)		1,116	1,097
Insurance deductibles and claims payments		178	841
Insurance premiums		1,717	1,604
Maintenance and security contracts		6,284	5,268
Office rental		23	25
Other		443	447
Other expenses		821	559
Other – Woollahra Local Planning Panel		139	153
Postage		123	119
Raw materials and consumables		11,598	7,289
Recoverable expenses		253	477
Recycling		3,013	2,872
Registration		172	181
Service Contractors		7,350	6,596
Street lighting		1,132	1,103
Telephone and communications		99	93
Temporary staff		1,787	1,916
Training		414	394
Valuation fees		93	87
Waste disposal costs		5,778	5,295
Water and council rates		381	228
<b>Legal expenses:</b>			
– Legal expenses: planning and development		2,106	1,581
– Legal expenses: other		860	597
<b>Operating leases expense:</b>			
– Operating lease rentals: minimum lease payments		1	58
<b>Total materials and services</b>		<b>50,408</b>	<b>42,891</b>
<b>Total materials and services</b>		<b>50,408</b>	<b>42,891</b>

## B3-3 Borrowing costs

### (i) Interest bearing liability costs

Interest on leases	5	7
Interest on loans	1,801	1,926
<b>Total interest bearing liability costs</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>1,933</b>
<b>Total interest bearing liability costs expensed</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>1,933</b>
<b>Total borrowing costs expensed</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>1,933</b>

### B3-4 Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Depreciation and amortisation</b>			
Plant and equipment		1,446	1,381
Office equipment		449	409
Furniture and fittings		133	134
<b>Infrastructure:</b>	C1-7		
– Buildings – non-specialised		1,562	1,482
– Buildings – specialised		1,024	970
– Roads		5,473	5,155
– Bridges		48	44
– Footpaths		1,687	1,569
– Stormwater drainage		781	841
– Other open space/recreational assets		1,277	1,317
– Harbourside Structures		160	149
– Seawalls		444	424
– Retaining Walls		297	315
<b>Other assets:</b>			
– Library books		451	472
<b>Total depreciation and amortisation costs</b>		<b>15,232</b>	<b>14,662</b>
<b>Impairment / revaluation decrement of Right of use assets</b>			
<b>Right of use assets</b>	C2-1	116	90
<b>Total gross Right of use assets impairment / revaluation decrement costs</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Total Right of use assets impairment / revaluation decrement costs charged to Income Statement</b>		<b>116</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Total depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non-financial assets</b>		<b>15,348</b>	<b>14,752</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

##### Depreciation and amortisation

Depreciation and amortisation are calculated using the straight line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives. Useful lives are included in Note C1-7.

##### Impairment of non-financial assets

Council assets held at fair value that are not held primarily for their ability to generate net cash flow, and that are deemed to be specialised, are no longer required to be tested for impairment under AASB 136. This is because these assets are assessed on an annual basis to ensure that the carrying amount is not materially different from fair value and therefore an impairment loss would be captured during this assessment.

For the purposes of assessing impairment, assets are grouped at the lowest levels for which there are separately identifiable cash inflows that are largely independent of the cash inflows from other assets or groups of assets (cash-generating units). Non-financial assets that suffered an impairment are reviewed for possible reversal of the impairment at each reporting date.

Impairment losses for revalued assets are firstly offset against the amount in the revaluation surplus for the class of asset, with only the excess to be recognised in the Income Statement.

### B3-5 Other expenses

\$ '000	Notes	2024	2023
<b>Impairment of receivables</b>			
User charges and fees		43	(333)
<b>Total impairment of receivables</b>	C1-4	<b>43</b>	<b>(333)</b>
<b>Other</b>			
Contributions/levies to other levels of government			
– Department of planning levy		348	337
– Emergency services levy (includes FRNSW, SES, and RFS levies)		271	159
– NSW fire brigade levy		2,943	2,433
Donations, contributions and assistance to Holdsworth Community		895	862
Donations, contributions and assistance to other organisations (Section 356)		307	289
<b>Total other expenses</b>		<b>4,807</b>	<b>3,747</b>

### B4 Gains or losses

#### B4-1 Gain or loss from the disposal, replacement and de-recognition of assets

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of plant and equipment</b>		
Proceeds from disposal – plant and equipment	1,047	448
Less: carrying amount of plant and equipment assets sold/written off	(1,227)	(344)
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>	<b>(180)</b>	<b>104</b>
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of infrastructure</b>		
Proceeds from disposal – infrastructure	567	1,093
Less: carrying amount of infrastructure assets sold/written off	(2,925)	(2,130)
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>	<b>(2,358)</b>	<b>(1,037)</b>
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal of investments</b>		
Proceeds from disposal/redemptions/maturities – investments	92,000	108,000
Less: carrying amount of investments sold/redeemed/matured	(92,000)	(108,000)
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Other - Office Equipment</b>		
Proceeds from disposal – Other Office Equipment	–	11
<b>Gain (or loss) on disposal</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Net loss from disposal of assets</b>	<b>(2,538)</b>	<b>(922)</b>

B5 Performance against budget

B5-1 Material budget variations

Council's original budget was adopted by the Council on 26 June 2023 and is not required to be audited. The original projections on which the budget was based have been affected by a number of factors. These include state and federal government decisions, including new grant programs, changing economic activity, environmental factors, and by decisions made by Council.

While these General Purpose Financial Statements include the original budget adopted by Council, the Act requires Council to review its financial budget on a quarterly basis, so it is able to manage the variation between actuals and budget that invariably occur during the year.

**Material variations of more than 10%** between original budget and actual results or where the variance is considered material by nature are explained below.

**Variation Key:** **F** = Favourable budget variation, **U** = Unfavourable budget variation.

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
<b>Revenues</b>				
<b>Rates and annual charges</b>	<b>66,124</b>	<b>66,136</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0% F</b>
There are no individual material variances to report.				
<b>User charges and fees</b>	<b>13,201</b>	<b>15,565</b>	<b>2,364</b>	<b>18% F</b>
The following sources of income exceeded their original budgets: Work Zone Charges \$917k, Footpath Restoration Charges \$371k, Parking Meter Charges \$325k, Hoarding Application Fees \$290k, Crane Permits \$257k, Road Restoration Charges \$225k.				
The total of these variances is \$2,385k.				
<b>Other revenues</b>	<b>11,471</b>	<b>16,230</b>	<b>4,759</b>	<b>41% F</b>
The following sources of income exceeded their original budgets: Advertising income \$4,091k and Recovered costs income \$741k.				
The total of these variances is \$4,832k.				
<b>Operating grants and contributions</b>	<b>4,796</b>	<b>5,676</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>18% F</b>
Operating grants of note that exceeded their original budget are: Road grants \$947k and Department of Community Services Preschool grant \$220k.				
These were offset by the following operating grants of note that were less than the original budget: Financial Assistance grant \$150k (85% prepaid compared to 100% prepaid last year) and Library Special grants \$56k.				
<b>Capital grants and contributions</b>	<b>10,552</b>	<b>16,212</b>	<b>5,660</b>	<b>54% F</b>
Capital grants and contributions of note that exceeded their original budget are: Section 7.12 development levies \$1,804k and Other Contributions \$3,865k. These Other Contributions predominantly relate to the Vaucluse Bowling Club building and open space assets at Samuel Park which is adjacent to the Vaucluse Bowling Club.				
<b>Interest and investment revenue</b>	<b>1,929</b>	<b>5,626</b>	<b>3,697</b>	<b>192% F</b>
Interest and investment revenue exceeded the original budget due to higher than budgeted interest rates.				
<b>Fair value increment on investment property</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>(6,683)</b>	<b>(7,833)</b>	<b>(681)% U</b>

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## B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
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This is a non-cash item and does not impact on Council's operating performance ratio.  
The fair value change in investment properties was an unfavourable variance to budget of \$7,833k. The majority of this decrement relates to Kiaora Place. The budget had assumed a fair value increment of \$1,150k for Kiaora Place. The annual external valuation indicated a fair value decrement of \$6,630k. This is due to the change in capitalisation rate from 5% to 5.25% from a softening of the selling market for shopping centres.

<b>Other income</b>	<b>17,370</b>	<b>17,608</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>F</b>
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There are no individual material variances to report.

### Expenses

<b>Employee benefits and on-costs</b>	<b>49,252</b>	<b>47,706</b>	<b>1,546</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>F</b>
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There are no individual material variances to report.

<b>Materials and services</b>	<b>43,823</b>	<b>50,408</b>	<b>(6,585)</b>	<b>(15)%</b>	<b>U</b>
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The unfavourable variance in Materials and Services is due to the following items of note exceeding the original budget:  
Temporary staff \$1,227k to fill staff vacancies, Legal expenses \$1,215k which is predominantly in Planning & Development, and \$3,084k of unbudgeted project expenditure that is unable to be capitalised to the fixed asset register.

<b>Borrowing costs</b>	<b>1,809</b>	<b>1,806</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>F</b>
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There are no individual material variances to report.

<b>Depreciation, amortisation and impairment of non-financial assets</b>	<b>14,834</b>	<b>15,348</b>	<b>(514)</b>	<b>(3)%</b>	<b>U</b>
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There are no individual material variances to report.

<b>Other expenses</b>	<b>4,792</b>	<b>4,807</b>	<b>(15)</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>U</b>
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There are no individual material variances to report.

<b>Net losses from disposal of assets</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2,538</b>	<b>(2,087)</b>	<b>(463)%</b>	<b>U</b>
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The unfavourable variance is due to higher than anticipated infrastructure asset retirements of \$2,295k, Plant & Equipment losses on disposal being \$328k higher than budget as a result of the timing of selling and replacing vehicles. This was partially offset by Road Sales income of \$567k.

### Statement of cash flows

<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>16,990</b>	<b>28,823</b>	<b>11,833</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>F</b>
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The variances in revenues and expenses outlined above, together with movements in payables and receivables, give rise to variances in Council's cash flow forecasts.  
It should also be noted that it is difficult to forecast the movement in Bonds, Deposits & Retentions so Council does not include any movement in its Budget.

<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>	<b>(18,420)</b>	<b>(20,144)</b>	<b>(1,724)</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>U</b>
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Council's original budget forecasts the total movement in Cash & Investments and does not break it down into Cash & Cash equivalents and Investments which is determined by the terms of securities held at reporting date.  
For 2023-24 the net purchase of investments (cash inflow) was \$2,000k.  
The timing of capital expenditure also had an effect with higher cash outflow than budgeted of \$3,916k.

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B5-1 Material budget variations (continued)

\$ '000	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2024 ----- Variance -----	
Finally there was an additional \$205k in proceeds from the sale of roads, plant and vehicles				
Cash flows from financing activities	(3,932)	(3,927)	5	0% F

There are no individual material variances to report.

B6 Material Income Statement items

B6-1 Material Income Statement items

Fair value increment/(decrement) on investment property

\$ '000	2024	2023
Material fair value increment/ (decrement) on investment property		
Fair value increment/ (decrement) on investment property <sup>1</sup>	(6,683)	9,376
Total material fair value increment/ (decrement) on investment property	(6,683)	9,376

(1) Council holds three Investment Properties, Kiaora Place, Double Bay and two carparks, namely Grafton Street Car Park, Bondi Junction and Cosmopolitan Centre Car Park, Knox Street, Double Bay. Council obtains independent valuations of its Investment Properties on an annual basis. The carparks decrement was \$10k. Kiaora Place decreased by \$6.67m due to the change in capitalisation rate from 5% to 5.25% from a softening of the selling market for shopping centres.

## C Financial position

### C1 Assets we manage

#### C1-1 Cash and cash equivalents

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Cash assets</b>		
Cash on hand and at bank	3,410	831
Cash equivalent assets		
– Deposits at call	16,285	14,112
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>19,695</b>	<b>14,943</b>

#### Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

Total cash and cash equivalents per Statement of Financial Position	19,695	14,943
<b>Balance as per the Statement of Cash Flows</b>	<b>19,695</b>	<b>14,943</b>

#### C1-2 Financial investments

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
<b>Financial assets at fair value through the profit and loss</b>				
Long term deposits	90,000	–	92,000	–
Mortgage backed securities	755	–	727	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,755</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>92,727</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total financial investments</b>	<b>90,755</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>92,727</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total cash assets, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>110,450</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>107,670</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Council becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

#### Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

#### Classification

On initial recognition, Council classifies its financial assets into the following categories – those measured at:

- amortised cost
- fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL)
- fair value through other comprehensive income – equity instrument (FVOCI-equity).

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition.

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## C1-2 Financial investments (continued)

### Financial assets through profit or loss

All financial assets not classified as measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income as described above are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

Net gains or losses, including any interest or dividend income, are recognised in profit or loss.

Council's financial assets measured at fair value through profit or loss comprise investments in FRNs and NCDs in the Statement of Financial Position.

## C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments

\$ '000	2024	2023
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### (a) Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments

<b>Total cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>110,450</b>	107,670
Less: Externally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	(14,474)	(22,588)
<b>Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions</b>	<b>95,976</b>	85,082

### External restrictions

#### External restrictions – included in liabilities

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Specific purpose unexpended grants – general fund	322	8,047
<b>External restrictions – included in liabilities</b>	<b>322</b>	8,047

### External restrictions

External restrictions included in cash, cash equivalents and investments above comprise:

Developer contributions – general	8,427	8,638
Specific purpose unexpended grants (recognised as revenue) – general fund	–	17
Stormwater management	202	434
Domestic waste management	5,523	5,452
<b>Total external restrictions</b>	<b>14,474</b>	22,588

Cash, cash equivalents and investments subject to external restrictions are those which are only available for specific use by Council due to a restriction placed by legislation or third-party contractual agreement.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

### C1-3 Restricted and allocated cash, cash equivalents and investments (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
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#### (b) Internal allocations

<b>Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions</b>	<b>95,976</b>	<b>85,082</b>
Less: Internally restricted cash, cash equivalents and investments	(88,569)	(73,070)
<b>Unrestricted and unallocated cash, cash equivalents and investments</b>	<b>7,407</b>	<b>12,012</b>

#### Internal allocations

At 30 June, Council has internally allocated funds to the following:

Employees leave entitlement	7,170	2,278
Carry over works	4,800	3,943
Deposits, retentions and bonds	46,346	41,561
Open space and community facilities reserve	363	655
Election reserve	322	–
Environmental and infrastructure renewal levy	3,929	3,859
Information technology reserve	1,048	1,028
Special Rate Variation	2,662	–
Insurance reserve	1,119	561
Urban Forest Strategy	3,000	–
Kiaora place reserve	4,792	4,480
Open space projects reserve	289	314
Preschool reserve	666	602
Property development projects reserve	22	23
Property reserve	9,833	11,044
Oxford street placemaking reserve	206	206
Public art gallery reserve	326	252
Financial Assistance Grant Prepayment	1,633	1,973
Old Section 94	27	92
Other	16	199
<b>Total internal allocations</b>	<b>88,569</b>	<b>73,070</b>

Cash, cash equivalents and investments not subject to external restrictions may be internally allocated by resolution or policy of the elected Council.

## C1-4 Receivables

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Rates and annual charges	2,459	121	2,785	152
Interest and extra charges	300	15	308	–
User charges and fees	485	–	978	–
Accrued revenues				
– Interest on investments	2,427	–	1,492	–
Government grants and subsidies	8	–	145	–
Leases and licences	711	–	628	–
Net GST receivable	730	–	1,031	–
Restorations and other roadworks	352	–	35	–
Other debtors	802	–	123	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,274</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>7,525</b>	<b>152</b>
<b>Less: provision for impairment</b>				
User charges and fees	(278)	–	(290)	–
<b>Total provision for impairment – receivables</b>	<b>(278)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(290)</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total net receivables</b>	<b>7,996</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>7,235</b>	<b>152</b>

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Movement in provision for impairment of receivables</b>		
Balance at the beginning of the year (calculated in accordance with AASB 9)	290	660
+ new provisions recognised during the year	43	(333)
– amounts already provided for and written off this year	(55)	(37)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>290</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Receivables are generally due for settlement within 30 days.

#### Impairment

Impairment of financial assets measured at amortised cost is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis.

When estimating ECL, Council considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on Council's historical experience and informed credit assessment, and including forward-looking information.

Council uses the simplified approach for trade receivables where the expected lifetime credit losses are recognised on day 1.

When considering the ECL for rates and annual charges debtors, Council takes into account that unpaid rates represent a charge against the rateable property that will be recovered when the property is next sold.

Credit losses are measured at the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the entity in accordance with the contract, and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

Council writes off a receivable when there is information indicating that the debtor is in severe financial difficulty and there is no realistic prospect of recovery, e.g. when the debtor has been placed under liquidation or has entered into bankruptcy proceedings.

None of the receivables that have been written off are subject to enforcement activity.

Woollahra Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## C1-5 Inventories

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
<b>(i) Inventories at cost</b>				
Stores and materials	307	–	337	–
<b>Total inventories at cost</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total inventories</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>–</b>

### Material accounting policy information

#### Raw materials and stores, work in progress and finished goods

Costs are assigned to individual items of inventory on the basis of weighted average costs.

## C1-6 Contract assets and Contract cost assets

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Contract assets	843	–	1,795	–
<b>Total contract assets and contract cost assets</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,795</b>	<b>–</b>

Woollahra Municipal Council | Notes to the Financial Statements 30 June 2024

## C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment

By aggregated asset class	At 1 July 2023			Asset movements during the reporting period							At 30 June 2024		
	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount	Additions renewals <sup>(1)</sup>	Additions new assets	Carrying value of disposals	Depreciation expense	WIP transfers	Adjustments and transfers	Revaluation increments/(decrements) to equity (ARR)	Gross carrying amount	Accumulated depreciation and impairment	Net carrying amount
<b>\$ '000</b>													
Capital work in progress	10,885	–	10,885	1,395	2,783	–	–	(6,139)	(2,516)	–	6,408	–	6,408
Plant and equipment	14,728	(6,781)	7,947	3,495	–	(1,142)	(1,446)	–	–	–	15,120	(6,266)	8,854
Office equipment	9,723	(6,521)	3,202	–	157	–	(449)	–	–	–	9,880	(6,970)	2,910
Furniture and fittings	2,335	(1,874)	461	–	–	–	(133)	–	–	–	2,335	(2,007)	328
<b>Land:</b>													
– Operational land	136,609	–	136,609	–	–	–	–	–	–	26,078	162,687	–	162,687
– Community land	178,460	–	178,460	–	3,100	–	–	–	–	–	181,560	–	181,560
<b>Infrastructure:</b>													
– Buildings – non-specialised	90,330	(46,422)	43,908	778	38	–	(1,562)	64	–	7,756	100,885	(49,903)	50,982
– Buildings – specialised	50,265	(19,924)	30,341	245	2,723	–	(1,024)	1,698	–	1,223	56,992	(21,786)	35,206
– Roads	563,026	(144,985)	418,041	4,326	1,296	(1,474)	(5,473)	1,808	–	(26,887)	524,876	(133,239)	391,637
– Bridges	4,831	(957)	3,874	–	–	–	(48)	–	–	44	4,755	(885)	3,870
– Footpaths	116,222	(59,521)	56,701	2,250	702	(664)	(1,687)	950	–	16,579	124,052	(49,221)	74,831
– Stormwater drainage	116,833	(34,225)	82,608	638	1,746	(178)	(781)	767	–	(9,634)	105,617	(30,451)	75,166
– Other open space/recreational assets	43,315	(17,463)	25,852	422	2,562	(608)	(1,277)	555	(434)	(786)	51,958	(25,672)	26,286
– Harbourside Structures	8,728	(2,104)	6,624	324	–	–	(160)	104	–	(1,010)	8,183	(2,301)	5,882
– Seawalls	48,201	(15,352)	32,849	134	–	–	(444)	43	–	4,395	49,331	(12,354)	36,977
– Retaining Walls	29,866	(13,937)	15,929	36	431	–	(297)	150	434	3,117	33,566	(13,766)	19,800
<b>Other assets:</b>													
– Library books	6,218	(5,539)	679	–	416	(86)	(451)	–	–	–	6,349	(5,791)	558
– Council Art Gallery & Art Collection	1,315	–	1,315	–	17	–	–	–	–	–	1,332	–	1,332
<b>Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>1,431,890</b>	<b>(375,605)</b>	<b>1,056,285</b>	<b>14,043</b>	<b>15,971</b>	<b>(4,152)</b>	<b>(15,232)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>(2,516)</b>	<b>20,875</b>	<b>1,445,886</b>	<b>(360,612)</b>	<b>1,085,274</b>

(1) Renewals are defined as the replacement of existing assets (as opposed to the acquisition of new assets).

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## C1-7 Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (continued)

### Material accounting policy information

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are held at fair value. Independent comprehensive valuations are performed at least every five years, however the carrying amount of assets is assessed by Council at each reporting date to confirm that it is not materially different from current fair value.

The Office of Local Government in the appendices to the Local Government Code of Accounting 2021/22 – Section 5 at 'Appendix E Guidance for determining fair value of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment' draws Councils attention to NSW Treasury guidance (TPP21-09) Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value that states in years when no comprehensive revaluation is performed, an "interim management revaluation" should be undertaken when cumulative increases / decreases in indicators/ indices based on the management assessment are generally less than or equal to 20%. Interim management revaluations involve using management (or internal) expertise by applying the relevant indexation factors to the carrying amount. Council has adopted this guidance.

Increases in the carrying amounts arising on revaluation are credited to the revaluation reserve. To the extent that the increase reverses a decrease previously recognising profit or loss relating to that asset class, the increase is first recognised as profit or loss. Decreases that reverse previous increases of assets in the same class are first charged against revaluation reserves directly in equity to the extent of the remaining reserve attributable to the class; all other decreases are charged to the Income Statement.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the Income Statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

When infrastructure, property, plant and equipment are acquired by Council for nil or nominal consideration, the assets are initially recognised at their fair value at acquisition date.

Land and the Art Collection are not depreciated. The property, plant and equipment acquired under finance leases is depreciated over the asset's useful life or over the shorter of the asset's useful life and the lease term if there is no reasonable certainty that the Council will obtain ownership at the end of the lease term. Depreciation on other assets is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost, net of their residual values, over their estimated useful lives as follows:

<b>Plant and equipment</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Years</b>
Office equipment	3 to 10	Buildings	25 to 100
Office furniture	10 to 20		
Vehicles	5 to 10	<b>Stormwater assets</b>	
Heavy plant/road making equipment	5 to 10	Drains	80 to 150
<b>Transportation assets</b>		<b>Other infrastructure assets</b>	
Road pavements	25 to 80	Other open space/recreational assets	5 to 100
Kerb, gutter and paths	25 to 80		
Footpaths	25 to 80	<b>Other Assets</b>	
Bridges	100	Library Resources	3 to 8
Harbourside Structures	33 to 100		
Seawalls	100 to 120		
Retaining Walls	33 to 100		

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

### Land under roads

Land under roads is land under roadways and road reserves including land under footpaths, nature strips and median strips.

Council has elected not to recognise land under roads acquired before 1 July 2008. Land under roads acquired after 1 July 2008 is recognised in accordance with the IPPE accounting policy.

### Crown reserves

Crown reserves under Council's care and control are recognised as assets of the Council. While ownership of the reserves remains with the Crown, Council retains operational control of the reserves and is responsible for their maintenance and use in accordance with the specific purposes to which the reserves are dedicated.

Improvements on Crown reserves are also recorded as assets, while maintenance costs incurred by Council and revenues relating to the reserves are recognised within Council's Income Statement.

## C1-8 Investment properties

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Owned investment property</b>		
Investment property on hand at fair value	<b>184,750</b>	191,420
<b>Total owned investment property</b>	<b>184,750</b>	<b>191,420</b>
<b>Owned investment property</b>		
<b>At fair value</b>		
Opening balance at 1 July	<b>191,420</b>	181,210
Capitalised subsequent expenditure	<b>13</b>	834
Net gain/(loss) from fair value adjustments	<b>(6,683)</b>	9,376
<b>Closing balance at 30 June</b>	<b>184,750</b>	<b>191,420</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Council holds three Investment Properties, Kiaora Place shopping centre, Double Bay, and two car parks, namely Grafton Street Car Park, Bondi Junction and Cosmopolitan Car Park, Knox Street, Double Bay. These Investment properties are held for long-term rental yields.

## C1-9 Other

### Other assets

	2024 Non-current	2024 Current	2023 Non-current	2023 Current
<b>\$ '000</b>				
Prepayments	–	<b>624</b>	–	511
Kiaora Place tenancy incentives	<b>175</b>	–	279	–
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>511</b>

## C2 Leasing activities

### C2-1 Council as a lessee

Council has leases over a range of assets including vehicles, office and IT equipment. Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions is provided below.

#### Terms and conditions of leases

##### Vehicles

Council leases vehicles with a lease term of 7 years; the lease payments are fixed during the lease term and there is a renewal option of 3 years.

##### Office and IT equipment

Leases for office and IT equipment are generally for low value assets, except for significant items such as photocopiers. The leases are for between 3 and 5 years with no renewal option, the payments are fixed, however some of the leases include variable payments based on usage.

#### (a) Right of use assets

\$ '000	Vehicles	Office and IT equipment	Total
<b>2024</b>			
Opening balance at 1 July	118	57	175
Depreciation charge	(78)	(38)	(116)
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>2023</b>			
Opening balance at 1 July	196	10	206
Additions to right-of-use assets	–	59	59
Depreciation charge	(78)	(12)	(90)
<b>Balance at 30 June</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>175</b>

#### (b) Lease liabilities

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Lease liabilities	19	–	132	19
<b>Total lease liabilities</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>19</b>

#### (c) (i) The maturity analysis

The maturity analysis of lease liabilities based on contractual undiscounted cash flows is shown in the table below:

\$ '000	< 1 year	1 – 5 years	> 5 years	Total	Total per Statement of Financial Position
<b>2024</b>					
Cash flows	19	–	–	19	19
<b>2023</b>					
Cash flows	132	19	–	151	151

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## C2-1 Council as a lessee (continued)

### (d) Income Statement

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to leases where Council is a lessee are shown below:

\$ '000	2024	2023
Interest on lease liabilities	5	7
Impairment of right of use assets	116	90
	<b>121</b>	<b>97</b>

### (e) Statement of Cash Flows

Total cash outflow for leases	115	109
	<b>115</b>	<b>109</b>

### Material accounting policy information

Council has elected not to separate non-lease components from lease components for any class of asset and has accounted for payments as a single component.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises: the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration, less any lease incentives received. The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight-line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of asset accounting policy.

#### Exceptions to lease accounting

Council has applied the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. Council recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## C2-2 Council as a lessor

### Operating leases

Council leases out a number of properties to tenants under long-term operating leases with rentals payable monthly; these leases have been classified as operating leases for financial reporting purposes and the assets are included as investment property (refer note C1-8).

Council also leases out a number of premises to Community Groups or members of the public on an ad hoc basis.

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below:

\$ '000	2024	2023
---------	------	------

#### (i) Assets held as investment property

The amounts recognised in the Income Statement relating to operating leases where Council is a lessor are shown below

Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	11,812	11,428
<b>Total income relating to operating leases for investment property assets</b>	<b>11,812</b>	<b>11,428</b>

#### Operating lease expenses

Direct operating expenses that generated rental income	10,083	8,820
Direct operating expenses that did not generate rental income	1,352	1,370
<b>Total expenses relating to operating leases</b>	<b>11,435</b>	<b>10,190</b>

continued on next page ...

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## C2-2 Council as a lessor (continued)

\$ '000	2024	2023
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### Repairs and maintenance: investment property

#### (ii) Assets held as property, plant and equipment

Lease income (excluding variable lease payments not dependent on an index or rate)	5,769	5,587
<b>Total income relating to operating leases for Council assets</b>	<b>5,769</b>	<b>5,587</b>

#### (iii) Maturity analysis of undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for all operating leases:

Maturity analysis of future lease income receivable showing the undiscounted lease payments to be received after reporting date for operating leases:

< 1 year	8,928	8,441
1–2 years	7,290	7,706
2–3 years	6,500	6,210
3–4 years	6,218	5,541
4–5 years	5,493	5,400
> 5 years	64,610	69,486
<b>Total undiscounted lease payments to be received</b>	<b>99,039</b>	<b>102,784</b>

## C3 Liabilities of Council

### C3-1 Payables

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
<b>Payables</b>				
Prepaid rates	812	–	751	–
Goods and services – operating expenditure	4,964	–	6,438	–
Goods and services – capital expenditure	1,145	–	1,164	–
Accrued expenses:				
– Borrowings	354	–	365	–
– Salaries and wages	894	–	926	–
Security bonds, deposits and retentions	50,522	–	45,736	–
Other	1,635	–	695	–
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>60,326</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>56,075</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>60,326</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>56,075</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Current payables not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

\$ '000	2024	2023
---------	------	------

The following liabilities, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.

Payables – security bonds, deposits and retentions	45,664	41,272
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>45,664</b>	<b>41,272</b>

#### Material accounting policy information

continued on next page ...

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### C3-1 Payables (continued)

#### Payables

Payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to Council prior to the end of financial year that are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

### C3-2 Contract Liabilities

\$ '000	Notes	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
<b>Grants and contributions received in advance:</b>					
Unexpended capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	(i)	322	–	6,713	–
Unexpended operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	(ii)	–	–	1,334	–
<b>Total grants received in advance</b>		<b>322</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>8,047</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Income received in advance:</b>					
Payments received in advance		1,876	–	2,830	–
<b>Total income received in advance</b>		<b>1,876</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>2,830</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total contract liabilities</b>		<b>2,198</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>10,877</b>	<b>–</b>

#### Notes

(i) Council has received funding to construct assets including refurbishing community and sporting facilities, and other infrastructure. The funds received are under an enforceable contract which require Council to construct an identified asset which will be under Council's control on completion. The revenue is recognised as Council constructs the asset and the contract liability reflects the funding received which cannot yet be recognised as revenue. The revenue is expected to be recognised in the next 12 months.

(ii) The contract liability relates to grants received prior to the revenue recognition criteria in AASB 15 being satisfied since the performance obligations are ongoing.

#### Revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Grants and contributions received in advance:</b>		
Capital grants (to construct Council controlled assets)	6,592	2,514
Operating grants (received prior to performance obligation being satisfied)	1,175	1,086
<b>Total revenue recognised that was included in the contract liability balance at the beginning of the period</b>	<b>7,767</b>	<b>3,600</b>

### C3-3 Borrowings

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-current	2023 Current	2023 Non-current
Loans – secured <sup>1</sup>	3,476	53,044	3,794	56,521
<b>Total borrowings</b>	<b>3,476</b>	<b>53,044</b>	<b>3,794</b>	<b>56,521</b>

(1) Loans are secured over the general rating income of Council.

Disclosures on liability interest rate risk exposures, fair value disclosures and security can be found in Note E1-1.

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### C3-3 Borrowings (continued)

#### (a) Changes in liabilities arising from financing activities

	2023		Non-cash movements	2024
	Opening Balance	Cash flows	Other non-cash movement	Closing balance
<b>\$ '000</b>				
Loans – secured	60,315	(3,795)	–	56,520
Lease liability (Note C2-1b)	151	(132)	–	19
<b>Total liabilities from financing activities</b>	<b>60,466</b>	<b>(3,927)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>56,539</b>

#### (b) Financing arrangements <sup>1</sup>

<b>\$ '000</b>	2024	2023
<b>Total facilities</b>		
Bank overdraft facilities <sup>2</sup>	400	400
Credit cards/purchase cards	16	16
<b>Total financing arrangements</b>	<b>416</b>	<b>416</b>
<b>Drawn facilities</b>		
– Credit cards/purchase cards	2	5
<b>Total drawn financing arrangements</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Undrawn facilities</b>		
– Bank overdraft facilities	400	400
– Credit cards/purchase cards	14	11
<b>Total undrawn financing arrangements</b>	<b>414</b>	<b>411</b>

(1) During the current year, there were no defaults or breaches on any on loans.

(2) The bank overdraft facility may be drawn at any time and may be terminated by the bank without notice.

### C3-4 Employee benefit provisions

	2024	2024	2023	2023
<b>\$ '000</b>	Current	Non-current	Current	Non-current
Annual leave	4,405	–	4,413	–
Sick leave	218	–	231	–
Long service leave	7,785	497	7,741	583
<b>Total employee benefit provisions</b>	<b>12,408</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>12,385</b>	<b>583</b>

#### Current employee benefit provisions not anticipated to be settled within the next twelve months

<b>\$ '000</b>	2024	2023
The following provisions, even though classified as current, are not expected to be settled in the next 12 months.		
Provisions – employees benefits	7,560	7,782
	<b>7,560</b>	<b>7,782</b>

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C3-4 Employee benefit provisions (continued)

Material accounting policy information

Long-term employee benefit obligations

The liability for long-service leave and annual leave that is not expected to be wholly settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period using the projected unit credit method.

Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

C3-5 Provisions

\$ '000	2024 Current	2024 Non-Current	2023 Current	2023 Non-Current
<b>Other provisions</b>				
Self insurance – workers compensation	–	–	1,459	–
<b>Sub-total – other provisions</b>	–	–	1,459	–
<b>Total provisions</b>	–	–	1,459	–

C3-5 Provisions (continued)

Description of and movements in provisions

\$ '000	Other provisions	
	Self insurance	Total
<b>2024</b>		
At beginning of year	1,459	1,459
Other	(1,459)	(1,459)
Total other provisions at end of year	—	—
<b>2023</b>		
At beginning of year	96	96
Other	1,363	1,363
Total other provisions at end of year	1,459	1,459

Material accounting policy information

Provisions are recognised when Council has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events, it is probable that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation, and the amount has been reliably estimated.

Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. A provision is recognised even if the likelihood of an outflow with respect to any one item included in the same class of obligations may be small.

Provisions are measured at the present value of management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date. The discount rate used to determine the present value reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the liability. The increase in the provision due to the passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

C4 Reserves

C4-1 Nature and purpose of reserves

IPPE Revaluation reserve

The infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE) revaluation reserve is used to record increments and decrements in the revaluation of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment.

D Council structure

D1 Interests in other entities

D1-1 Interests in joint arrangements

(ii) Joint operations

Principal activity	Place of business	Interest in ownership		Interest in voting		
		2024	2023	2024	2023	
(a) Council is involved in the following joint operations (JO's)						
Name of joint operation:						
Alexandria Integrated Facility (AIF) Collaboration with Waverley Council	- Running of the shared AIF Depot	AIF	41%	41%	50%	50%

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D1-1 Interests in joint arrangements (continued)

Council assets  
employed in the joint  
operations

\$ '000	2024	2023
Council's share of assets jointly owned with other partners		
Property, plant and equipment	20,402	16,994
<b>Total net assets employed – Council and jointly owned</b>	<b>20,402</b>	<b>16,994</b>

Share of joint  
operations expenditure  
commitments

Operating expenditure commitments		
Payable not later than 1 year	272	260
<b>Total operating expenditure commitments</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>260</b>

E Risks and accounting uncertainties

E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held

Council's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including (1) price risk, (2) liquidity risk, (3) market risk - interest rate risk and (4) credit risk. The Council's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the Council.

Council does not engage in transactions expressed in foreign currencies and is therefore not subject to foreign currency risk.

Financial risk management is carried out by Council's finance section under policies approved by the Council.

The fair value of Council's financial assets and financial liabilities approximates their carrying amount.

Council's objective is to optimise its return on cash and investments whilst maintaining an adequate level of liquidity and preserving capital.

Council's finance area manages the cash and Investments portfolio with the assistance of independent advisors.

Council has an investment policy which complies with the Local Government Act 1993 and Ministerial Investment Order 625. This policy is regularly reviewed by Council and its staff and a monthly Investment report is provided to Council setting out the make-up and performance of the portfolio as required by Local Government regulations.

The risks associated with the investments held are:

- **Price risk** – the risk that the capital value of Investments may fluctuate due to changes in market prices, whether there changes are caused by factors specific to individual financial instruments or their issuers or are caused by factors affecting similar instruments traded in a market.
- **Liquidity risk** - the risk that Council will not be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.
- **Market risk - Interest rate risk** – the risk that movements in interest rates could affect returns and income.
- **Credit risk** – the risk that the investment counterparty will not complete their obligations particular to a financial instrument, resulting in a financial loss to Council – be it of a capital or income nature. Council manages these risks (amongst other measures) by diversifying its portfolio and only purchasing investments with high credit ratings or capital guarantees.

(a) Market risk – interest rate and price risk

\$ '000	2024	2023
The impact on result for the year and equity of a reasonably possible movement in the price of investments held and interest rates is shown below. The reasonably possible movements were determined based on historical movements and economic conditions in place at the reporting date.		
Impact of a 1% movement in interest rates		
– Equity / Income Statement	1,111	1,008
Impact of a 10% movement in price of investments		
– Equity / Income Statement	75	73

(b) Credit risk

Council's major receivables comprise (i) rates and annual charges and (ii) user charges and fees.

The major risk associated with these receivables is credit risk - the risk that debts due and payable to Council may not be repaid in full.

Council manages this risk by monitoring outstanding debt and employing stringent debt recovery procedures. It also encourages ratepayers to pay their rates by the due date through incentives.

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to secure a charge over the land relating to the debts – that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages the payment of debt.



## E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

There are no significant concentrations of credit risk, whether through exposure to individual customers, specific industry sectors and/or regions.

The level of outstanding receivables is reported to Council quarterly. Council makes suitable provision for doubtful receivables as required.

There are no material receivables that have been subjected to a re-negotiation of repayment terms.  
A profile of Council's receivables credit risk at balance date follows:

### Credit risk profile

#### Receivables – rates and annual charges

Credit risk on rates and annual charges is minimised by the ability of Council to recover these debts as a secured charge over the land; that is, the land can be sold to recover the debt. Council is also able to charge interest on overdue rates and annual charges at higher than market rates which further encourages payment.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	overdue rates and annual charges		Total
		< 5 years	≥ 5 years	
2024				
Gross carrying amount	–	2,334	246	2,580
2023				
Gross carrying amount	–	2,750	187	2,937

#### Receivables - non-rates and annual charges and contract assets

Council applies the simplified approach for non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets to provide for expected credit losses, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision at inception. To measure the expected credit losses, non-rates and annual charges debtors and contract assets have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due.

The loss allowance provision is determined as follows. The expected credit losses incorporate forward-looking information.

\$ '000	Not yet overdue	Overdue debts				Total
		0 - 30 days	31 - 60 days	61 - 90 days	> 91 days	
2024						
Gross carrying amount	5,763	342	350	74	144	6,673
ECL Provision	—	—	—	—	(278)	(278)
2023						
Gross carrying amount	6,325	557	114	29	367	7,392
ECL Provision	—	—	—	—	(660)	(660)

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## E1-1 Risks relating to financial instruments held (continued)

### (c) Liquidity risk

Payables, lease liabilities and borrowings are both subject to liquidity risk; that is, the risk that insufficient funds may be on hand to meet payment obligations as and when they fall due.

Council manages this risk by monitoring its cash flow requirements and liquidity levels, and by maintaining an adequate cash buffer. Payment terms can be extended, and overdraft facilities drawn upon in extenuating circumstances.

Borrowings are also subject to interest rate risk: the risk that movements in interest rates could adversely affect funding costs. Council manages this risk through diversification of borrowing types, maturities and interest rate structures.

The finance team regularly reviews interest rate movements to determine if it would be advantageous to refinance or renegotiate part or all of the loan portfolio.

The timing of cash flows presented in the table below to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates. The timing of expected outflows is not expected to be materially different from contracted cashflows.

The amounts disclosed in the table are the undiscounted contracted cash flows for non-lease liabilities (refer to Note C2-1(b) for lease liabilities) and therefore the balances in the table may not equal the balances in the Statement of Financial Position due to the effect of discounting.

\$ '000	Weighted average interest rate	Subject to no maturity	≤ 1 Year	payable in: 1 - 5 Years	> 5 Years	Total cash outflows	Actual carrying values
<b>2024</b>							
Payables	0.00%	50,522	9,804	–	–	60,326	60,326
Borrowings	3.20%	–	3,476	16,387	36,657	56,520	56,520
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>50,522</b>	<b>13,280</b>	<b>16,387</b>	<b>36,657</b>	<b>116,846</b>	<b>116,846</b>
<b>2023</b>							
Payables	0.00%	45,736	10,340	–	–	56,076	56,075
Borrowings	3.20%	–	3,794	16,373	40,148	60,315	60,315
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>		<b>45,736</b>	<b>14,134</b>	<b>16,373</b>	<b>40,148</b>	<b>116,391</b>	<b>116,390</b>

## E2-1 Fair value measurement

The Council measures the following asset and liability classes at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment
- Investment property
- Financial assets and liabilities

The fair value of assets and liabilities must be estimated in accordance with various accounting standards for either recognition and measurement requirements or for disclosure purposes.

AASB 13 Fair Value Measurement requires all assets and liabilities measured at fair value to be assigned to a 'level' in the fair value hierarchy as follows:

**Level 1:** Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the entity can access at the measurement date.

**Level 2:** Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly.

**Level 3:** Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

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## E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

		Fair value measurement hierarchy					
\$ '000	Notes	Level 2 Significant observable inputs		Level 3 Significant unobservable inputs		Total	
		2024	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023
Recurring fair value measurements							
Financial assets							
Financial investments	C1-2						
At fair value through profit or loss – designated at fair value on initial recognition		90,000	92,000	755	727	90,755	92,727
Total financial assets		90,000	92,000	755	727	90,755	92,727
Investment property							
Kiaora place	C1-8	178,230	184,890	–	–	178,230	184,890
Car parks		6,520	6,530	–	–	6,520	6,530
Total investment property		184,750	191,420	–	–	184,750	191,420
Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment							
Plant and equipment	C1-7	–	–	8,855	7,947	8,855	7,947
Office equipment		–	–	2,910	3,202	2,910	3,202
Furniture and fittings		–	–	328	461	328	461
Operational land		–	–	162,687	136,609	162,687	136,609
Community land		–	–	181,560	178,460	181,560	178,460
Buildings – non-specialised		–	–	50,982	43,908	50,982	43,908
Buildings – specialised		–	–	35,206	30,341	35,206	30,341
Roads		–	–	391,637	418,041	391,637	418,041
Bridges		–	–	3,870	3,874	3,870	3,874
Footpaths		–	–	74,831	56,701	74,831	56,701
Stormwater drainage		–	–	75,166	82,608	75,166	82,608
Other open space/recreational assets		–	–	26,285	25,852	26,285	25,852
Harbourside structures		–	–	5,882	6,624	5,882	6,624
Seawalls		–	–	36,977	32,849	36,977	32,849
Retaining walls		–	–	19,800	15,929	19,800	15,929
Total infrastructure, property, plant and equipment		–	–	1,076,976	1,043,406	1,076,976	1,043,406

continued on next page ...

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E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Valuation techniques

Financial assets

The Investments at Fair Value through Profit or Loss disclosed as Level 3 comprise Council's Emerald Reverse Mortgage Series 2007-1 Class B Security maturing 21 July 2057 and floating rate notes.

For its floating rate notes, Council receives monthly valuations from the issuer of the security. Council received independent valuation from Imperium Markets for its Emerald RMBS. The 30 June 2024 valuations have been used to ensure the financial statements reflect the latest valuation.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Investment properties

Council holds three Investment Properties:

Grafton Street Car Park, Bondi Junction  
Cosmopolitan Centre Car Park, Knox Street, Double Bay  
Kiaora Place, Double Bay

Council obtains independent valuations of its Investment Properties on an annual basis to ensure the financial statements reflect the latest valuations.

The best evidence of fair value is the current price in an active market for similar assets. The following information is used where necessary:

- current prices in an active market for similar properties;
- expected future rental income generated from the properties;
- rent abatements
- capitalisation rate;
- price per square meter;
- location.

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments made by Scott Fullarton Valuations Pty Ltd. The income approach has been used to value the properties.

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment (IPPE)

Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fittings

Council's Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fittings assets include:

- |                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| • major plant          | truck, street sweepers, garbage compactors              |
| • vehicles             | cars, vans, utilities                                   |
| • miscellaneous        | plant mowers, breakers, pressure cleaners, line markers |
| • furniture & fittings | desks, chairs, cabinets, shelving                       |
| • office equipment     | PCs, laptops, servers, projectors                       |

Plant & Equipment, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fittings are valued at cost but are disclosed at fair value in the Notes to the Financial Statements. Council assumes that the depreciated historic cost reflects the fair value of the asset.

Level 3 unobservable inputs include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition
- replacement cost

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Operational Land

Council classifies Operational Land in accordance with Part 2 of Chapter 6 of the Local Government Act (1993).

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## E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Council obtains independent "fair value" valuations of its Operational Land every 3 years using Level 3 inputs. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date taking into account the characteristics of the asset (condition and location of the asset and restrictions, if any, on the sale or use of the asset).

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- Rate per square metre

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments made by Scott Fullarton Valuations Pty Ltd. There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

### Community Land

Council's Community Land is land intended for public access and use or where other restrictions applying to the land create some obligation to maintain public access. The Local Government Act imposes restrictions on Community Land in order to preserve the qualities of the land.

The Division of Local Government has determined that Community Land may be valued using the NSW Valuer General's valuation to represent fair value. The Valuer General issues valuations every 3 years.

The Valuer General uses comparable property sales to the land being valued and considers factors such as:

- property market conditions as at 1 July in the year of valuation;
- most valuable use for the land;
- constraints on use such as zoning and heritage restrictions;
- land size, shape and land features, such as slope and soil type;
- nearby development and infrastructure;
- views.

Council fair values Community Land using either NSW Valuer General unimproved capital value or an average unit rate based on unimproved capital values and allocated by Council against those properties where the Valuer General did not provide an unimproved capital value.

Community Land was revalued by the NSW Valuer General as part of their triennial revaluation process across NSW, with an effective date of 1 July 2022. The change in value of land was adopted as the fair value by Council.

### Buildings – (Specialised and Non-Specialised)

Council buildings incorporate Libraries, Community Buildings, Car Park Buildings, Kiosks and Amenities, Sportsfield and Park Buildings, Council Chambers and Depot Buildings.

Council obtains independent "fair value" valuations of its Buildings every 3 years using Level 3 inputs. The valuer utilises the Gross Restatement Method; the Gross Value of each building is obtained by applying a unit rate based on its current replacement cost. Rates are derived from substantial analysis of construction costs from over 60 NSW Councils and are continually updated to reflect movements in construction costs. Complex building structures are componentised into significant parts with different useful lives taking into account a range of factors. While all buildings are physically inspected for valuation, inputs such as estimates of residual value, useful life and pattern of consumption have required professional judgement and impacted significantly on the final determination of fair value. Buildings are therefore classified as being valued using Level 3 inputs.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition

Buildings (Specialised and Non Specialised) were valued in 2022 based on Independent Assessments made by Scott Fullarton Valuations Pty Ltd and a desktop valuation is completed annually.

The Office of Local Government in the appendices to the Local Government Code of Accounting 2021/22 – Section 5 at 'Appendix E Guidance for determining fair value of infrastructure, property, plant and equipment' draws councils attention to NSW Treasury guidance (TPP21-09) Valuation of Physical Non-Current Assets at Fair Value that states in years when no comprehensive revaluation is performed, an "interim management revaluation" should be undertaken when cumulative increases / decreases in indicators/ indices based on the management assessment are generally less than or equal to 20%. Interim management revaluations involve using management (or internal) expertise by applying the relevant indexation factors

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## E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

to the carrying amount. Council has adopted this guidance.

As a result this asset class was revalued as an "interim management revaluation" to reflect the fair value of the asset classes carrying value.

### Roads

This asset class comprises, Wearing Pavement Base, Pavement Sub Base, Kerb and Gutter and Traffic Facilities.

Council's Asset Management System (AMS) contains detailed segment dimensions and specifications for all Council roads. Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, roads are valued using Level 3 inputs.

Council also performs proactive asset inspections to determine if busy areas require additional maintenance thus prolonging the life of the asset. Council has in place an Asset Management Plan which details asset management practices to meet the required level of service in the most cost effective manner for present and future consumers.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments made by APV Valuers & Asset Management.

### Bridges

Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, bridges are valued using Level 3 inputs.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments made by APV Valuers & Asset Management.

### Footpaths

Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, footpaths are valued using Level 3 inputs. Council's Asset Management System (AMS) contains detailed segment dimensions and specifications for footpaths.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments made by APV Valuers & Asset Management.

### Stormwater Drainage

This asset class comprises pits, pipes and stormwater quality improvements devices.

Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, drainage assets are valued using Level 3 inputs. Council's Asset Management System (AMS) contains detailed segment dimensions and specifications for drainage.

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## E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Council also performs proactive asset inspections to determine if additional maintenance is required thus prolonging the life of the asset. Council has in place an Asset Management Plan which details drainage asset management practices to meet the required level of service in the most cost effective manner for present and future consumers.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments made by APV Valuers & Asset Management.

### Other Open Space/Recreational Assets

Assets in this class include items such as playgrounds, gazebo's, park fencing and lighting, tennis courts, sportsfield surfaces and aggregated lower value assets such as park seats and picnic tables.

Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, open space assets are valued using Level 3 inputs.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments by XYST Australia Pty Ltd.

### Harbourside Structures

Council has harbourside structures at Double Bay, Parsley Bay, Rose Bay, Rushcutters Bay and Watsons Bay which include swimming pools, platforms, boat ramps, piers and a footbridge.

Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, open space assets are valued using Level 3 inputs.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments by APV Valuers & Asset Management.

### Seawalls

Assets in this class include seawalls at Darling Point, Double Bay, Point Piper, Rose Bay, Vaucluse and Watsons Bay.

Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, open space assets are valued using Level 3 inputs.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments by APV Valuers & Asset Management.

### Retaining Walls

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E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

Assets in this class include retaining walls and retaining wall fences at various locations throughout the Woollahra local government area.

Council values this asset class every 5 years taking into consideration Council's minor works contract unit rates, visual assessment (every 4 to 5 years) of the asset condition by qualified Council engineers to determine useful life and the asset condition using a 1 – 5 rating system (1 = New, 5 = Failed). Due to the professional judgement required in valuation, open space assets are valued using Level 3 inputs.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition rating

The 2024 valuations were based on Independent Assessments by APV Valuers & Asset Management.

Library Books

Assets in this class include books, magazines, CD's, DVD and audio books.

Library books are valued using depreciated historic cost. Annual review determines if there has been any impairment of assets within the class.

The unobservable Level 3 inputs used include:

- pattern of consumption
- useful life
- asset condition

There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Art Collections

Assets in this class include artwork, ornaments and outdoor public art installations.

Council obtains independent valuations of its Art collections once every 5 years.

The best evidence of fair value is the current price in an active market for similar assets. The following information is used where necessary:

- current prices in an active market for similar properties.

The 2021 valuations were based on Independent Assessments by by McWilliam & Associates. There has been no change to the valuation process during the reporting period.

Fair value measurements using significant unobservable inputs (level 3)

The following table summarises the quantitative information relating to the significant unobservable inputs used in deriving the various level 3 asset class fair values.

	Valuation technique/s	Unobservable inputs
<b>Financial liabilities</b>		
Fair Value through Profit or Loss	Issuer and independent valuations	Unit Price
<b>Investment properties</b>		
Investment properties	Independent valuation	Net rental value Rental Yield
<b>Infrastructure, property, plant and equipment</b>		
Plant and Equipment, Office Equipment, Furniture and Fittings	Cost used to approximate fair value	Asset Cost Useful Life
Operational Land	Independent valuation	Rate per m2

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**E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)**

	<b>Valuation technique/s</b>	<b>Unobservable inputs</b>
Community Land	Land values supplied by the Valuer General	Unimproved Capital Value (rate per m2)
Buildings	Independent valuation	Current Replacement Cost Useful life Asset Condition
Roads, Bridges & Footpaths	Independent valuation Unit rates per m2 or length	Current Replacement Cost (Unit Rates) Asset Condition Rating Useful Life
Stormwater Drainage	Independent valuation Unit rates per m2 or length	Current Replacement Cost (Unit Rates) Asset Condition Rating Useful Life
Other Open Space / Recreational Assets	Independent valuation Unit rates per m2 or length	Current Replacement Cost (Unit Rates) Asset Condition Rating Useful Life
Harbourside structures, Seawalls & Retaining Walls	Independent valuation Unit rates per m2 or length	Current Replacement Cost (Unit Rates) Asset Condition Rating Useful Life
Library Books	Cost used to approximate fair value.	Asset Cost Useful Life Asset Condition
Art Collections	Independent valuation	Market Value

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E2-1 E2-1 Fair value measurement (continued)

A reconciliation of the movements in recurring fair value measurements allocated to Level 3 of the hierarchy is provided below:

\$ '000	Total	
	2024	2023
Opening balance	1,043,406	974,406
Total gains or losses for the period		
Recognised in other comprehensive income – revaluation surplus	20,875	73,219
Other movements		
Transfers from/(to) another asset class	6,139	1,991
Purchases (GBV)	25,403	10,238
Disposals (WDV)	(4,066)	(2,257)
Depreciation and impairment	(14,781)	(14,190)
Rounding	–	(1)
Closing balance	1,076,976	1,043,406

Information relating to the transfers into and out of the level 3 fair valuation hierarchy includes:

There are no transfers identified in the above table.

Highest and best use

All of Council's non-financial assets are considered to be utilised for their highest and best use which was established in consideration of the criteria of physical possibility, legal permissibility and financial feasibility. Implied with these criteria is the recognition of the contribution of that specific use to community goals.

E3-1 Contingencies

The following assets and liabilities do not qualify for recognition in the Statement of Financial Position, but their knowledge and disclosure is considered relevant to the users of Council’s financial report.

LIABILITIES NOT RECOGNISED

1. Guarantees

(i) Defined benefit superannuation contribution plans

Council is party to an Industry Defined Benefit Plan under the Local Government Superannuation Scheme, named The Local Government Superannuation Scheme – Pool B (the Scheme) which is a defined benefit plan that has been deemed to be a ‘multi-employer fund’ for purposes of AASB119 Employee Benefits for the following reasons:

- Assets are not segregated within the sub-group according to the employees of each sponsoring employer.
- The contribution rates have been the same for all sponsoring employers. That is, contribution rates have not varied for each sponsoring employer according to the experience relating to the employees of that sponsoring employer.
- Benefits for employees of all sponsoring employers are determined according to the same formulae and without regard to the sponsoring employer.
- The same actuarial assumptions are currently used in respect of the employees of each sponsoring employer.

Given the factors above, each sponsoring employer is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers, and hence shares in the associated gains and losses (to the extent that they are not borne by members).

Description of the funding arrangements.

Pooled Employers are required to pay future service employer contributions and past service employer contributions to the Fund.

The future service employer contributions were determined using the new entrant rate method under which a contribution rate sufficient to fund the total benefits over the working life-time of a typical new entrant is calculated. The current future service employer contribution rates are:

Division B	1.9 times member contributions for non-180 Point Members; Nil for 180 Point Members*
Division C	2.5% salaries
Division D	1.64 times member contributions

\* For 180 Point Members, Employers are required to contribute 8.5% of salaries for the year ending 30 June 2024 (increasing to 9.0% in line with the increase in the Superannuation Guarantee) to these members’ accumulation accounts, which are paid in addition to members’ defined benefits.

The past service contribution for each Pooled Employer is a share of the total past service contributions of \$20.0 million per annum for 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, apportioned according to each employer’s share of the accrued liabilities as at 30 June 2023. These past service contributions are used to maintain the adequacy of the funding position for the accrued liabilities.

The adequacy of contributions is assessed at each triennial actuarial investigation, the next of which is due effective 30 June 2024, and monitored annually between triennials.

Description of the extent to which Council can be liable to the plan for other Council’s obligations under the terms and conditions of the multi-employer plan

As stated above, each sponsoring employer (Council) is exposed to the actuarial risks associated with current and former employees of other sponsoring employers and hence shares in the associated gains and losses.

However, there is no relief under the Fund’s trust deed for employers to walk away from their defined benefit obligations. Under limited circumstances, an employer may withdraw from the plan when there are no active members, on full payment of outstanding past service contributions. There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of the Council.

There are no specific provisions under the Fund’s trust deed dealing with deficits or surplus on wind-up.

### E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

There is no provision for allocation of any surplus which may be present at the date of withdrawal of an employer.

The amount of Council employer contributions to the defined benefit section of the Local Government Superannuation Scheme and recognised as an expense for the year ending 30 June 2024 was \$347,799.94. The last valuation of the Scheme was performed by fund actuary, Richard Boyfield, FIAA as at 30 June 2023.

Council's expected contribution to the plan for the next annual reporting period is \$224,115.88.

The estimated employer reserves financial position for the Pooled Employers at 30 June 2024 is:

Employer reserves only *	\$millions	Asset Coverage
Assets	2,237.5	
Past Service Liabilities	2,141.9	104.5%
Vested Benefits	2,159.8	103.6%

\* excluding member accounts and reserves in both assets and liabilities.

The share of this deficit that is broadly attributed to Council is estimated to be in the order of \$93,330.28 as at 30 June 2024.

Council's share of that deficiency cannot be accurately calculated as the Scheme is a mutual arrangement where assets and liabilities are pooled together for all member councils. For this reason, no liability for the deficiency has been recognised in Council's accounts. Council has a possible obligation that may arise should the Scheme require immediate payment to correct the deficiency.

The key economic long term assumptions used to calculate the present value of accrued benefits are:

Investment return	6.00% per annum
Salary inflation *	3.5% per annum
Increase in CPI	3.5% for FY 2023/24 2.5% per annum thereafter

\* Plus promotional increases

The contribution requirements may vary from the current rates if the overall sub-group experience is not in line with the actuarial assumptions in determining the funding program; however, any adjustment to the funding program would be the same for all sponsoring employers in the Pooled Employers group.

Please note that the estimated employer reserves financial position above is a preliminary calculation, and once all the relevant information has been received by the Funds Actuary, the final end of year review, which will be a triennial actuarial investigation will be completed by December 2024.

#### (ii) Statewide Limited

Council is a member of Statewide Mutual, a mutual pool scheme providing liability insurance to local government.

Membership includes the potential to share in either the net assets or liabilities of the fund depending on its past performance. Council's share of the net assets or liabilities reflects Council's contributions to the pool and the result of insurance claims within each of the fund years.

The future realisation and finalisation of claims incurred but not reported to 30 June this year may result in future liabilities or benefits as a result of past events that Council will be required to fund or share in respectively.

#### (iii) StateCover Limited

Council is a member of StateCover Mutual Limited and holds a partly paid share in the entity.

StateCover is a company providing workers compensation insurance cover to the NSW local government industry and specifically Council.

Council has a contingent liability to contribute further equity in the event of the erosion of the company's capital base as a result of the company's past performance and/or claims experience or as a result of any increased prudential requirements from APRA.

These future equity contributions would be required to maintain the company's minimum level of net assets in accordance with its licence requirements.

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### E3-1 Contingencies (continued)

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#### (iv) Other guarantees

Council has provided no other guarantees other than those listed above.

#### 2. Other liabilities

##### (i) Third party claims

The Council is involved from time to time in various claims incidental to the ordinary course of business including claims for damages relating to its services.

Council believes that it is appropriately covered for all claims through its insurance coverage and does not expect any material liabilities to eventuate.

##### (ii) Potential land acquisitions due to planning restrictions imposed by Council

Council has classified a number of privately owned land parcels as local open space or bushland.

As a result, where notified in writing by the various owners, Council will be required to purchase these land parcels.

At reporting date, reliable estimates as to the value of any potential liability (and subsequent land asset) from such potential acquisitions has not been possible.

#### ASSETS NOT RECOGNISED

##### (i) Infringement notices/fines

Fines and penalty income, the result of Council issuing infringement notices is followed up and collected by the Infringement Processing Bureau.

Council's revenue recognition policy for such income is to account for it as revenue on receipt.

Accordingly, at year end, there is a potential asset due to Council representing issued but unpaid infringement notices.

Due to the limited information available on the status, value and duration of outstanding notices, Council is unable to determine the value of outstanding income.

## F People and relationships

### F1 Related party disclosures

#### F1-1 Key management personnel (KMP)

Key management personnel (KMP) of the Council are those persons having the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Council, directly or indirectly.

The aggregate amount of KMP compensation included in the Income Statement is:

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Compensation:</b>		
Short-term benefits	2,018	1,914
Post-employment benefits	138	138
Other long-term benefits	54	47
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,210</b>	<b>2,099</b>

#### Other transactions with KMP and their related parties

Nature of the transaction	Ref	Transactions during the year	Outstanding balances including commitments	Terms and conditions	Impairment provision on outstanding balances	Impairment expense
<b>\$ '000</b>						
<b>2024</b>						
Donations, contributions and assistance	1	901	–	7 days	–	–
Legal Expenses - Other	2	18	–	7 days	–	–
Contractor & Consultancy Costs	3	–	–	30 days	–	–
<b>2023</b>						
Donations, contributions and assistance	1	865	–	7 days	–	–
Legal Expenses - Other	2	2	–	7 days	–	–
Contractor & Consultancy Costs	3	432	–	30 days	–	–

- 1 Council provides financial support to Holdsworth Community which provides a range of services to the Woollahra community. A KMP is a Director of Holdsworth Community.
- 2 Council utilises Hones Lawyers Ptd Ltd to provide legal assistance and advice. A relative of a Council KMP is an employee of Hones Lawyers.
- 3 Council utilises Downer Pipetech on capital works projects. A relative of a Council KMP is an employee of Downer EDI Limited.

F1-2 Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses

\$ '000	2024	2023
The aggregate amount of Councillor and Mayoral fees and associated expenses included in materials and services expenses in the Income Statement are:		
Mayoral fee	47	46
Councillors' fees	367	355
Other Councillors' expenses (including Mayor)	48	48
Total	462	449

F2 Other relationships

F2-1 Audit fees

\$ '000	2024	2023
During the year, the following fees were incurred for services provided by the auditor of Council, related practices and non-related audit firms		
Auditors of the Council - NSW Auditor-General:		
(i) Audit and other assurance services		
Audit and review of financial statements	91	87
Remuneration for audit and other assurance services	91	87
Total Auditor-General remuneration	91	87
Total audit fees	91	87

## G Other matters

### G1-1 Statement of Cash Flows information

#### Reconciliation of Operating Result

\$ '000	2024	2023
<b>Net operating result from Income Statement</b>	<b>13,757</b>	21,506
<b>Add / (less) non-cash items:</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation	15,232	14,662
(Gain) / loss on disposal of assets	2,538	922
Non-cash capital grants and contributions	(3,772)	–
Losses/(gains) recognised on fair value re-measurements through the P&L:		
– Investments classified as 'at fair value' or 'held for trading'	(27)	(95)
– Investment property	6,683	(9,376)
– Revaluation decrements / impairments of Right of use assets direct to P&L	116	90
<b>Movements in operating assets and liabilities and other cash items:</b>		
(Increase) / decrease of receivables	(733)	(869)
Increase / (decrease) in provision for impairment of receivables	(12)	(370)
(Increase) / decrease of inventories	30	13
(Increase) / decrease of other current assets	(9)	353
(Increase) / decrease of contract asset	952	1,370
Increase / (decrease) in payables	(1,475)	3,280
Increase / (decrease) in accrued interest payable	(11)	(17)
Increase / (decrease) in other accrued expenses payable	(32)	(1,538)
Increase / (decrease) in other liabilities	5,787	5,639
Increase / (decrease) in contract liabilities	(8,679)	(121)
Increase / (decrease) in employee benefit provision	(63)	(644)
Increase / (decrease) in other provisions	(1,459)	1,363
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>	<b>28,823</b>	36,168



## G2-1 Commitments

### Capital commitments (exclusive of GST)

\$ '000	2024	2023
Capital expenditure committed for at the reporting date but not recognised in the financial statements as liabilities:		
<b>Property, plant and equipment</b>		
Buildings	1,470	3,272
Plant and equipment	1,320	2,058
Infrastructure	1,553	2,424
Streetscapes	205	1,992
Traffic	105	71
Open space works	1,629	692
Environmental works	119	65
IT	2	31
<b>Total commitments</b>	<b>6,403</b>	<b>10,605</b>
<b>These expenditures are payable as follows:</b>		
Within the next year	6,403	10,605
<b>Total payable</b>	<b>6,403</b>	<b>10,605</b>
<b>Sources for funding of capital commitments:</b>		
Future grants and contributions	204	4,183
Externally restricted reserves	1,744	1,819
Internally restricted reserves	4,119	3,825
Sale of plant and equipment	336	778
<b>Total sources of funding</b>	<b>6,403</b>	<b>10,605</b>

## G3-1 Events occurring after the reporting date

Council is unaware of any material or significant 'non-adjusting events' that should be disclosed.

## G4 Statement of developer contributions as at 30 June 2024

### G4-1 Summary of developer contributions

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
Parking	1,319	–	–	–	54	(352)	–	1,021	–
Civic improvements	125	–	–	–	5	–	–	130	–
Recreation	21	–	–	–	1	–	–	22	–
Plan preparation and administration	48	–	–	–	2	(20)	–	30	–
<b>S7.11 contributions – under a plan</b>	<b>1,513</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>(372)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1,203</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>S7.12 levies – under a plan</b>	<b>7,125</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>(4,722)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>7,224</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total S7.11 and S7.12 revenue under plans</b>	<b>8,638</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>(5,094)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>8,427</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>8,638</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>(5,094)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>8,427</b>	<b>–</b>

Under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, Council has significant obligations to provide Section 7.11 (contributions towards provision or improvement of amenities or services) infrastructure in new release areas. It is possible that the funds contributed may be less than the cost of this infrastructure, requiring Council to borrow or use general revenue to fund the difference.

### G4-2 Developer contributions by plan

\$ '000	Opening balance at 1 July 2023	Contributions received during the year			Interest and investment income earned	Amounts expended	Internal borrowings	Held as restricted asset at 30 June 2024	Cumulative balance of internal borrowings (to)/from
		Cash	Non-cash Land	Non-cash Other					
CONTRIBUTION PLAN – 2002 Contributions Plan									
Parking – Rose Bay	1,319	–	–	–	54	(352)	–	1,021	–
Civic improvements	125	–	–	–	5	–	–	130	–
Recreation	21	–	–	–	1	–	–	22	–
Plan preparation and administration	48	–	–	–	2	(20)	–	30	–
Total	1,513	–	–	–	62	(372)	–	1,203	–

### S7.12 Levies – under a plan

<b>CONTRIBUTION PLAN – 2005 Contributions Plan</b>									
Other	7,125	4,504	–	–	317	(4,722)	–	7,224	–
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,125</b>	<b>4,504</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>(4,722)</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>7,224</b>	<b>–</b>

## G5 Statement of performance measures

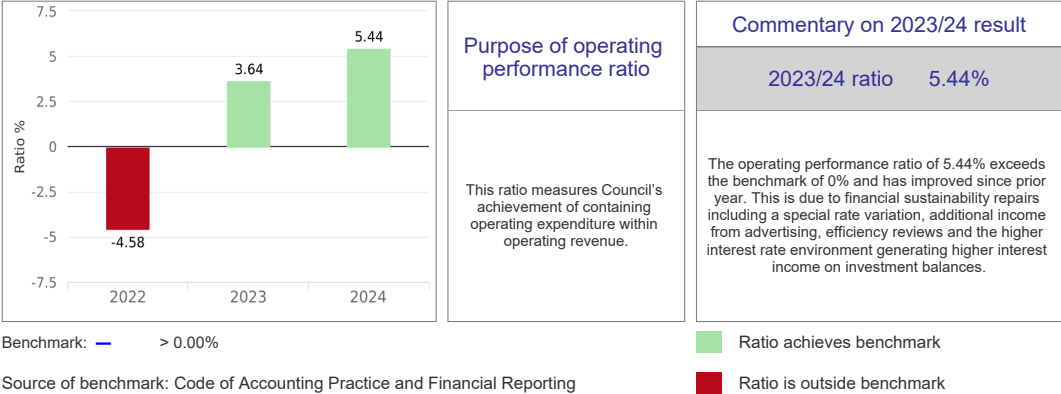
### G5-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results

\$ '000	Amounts 2024	Indicator 2024	Indicators 2023	Indicators 2022	Benchmark
<b>1. Operating performance ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions less operating expenses <sup>1, 2</sup>	6,898	5.44%	3.64%	(4.58)%	> 0.00%
Total continuing operating revenue excluding capital grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	126,814				
<b>2. Own source operating revenue ratio</b>					
Total continuing operating revenue excluding all grants and contributions <sup>1</sup>	121,138	84.70%	86.68%	87.25%	> 60.00%
Total continuing operating revenue <sup>1</sup>	143,026				
<b>3. Unrestricted current ratio</b>					
Current assets less all external restrictions	105,023	4.42x	3.55x	3.49x	> 1.50x
Current liabilities less specific purpose liabilities	23,765				
<b>4. Debt service cover ratio</b>					
Operating result before capital excluding interest and depreciation/impairment/amortisation <sup>1</sup>	23,936	4.18x	3.63x	2.10x	> 2.00x
Principal repayments (Statement of Cash Flows) plus borrowing costs (Income Statement)	5,733				
<b>5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage</b>					
Rates and annual charges outstanding	2,895	4.16%	5.18%	4.54%	< 5.00%
Rates and annual charges collectable	69,640				
<b>6. Cash expense cover ratio</b>					
Current year's cash and cash equivalents plus all term deposits	109,695	11.13 months	12.84 months	11.05 months	> 3.00 months
Monthly payments from cash flow of operating and financing activities	9,851				
(1) Excludes fair value increments on investment properties, reversal of revaluation decrements, reversal of impairment losses on receivables, net gain on sale of assets and net share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method and includes pensioner rate subsidies					
(2) Excludes impairment/revaluation decrements of IPPE, fair value decrements on investment properties, net loss on disposal of assets and net loss on share of interests in joint ventures and associates using the equity method					

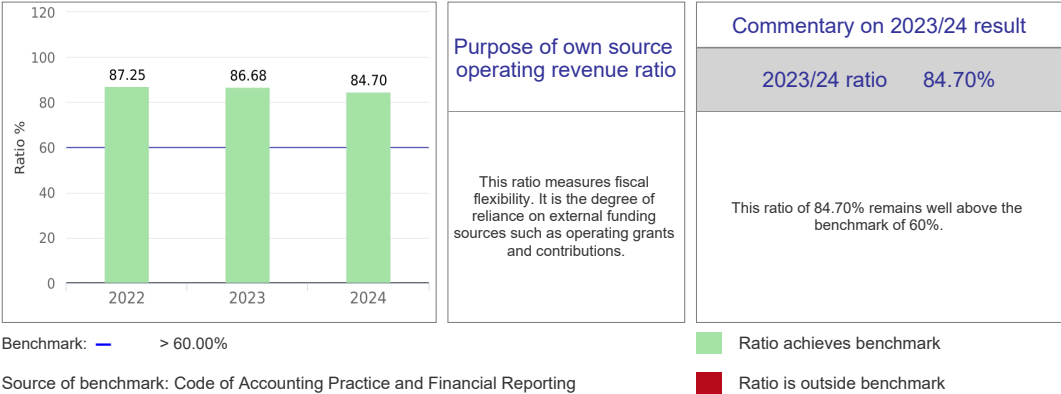
End of the audited financial statements

H Additional Council disclosures (unaudited)  
H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs)

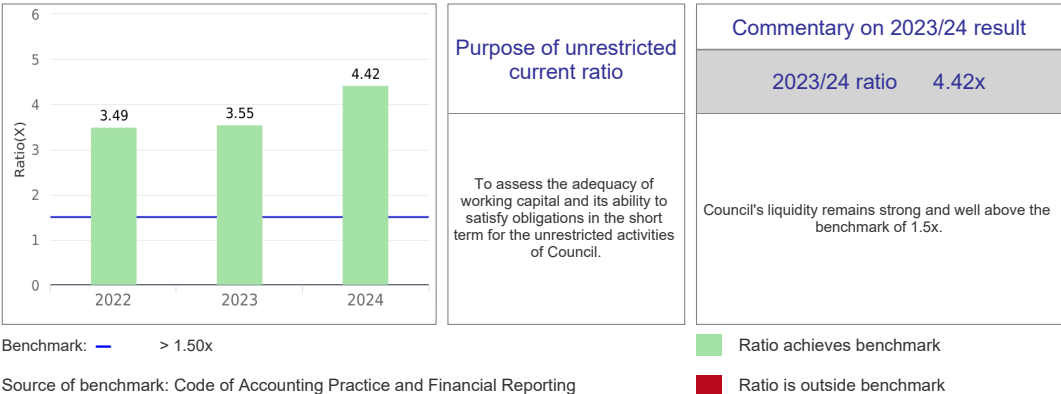
1. Operating performance ratio



2. Own source operating revenue ratio

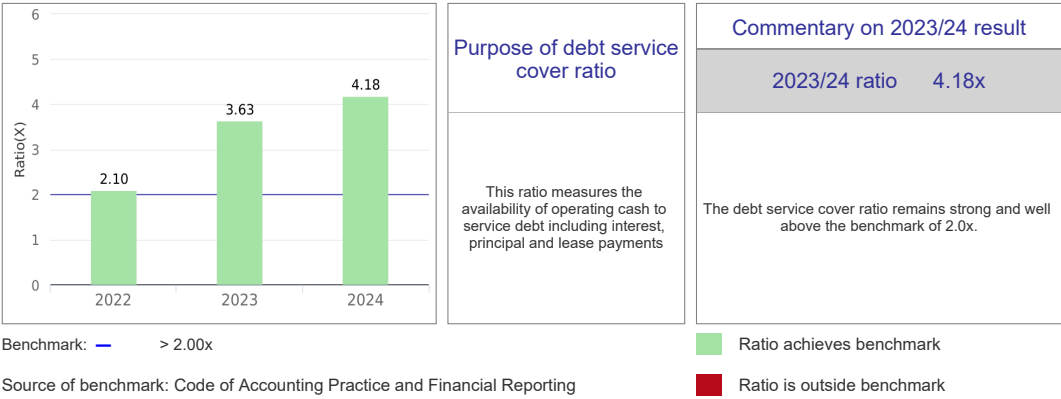


3. Unrestricted current ratio

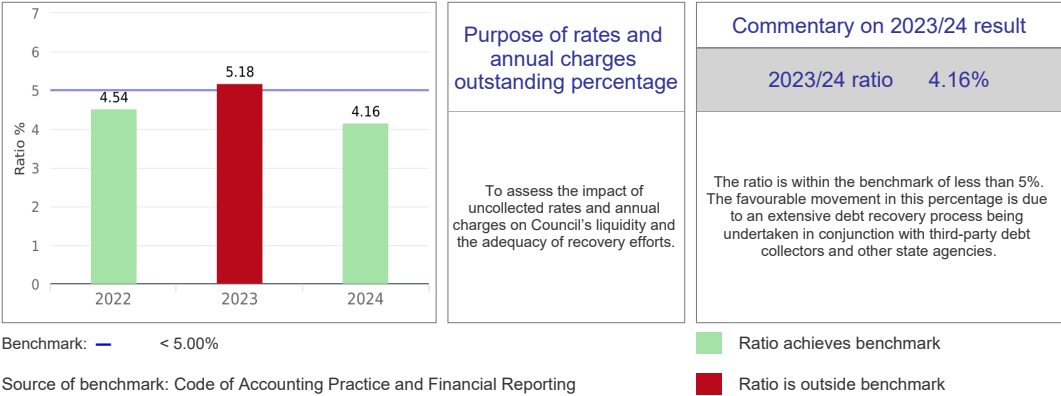


H1-1 Statement of performance measures – consolidated results (graphs) (continued)

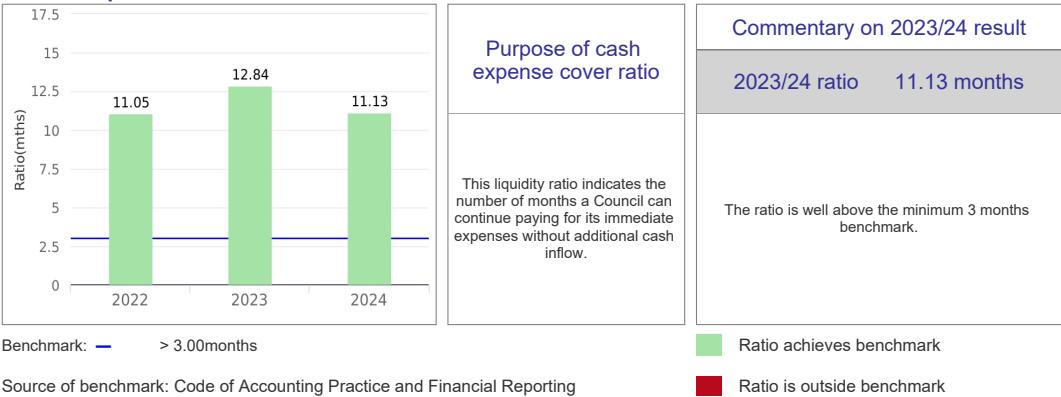
4. Debt service cover ratio



5. Rates and annual charges outstanding percentage



6. Cash expense cover ratio



## H1-2 Council information and contact details

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**Principal place of business:**

536 New South Head Road  
Double Bay NSW 2028

**Mailing Address:**

PO Box 61  
Double Bay NSW 2028

**Telephone:** 02 9391 7000

**Facsimile:** 02 9391 7044

**Opening hours:**

8:00am - 4:30pm  
Monday to Friday

**Internet:** [www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au](http://www.woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

**Email:** [records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au](mailto:records@woollahra.nsw.gov.au)

**Officers**

**GENERAL MANAGER**

Craig Swift-McNair

**RESPONSIBLE ACCOUNTING OFFICER**

Paul Ryan

**PUBLIC OFFICER**

Sue Meekin

**AUDITORS**

Audit Office of NSW  
Level 19, 201 Sussex Street  
Sydney NSW 2000

**Elected members**

**MAYOR**

Richard Shields

**COUNCILLORS**

Sean Carmichael  
Peter Cavanagh  
Luise Elsing  
Nicola Grieve  
Mary-Lou Jarvis  
Harriet Price  
Lucinda Regan  
Matthew Robertson  
Isabelle Shapiro  
Mark Silcocks  
Sarah Swan (Deputy Mayor)  
Merrill Witt  
Susan Wynne  
Toni Zeltzer

**Other information**

**ABN:** 32 218 483 245

Woollahra Municipal Council

General Purpose Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Independent Auditor's Reports:

On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [2])

Independent Auditor's Report

continued on next page ...

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Woollahra Municipal Council

General Purpose Financial Statements  
for the year ended 30 June 2024

Independent Auditor's Reports: (continued)

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On the Financial Statements (Sect 417 [3])

**Independent Auditor's Report**



**Analysis of Variances between 2023-24 Actual Result and the March 2024 Forecast**

	March Forecast \$'000s	Actual \$'000s	Increase / (Decrease) \$'000s	%	Comment
<b>Income</b>					
Rates and annual charges	66,180	66,136	(44)	-0.1%	No material individual items to note.
User charges and fees	14,562	15,565	1,003	6.9%	Increases in user fees and charges include the following items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +\$290k increase in Hoarding Application Fees - higher activity than expected</li> <li>• +\$271k increase in Parking Meter charges - higher than anticipated</li> <li>• +\$267k increase in Work Zone Charges - increased development activity requiring work zones</li> </ul>
Other revenue	16,681	16,230	(451)	-2.7%	The decrease in other revenue include the following items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -\$588k in Advertising Income - lower than anticipated due to delays in the rollout of certain sites (Forecast \$5.679m vs Actual \$5.091m)</li> <li>• -\$388k in Parking Fine Income - lower than anticipated</li> </ul> These decreases were offset by an increase of +\$548k in recovered costs from Kiaora Place.
Grants and contributions provided for operating purposes	6,099	5,676	(423)	-6.9%	The decrease in Operating grants & contributions include the following items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -\$354k in the Financial Assistance Grant - due to the prepaid allocation decreasing from 100% to 85%</li> <li>• -\$56k in Library Special Grants income, this income was unspent so has been rolled over into the 2024-25 financial year</li> </ul>
Grants and contributions provided for capital purposes	11,687	16,212	4,525	38.7%	Capital grants & contributions include the following items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +\$3.705m for non cash contributions relating to the Vaucluse Bowling Club building and adjoining open space assets</li> <li>• +\$1.329m increase in s.7.12 development levies - due to high development activity</li> </ul> This was offset by a decrease in capital grants of -\$664k due to projects in progress, this income has been rolled over into the 2024-25 financial year.

	March Forecast \$'000s	Actual \$'000s	Increase / (Decrease) \$'000s	%	Comment
Interest and investment income	4,954	5,626	672	13.6%	Increases in interest and investment income include the following items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +\$562k increase in interest income on term deposits</li> <li>• +\$89k in Interest from overdue rates &amp; charges</li> </ul>
Other income	17,210	17,608	398	2.3%	Increases in Other income include the following items of note which were all higher than anticipated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +\$78k in carpark income</li> <li>• +\$67k in sportsfield lease income</li> <li>• +\$62k in sportsfield building lease income</li> </ul>
Fair value increment on investment properties	(6,670)	(6,683)	(13)	0.2%	No material individual items to note.
<b>Total Income from Continuing Operations</b>	<b>130,702</b>	<b>136,370</b>	<b>5,668</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>					
Employee benefits and on-costs	49,520	47,706	(1,814)	-3.7%	The favourable overall variance in Employee benefits & on-costs is due to the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff vacancies being higher than anticipated resulting in savings</li> <li>• Workers compensation insurance costs being -\$269k favourable to forecast</li> </ul>
Materials and services	49,193	50,408	1,215	2.5%	The increase in materials & services included the following items of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +\$3.084m of unbudgeted project expenditure that is unable to be capitalised to the fixed asset register</li> <li>• +\$558k in Legal expenses due to more appeals in development assessment</li> </ul> This was offset by the following decreases of note: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• -\$1.898m in Material: Goods &amp; Services - less than anticipated across a range of cost centres. \$1.041m budget was rolled over into the 2024-25 financial year</li> <li>• -\$644k in General Consultants - less than anticipated across a range of cost centres. \$426k budget was rolled over into the 2024-25 financial year</li> </ul>

	March Forecast \$'000s	Actual \$'000s	Increase / (Decrease)		Comment
			\$'000s	%	
Borrowing costs	1,806	1,806	(0)	0.0%	No material individual items to note.
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment for non- financial assets	15,919	15,348	(571)	-3.6%	Depreciation for a number of asset classes was lower than anticipated including Footpaths, Kerbs & Gutters and Open Space/ recreational assets.
Other expenses	4,797	4,807	10	0.2%	No material individual items to note.
Net losses from the disposal of assets					The unfavourable variance is due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• higher than anticipated infrastructure asset retirements of -\$2.295m</li> <li>• Plant &amp; Equipment losses on disposal being -\$328k higher than budget as a result of the timing of selling and replacing vehicles.</li> </ul>
	79	2,538	2,459	3100.5%	This was partially offset by Road Sales income of +\$272k.
<b>Total expenses from continuing operations</b>	<b>121,314</b>	<b>122,613</b>	<b>1,299</b>	<b>1.1%</b>	
<b>Operating result from continuing operations</b>	<b>9,388</b>	<b>13,757</b>	<b>4,369</b>	<b>46.5%</b>	
<b>Net operating result for the year before grants and contributions provided for capital purposes</b>	<b>(2,299)</b>	<b>(2,455)</b>	<b>(156)</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	



**Item No:** 12.2  
**Subject:** **AUTHORISATION TO THE MAYOR AND DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL MANAGER FROM THE DATE OF THE NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2024 TO THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW COUNCIL**  
**Author:** Rhys Johnson, Coordinator Governance  
**Approvers:** Jennifer Chenhall, Manager Governance & Risk  
Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager  
**File No:** 24/109688  
**Purpose of the Report:** To authorise the Mayor to continue to exercise Civic and Ceremonial functions and to delegate to the General Manager the exercise of functions of Council for the period from the date of the NSW Local Government Elections on 14 September 2024 to the first meeting of the new Council, which is not covered under the General Manager's current Delegation of Authority.  
**Alignment to Delivery Program:** Strategy 11.3: Ensure effective and efficient governance and risk management.

**Recommendation:**

THAT Council:

- A. Authorise the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Shields to continue to exercise all Civic and Ceremonial functions normally exercised by the Mayor, for the period from the date of the NSW Local Government Elections, being Saturday 14 September 2024 to the first meeting of the new Council.
- B. In accordance with Section 377 of the *NSW Local Government Act 1993*, delegate to the General Manager all of its powers, authorities, duties and functions for the period from the date of the NSW Local Government Elections, being Saturday 14 September 2024 to the first meeting of the new Council, provided that the exercise of such powers, authorities, duties and functions by the General Manager shall not be contrary to Council's policies and decisions previously made by the Council by formal resolution.
- C. Request the General Manager table a report at the first Council Meeting following Saturday 14 September 2024 NSW Local Government Elections outlining:
  - i. The Civic and Ceremonial functions that have been exercised by the outgoing Mayor during the subject period; and
  - ii. The exercise by the General Manager (on behalf of the Council) of any functions that were not covered under the General Manager's general Delegation of Authority for the subject period.

---

**Executive Summary:**

Under the *Local Government Act 1993*, all current Councillors and Mayors elected by the Councillors cease to hold their civic office on Election Day, being Saturday 14 September 2024.

This means that Councils will be without a governing body from 14 September 2024 until the declaration of the election, which will be between Monday 30 September 2024 at the earliest, and Wednesday 2 October 2024.

## Discussion:

In April 2024, the NSW Office of Local Government (OLG) released a document titled 'Pre-election Guide for Councils' (the guide) – **Attachment 1**

<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Pre-election-guide-for-councils.pdf>

The guide provides that:

*'Prior to the election, Councils should ensure that appropriate delegations are in place for their General Managers so that they can continue to exercise the functions of the Council as required in the period between Election Day and the first meeting of the Council following the election.'*

*Councils may wish to consider delegating all delegable functions to the General Manager at the last meeting before the election for the period between Election Day and the first meeting of the Council following the election.*

*Councils that elect their Mayors will not have a Mayor in the period between Election Day and the first meeting after the election when the Mayoral election is held.*

*Councils that elect their Mayor will be required to meet within 14 days or 3 weeks of the declaration of the ordinary election to hold a Mayoral election.*

*There is nothing to prevent Councils from authorising the General Manager to exercise the civic and ceremonial functions normally exercised by the Mayor during this period in the absence of a Mayor.*

*The OLG is aware that some Councils that elect their Mayors have expressed a preference that the outgoing Mayor should continue to exercise the functions of Mayor in the period between Election Day and the holding of the Mayoral election after the election.*

*There is nothing to prevent Councils from authorising the outgoing Mayor to continue to exercise the civic and ceremonial functions normally exercised by the Mayor during this period in the absence of a Mayor should they wish to do so (even though the outgoing Mayor will have ceased to hold any civic office in the Council as of the day of the election).'*

## Options:

Council may resolve in line with the recommendations as included in this report or, Council may choose to resolve in some other manner, noting that the guide recommends that:

*'Given the possibility that the outgoing Mayor may not be re-elected at the election and may therefore cease to be accountable to the Council and the community, Councils should refrain from making any delegations to the outgoing Mayor.'*

## Community Engagement and / or Internal Consultation:

Internal consultation was undertaken with Council's Manager of Governance & Risk and Council's Director of Corporate Performance in the preparation of this report.

There was no community engagement required in the preparation of this report.

### **Policy Implications:**

There are no direct policy implications as a result of this report.

### **Financial Implications:**

There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report, noting that some individual Civic and Ceremonial functions exercised by the Mayor during the subject period may result in future financial impact.

Additionally, some powers, authorities, duties and functions exercised by the General Manager during the subject period may result in future financial impact.

### **Resourcing Implications:**

There are no direct resourcing implications as a result of this report.

### **Conclusion:**

In light of the above information, this report seeks that Council authorise the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Shields to continue to exercise all Civic and Ceremonial functions normally exercised by the Mayor, during the subject period.

This report further seeks that Council delegate to the General Manager all of its powers, authorities, duties and functions during the subject period.

The General Manager's current Delegation of Authority does provide a general delegation of most Council functions, however the recommendation will cover any unforeseen matters during the subject period.

It is further recommended that a report be provided by the General Manager to the first meeting of the new Council outlining any Civic and Ceremonial functions that may have been exercised by the outgoing Mayor and any functions exercised by the General Manager on behalf of Council for the subject period.

### **Attachments**

1. Pre-election Guide for Councils [!\[\]\(6b2ce2ef0aa0acafe24dd5ed94556dce\_img.jpg\)](#) 

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure



# Pre-election guide for councils

April 2024

[olg.nsw.gov.au](http://olg.nsw.gov.au)







# Acknowledgement of Country

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 and present 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.

Published by NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

[olg.nsw.gov.au](http://olg.nsw.gov.au)

## Pre-election guide for councils

First published: April 2024

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## Introduction

This Guide provides comprehensive guidance to councils on key tasks that need to be completed prior to the 2024 Local Government elections. The Guide also provides guidance on the rules, restrictions and other considerations that apply to the decisions councils make and the way they exercise their functions in the lead up to the election. The Local Government elections are due to be held on Saturday, 14 September 2024.

# Preparation and confirmation of non-residential electoral rolls

Under the *Local Government Act 1993* (the Act), all non-resident owners, occupiers and ratepaying lessees of rateable land in each local government area are eligible to vote at Local Government elections. These electors are referred to as 'non-residential electors'.

There are two non-residential rolls:

- the roll of non-resident owners of rateable land, and
- the roll of occupiers and rate-paying lessees.

These are referred to as the non-residential rolls.

After each election, the non-residential rolls lapse and the general manager must prepare new rolls for the next election and keep them updated.

Councils need to ensure that everyone eligible to vote at their elections, including non-residential electors, can do so.

Councils should provide information, including eligibility criteria and the process for making a claim for inclusion on the non-residential rolls on their websites.

Councils should also make their customer service staff aware of this so that they can assist any person wishing to make a claim for inclusion on the rolls.

The non-residential rolls must include the names of the persons who:

- have applied, at any time, for the inclusion of their name in the relevant roll, and

- on the closing date (40 days prior to election day) are, in the opinion of the general manager, qualified for inclusion in that roll.

This means that when preparing the non-residential rolls, the general manager must:

- include the names of all persons who have previously applied for enrolment, and
- check that those persons continue to be eligible to be enrolled.

Forty days before election day, general managers must finalise the non-residential rolls.

In the case of Local Government elections administered by the NSW Electoral Commissioner (NSWEC), the general manager must certify each roll as being, in the general manager's opinion, a roll of the persons who on the closing date are qualified for inclusion in the roll. The NSWEC must confirm the non-residential rolls after they are certified by the general manager.

In the case of Local Government elections administered by a provider other than the NSWEC, the general manager must confirm each roll if, in the general manager's opinion, the roll contains the names of the persons who on the closing date are qualified for inclusion in the roll.

Further information about the preparation of non-residential rolls is available on the NSWEC's website at [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au).

---

# Information for candidates

Nominations open at 8am on 5 August 2024 and close 12pm on 14 August 2024.

Further information about how to nominate and register as a candidate is available on the NSWEC's website at [www.elections.nsw.gov.au](http://www.elections.nsw.gov.au).

The NSWEC provides support and assistance to candidates to help them understand their legal obligations regarding political donations and electoral expenditure.

## Pre-election candidate information sessions

Councils are encouraged to conduct at least one pre-election candidate information session prior to nominations closing on 14 August 2024.

## Candidate training tool

The Office of Local Government (OLG) will launch an online candidate information tool.

The interactive resource provides candidates with an introduction to the roles and responsibilities of councils and councillors.

It is designed to equip candidates with an understanding of what their role and responsibilities will be as a councillor if they are elected.

The tool will be available on OLG's website at [www.olg.nsw.gov.au](http://www.olg.nsw.gov.au).



# Use of council resources, council publications and other activities prior to the elections

Councils and all council officials should be mindful of the need to maintain community confidence in the integrity of the performance of the council's functions and activities in the lead-up to elections.

Councils also need to be mindful of how the community may perceive any of their activities or actions during this time.

## Use of council resources for election purposes

Council resources (including council information) are public resources and must be used ethically, effectively, efficiently, and carefully.

The rules governing the use of council resources for election purposes are prescribed under the *Model Code of Conduct for Local Councils in NSW* (the Model Code of Conduct) and councils' adopted codes of conduct. There are two key obligations:

- Clause 8.17: This provides that council resources (including council staff), property or facilities must not be used for the purpose of assisting anyone's election campaign unless the resources, property or facilities are otherwise available for use or hire by the public and any publicly advertised fee is paid for use of the resources, property, or facility.
- Clause 8.18: This provides that council letterhead, council crests, council email or social media or other information that could give the appearance it is official council material must not be used for the purpose of assisting anyone's election campaign.

Councils and all council officials should consider the following matters to ensure compliance with clauses 8.17 and 8.18:

- council "resources" include council ICT (including phones, social media sites, email addresses), intellectual property, staff and council facilities
- council resources including intellectual property should not be used by candidates in such a way to suggest they are supported or endorsed by the council
- the prohibition on the use of council resources does not only apply to each councillor's election campaign – it also applies to the election campaigns of other candidates
- the prohibition on the use of council resources also applies to council staff who are campaigning for election to another council or supporting the election campaign of candidates
- it is permissible to use council facilities but on the same terms as all other candidates including the payment of any advertised fee for use
- breaches by councillors and staff are grounds for disciplinary action.

## Staff political activities

There is no outright ban on staff participation in candidates' campaigns under the Model Code of Conduct.

This is in recognition of the implied freedom of political communication under the Australian Constitution. This provides that legislation cannot impermissibly burden political communication

(including participation in political activities) other than for a legitimate public purpose and only in a way that is proportionate to that purpose.

However, clause 7.5(b) of the Model Code of Conduct places an obligation on staff to ensure that any participation in political activities outside the service of the council does not interfere with the performance of their official duties.

Risks to manage in relation to staff participation in political activities include the following:

- staff do not participate in campaigning activities during work time
- staff do not use council resources for campaigning purposes (see clauses 8.17 and 8.18)
- managing interactions between staff and councillors whose campaigns they are supporting
- managing community perceptions arising from council staff participation in councillors' campaigns.

## Council publications during the “regulated period”

To keep elections fair, and ensure voters are not misled, there are strict rules about the information that candidates and their supporters can publish or distribute.

These rules are prescribed under the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* (the Regulation) and are enforced by the relevant election manager.

These rules apply during what is known as the “regulated period”. The “regulated period” starts when the electoral rolls close 40 days before election day and ends on election day.

The key requirement is that all “electoral material” published or distributed during the “regulated period” must contain the name and address of the person who authorised the material and the name and address of the printer.

This is an important electoral integrity measure which is designed to ensure electors can verify the bona fides of electoral material that is printed, published, distributed, or publicly

displayed for campaigning purposes during the “regulated period”.

The key definitions are contained in clause 356A of the Regulation.

“Electoral material” is defined very broadly under the Regulation. It means anything, including without limitation a ‘how-to-vote’ card, poster, or advertisement, containing “electoral matter” (whether in a tangible or an electronic form).

“Electoral matter” is in turn defined to include:

- any matter that is intended or calculated or likely to affect or is capable of affecting the result of any election held or to be held or that is intended or calculated or likely to influence or is capable of influencing an elector in relation to the casting of his or her vote at any election, or
- the name of a candidate at any election, the name of the party of any such candidate, the name or address of the committee rooms of any such candidate or party, the photograph of any such candidate, and any drawing or printed matter that purports to depict any such candidate or to be a likeness or representation of any such candidate.

Councils need to be aware that their publications may contain “electoral matter” and may therefore be inadvertently captured within the definition of “electoral material”.

Whether a council publication constitutes “electoral material” is an assessment that needs to be made by each council on a case-by-case basis.

A council publication that makes no reference to the mayor or councillors who are candidates and does not carry their images or statements will not constitute “electoral material” if it is not intended or likely to affect voting at the election.

However, council publications that promote the achievements of the council may potentially have this effect and therefore may constitute “electoral material” even if they do not carry the images or statements of the mayor or councillors.



Affected publications may include:

- the mayoral column where the mayor is a candidate
- any publication or material carrying the name and/or images of the mayor or councillors who are candidates.

The requirements that apply to council publications published or distributed during the “regulated period” containing “electoral matter” can be easily satisfied by including the name and address of the general manager and the printer of the publication.

However, the perceptions that this may give rise to, including that the council is a participant in the election and that council resources may be seen to have been utilised to support the campaigns of the incumbent mayor and councillors, are not as easily addressed.

Mitigation strategies to address this risk may include:

- publishing the mayoral column in the 40 days preceding the election as a generic council column
- deferring issuing potentially affected publications until after the election.

## Attendance at community events

Mayors and councillors will continue to need to exercise their official functions in the lead up to the election. This is both permissible and appropriate.

Mayors or councillors who are candidates may continue to attend or preside over council-arranged or community events in the lead up to the election in an official capacity.

However, mayors or councillors who are candidates must not use council arranged events that they attend in an official capacity to actively campaign for re-election.

## Media comment

There is nothing to prevent the mayor or councillors who are candidates from offering media comment, provided that comment is not made in an advertisement, newspaper column, or a radio or television broadcast paid for by the council or produced by the council or with council resources.

When making media and any other public comment, mayors and councillors should continue to comply with the council’s adopted media policy.



# Council decision-making

## Caretaker restrictions

Under the Regulation, councils are required to assume a “caretaker” role in the four weeks preceding the election day (see section 393B).

The caretaker restrictions are designed to prevent outgoing councils from making major decisions that will bind the new council or limit its actions.

The caretaker period for the 2024 Local Government elections commences on Friday 16 August 2024 and ends on Saturday 14 September 2024.

During the caretaker period, councils, general managers, and other delegates of councils (other than a joint regional planning panel, a local planning panel or the Central Sydney Planning Committee) must not exercise the following functions:

- enter into any contract or undertaking involving an expenditure or receipt by the council of an amount equal to or greater than \$150,000 or 1% of the council's revenue from rates in the preceding financial year (whichever is the larger)
- determine a “controversial development application”, except where a failure to make such a determination would give rise to a deemed refusal, or such a deemed refusal arose before the commencement of the caretaker period, or
- appoint or reappoint the council's general manager (except for temporary appointments).

“Controversial development application” means a development application for designated development under section 4.10 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* for which at least 25 persons have made submissions during community consultation.

Councils should plan ahead to avoid the need to make these types of decisions during the caretaker period.

In certain circumstances, these functions may be exercised with the approval of the Minister

## Timing of the first meeting of the new council following the election

Postal votes may be received for up to 13 days after election day.

This means that councils' elections are not likely to be declared before 30 September 2024.

Councils should schedule the timing of their first meetings following the election on this basis.

Councils that elect their mayor must hold a mayoral election within 3 weeks of the declaration of the ordinary election and are required to schedule a meeting for this purpose within 3 weeks of the declaration of the election. However, councils coming out of administration who elect their mayors must hold a mayoral election within 14 days of the declaration of the ordinary election.



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## Delegations during the election period

Under the Act, all current councillors and mayors elected by the councillors cease to hold their civic offices on election day 14 September 2024.

This means that councils will be without a governing body from 14 September 2024 until the declaration of the election on 30 September 2024 at the earliest.

As noted above, councils that elect their mayor will be required to meet within 14 days or 3 weeks of the declaration of the ordinary election to hold a mayoral election.

Prior to the election, councils should ensure that appropriate delegations are in place for their general managers so that they can continue to exercise the functions of the council as required in the period between election day and the first meeting of the council following the election.

Councils may wish to consider delegating all delegable functions to the general manager at the last meeting before the election for the period between election day and the first meeting of the council following the election.

Councils that elect their mayors will not have a mayor in the period between election day and the first meeting after the election when the mayoral election is held.

There is nothing to prevent councils from authorising the general manager to exercise the civic and ceremonial functions normally exercised by the mayor during this period in the absence of a mayor.

OLG is aware that some councils that elect their mayors have expressed a preference that the outgoing mayor should continue to exercise the functions of mayor in the period between election day and the holding of the mayoral election after the election.

There is nothing to prevent councils from authorising the outgoing mayor to continue to exercise the civic and ceremonial functions normally exercised by the mayor during this period in the absence of a mayor should they wish to do so (even though the outgoing mayor will have ceased to hold any civic office in the council as of the day of the election).

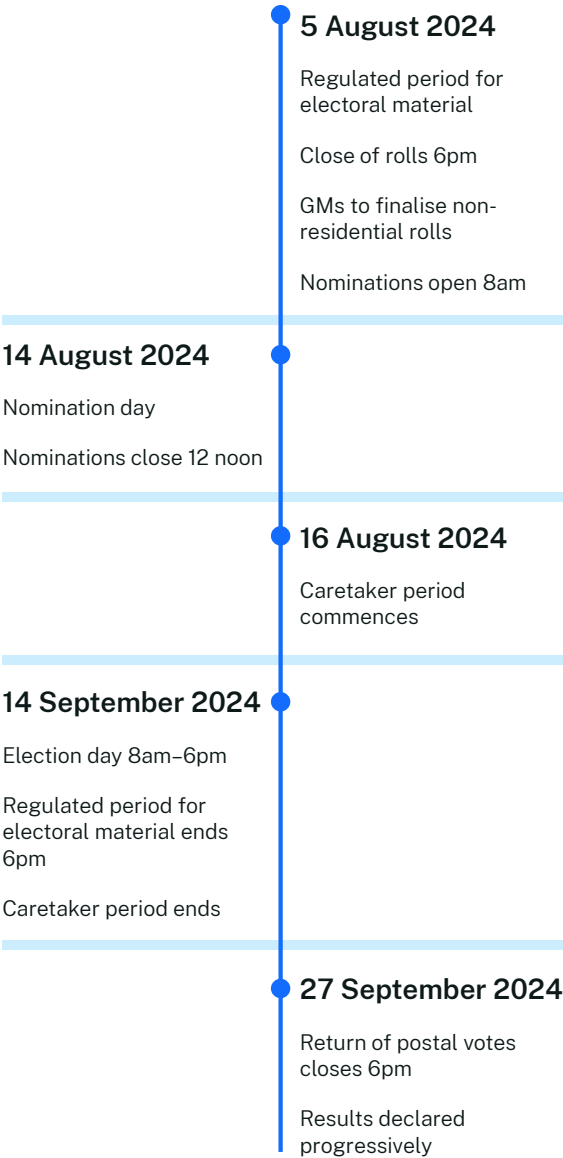
Given the possibility that the outgoing mayor may not be re-elected at the election and may therefore cease to be accountable to the council and the community, councils should refrain from making any delegations to the outgoing mayor.





# Key dates

## 2024 Local Government Elections



<b>Item No:</b>	12.3
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>GENERAL MANAGERS PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2023-2024 &amp; PERFORMANCE AGREEMENT FOR 2024-2025</b>
<b>Author:</b>	Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager
<b>Approver:</b>	Craig Swift-McNair, General Manager
<b>File No:</b>	24/158656
<b>Purpose of the Report:</b>	As per the guidelines provided by the Office of Local Government, this report details the process of the review undertaken for the General Manager's performance for 2023-2024 and the process relating to the setting of the 2024-2025 General Manager's performance agreement.
<b>Alignment to Delivery Program:</b>	Strategy 11.3: Ensure effective and efficient governance and risk management.

### **Recommendation:**

THAT Council, in accordance with Section 10A (2) (a) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, resolve to enter into Closed Session with the press and public excluded to consider the Confidential Report on the General Managers Performance Review 2023-2024 and Performance Agreement for 2024-2025. These matters are to be considered as per Section 10A (2) (a) as they are personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

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### **Executive Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with the results of the General Managers performance assessment for the 2023-2024 financial year as approved under delegation by the General Managers Performance Review Panel (GMPRP) and to provide Councillors with a copy of the General Managers performance agreement for 2024-2025, as approved under delegation by the GMPRP.

This report would also ordinarily seek the appointment of Councillors to the GMPRP for the next period to 2025-2026, however with the impending local government elections taking place on 14 September 2024, determination of the appointment of members to the GMPRP for this next period will take place post the declaration of the 14 September 2024 election, via a resolution of Council at the appropriate time.

### **Discussion:**

At the 26 September 2023 Council meeting, Council resolved the following in relation to the General Managers Performance and GMPRP:

*Resolved:*

*THAT Council:*

- A. *Receive and note the 2022-2023 General Managers Performance assessment as approved under delegation by the General Managers Performance Review Panel, noting the outcome of the review is that the General Managers performance exceeds expectations / is more than satisfactory.*
- B. *Note that the Statutory and Other Offices Remuneration Tribunal (SOORT) determined a nil percent increase in senior executive remuneration for this year and next year.*

- C. *Endorse the General Manager's Performance Review Panel's recommendation of a performance-based increase of 4.5 percent based on the General Manager's performance being assessed as More Than Satisfactory, as provided for under Clause 8.3 (a) of the General Manager's contract of employment states in part that: Council may, on only one occasion during each year of this contract, approve an increase in the total remuneration package where the employee's performance has been assessed in accordance with a performance review as being of a better than satisfactory standard.*
- D. *Receive and note the 2023-2024 General Managers Performance Agreement as approved under delegation by the General Managers Performance Review Panel.*
- E. *Determine the composition of the General Manager's Performance Review Panel for the period 2024-2025 to consist of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor, two Councillors nominated by Council (being Councillor Robertson & Councillor Wynne) and a Councillor nominated by the General Manager, being Councillor Silcocks.*
- F. *Delegate to the General Manager's Performance Review Panel:*
  - i. *The process of performance management, including a performance review of the 2023-2024 period.*
  - ii. *The reporting to Council of findings and recommendations of review for the 2023-2024 period and any actions that should be taken, noting that any such report would be required to be considered in a confidential closed session.*
  - iii. *The determination of any new performance agreement for the period 2024-2025.*
- G. *Approve the General Manager's Performance Review Panel to appoint an external facilitator to assist in the review of the General Managers performance for 2023-2024 and to assist the General Manager's Performance Review Panel in the development of the General Managers performance agreement for 2024-2025, including development of enhanced criteria to assess performance.*
- H. *That the report remain confidential General Managers Performance Agreement & Related Assessment.*

As per the above-mentioned Council resolution (specifically Parts F i), ii) and iii)), the appointed GMPRP undertook a review of the General Managers performance for 2023-2024, against the performance agreement put in place for the 2023-2024 financial year, with this meeting taking place on 28 August 2024. The performance review was facilitated by an independent, external facilitator, Mr Christian Morris from Local Government Management Solutions.

As per page 12 of the latest *Guidelines for the Appointment and Oversight of General Managers* (the Guidelines) released in June 2022 by the Office of Local Government (OLG), a confidential Council report has been prepared for the consideration of Council in closed session in relation to the review of the performance of the General Manager across 2023-2024.

### **Options:**

Noting the recommendation included in this report, in this instance there are no options, as it is a requirement of the OLG that matters such as the General Managers performance review, must take place in a closed session of Council.

### **Community Engagement and / or Internal Consultation:**

There has been no community engagement in relation to this report, nor is it a requirement under the OLG Guidelines.

**Policy Implications:**

There are no policy implications as a result of this report.

**Financial Implications:**

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

**Resourcing Implications:**

The goals and related actions included in the General Managers 2024-2025 performance agreement will be undertaken during the year by the General Manager and any relevant staff in the normal course of business. There are no additional resourcing requirements as a result of this report.

**Conclusion:**

This report details information relating to the review of the General Manager's 2023-2024 performance agreement and the development of the General Manager's performance agreement for 2024-2025.

**Attachments**

Nil



## 15. Councillor Reports/Councillor Updates (Section 8.4)

**Note:** Councillor Reports/Councillor Updates are to be confined to condolences, congratulations, presentations and matters ruled by the Chair to be of extreme urgency (in accordance with Section 8.4 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice).

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## 17. Questions With Notice

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### Recommendation:

THAT the Questions with Notice be received and noted.

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### Background:

A Councillor may, by way of notice, ask a question for response by the General Manager or their nominee, in accordance with Council's adopted Code of Meeting Practice. Where a response, or an update will be provided at the Council Meeting, a response of 'On Notice' is listed in the Council Agenda.

The following Questions with Notice for the Council Meeting on 9 September 2024 have been received.

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**QWN:** 17.1  
**From:** Councillor Jarvis  
**Subject:** Questions with Notice - Boats trailers and Other Vehicles Overstaying their Welcome on Our Roads

### Councillor Jarvis asking:

I refer to my question on notice answered on 15 November 2023 regarding action taken by Council regarding the Council boats and trailers parked on New South Head for weeks, possibly months and were being addressed under the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and regulations.

Can staff please provide Council with updated figures from the last response provided by staff (November 2023) to the present time on the following questions:

1. How many fines by Woollahra Council have been issued since the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and regulations since the date the last advice was given?
2. How many items of property have been impounded in our area since the new Act and regulations came into effect on 1 November 2022 and since the date of the last advice?
3. Of the overall investigations how many boat trailers or other vehicles have been found to be unregistered and what action has been taken since the last advice?
4. What is the total monetary amount of such fines imposed and any amounts recovered where property has been impounded since the last advice?
5. Is it possible to identify the cost of enforcement or at least the number of staff allocated to compliance within the Council area since the last advice?
6. More specifically in Vaucluse around Ray Reserve and Johnston's lookout, in response to the requests I submitted on 15 May 2024, on the Woollahra Council app (request 91173) where on 19 May staff marked 37 vehicles boats and trailers on New South head Road Vaucluse primarily between Ray Ave and Giralang; how many were eventually issued with infringement notices and fines (and the monetary amount) under the new rules, noting that in the last report 5 parking infringements were issued and a further 3 were being investigated as potentially "unattended vehicles".

7. Noting that on 21 June there were 35 such vehicles and by 24 June on New South Head Road the number had increased to 37 vehicles again, mostly boats and trailers but also one large truck and a caravan (12 around Johnston's lookout, 18 around Ray Reserve and 7 around St Michaels / Kincoppal). What action has been taken most recently?
8. More specifically on Wentworth Road on May 15 2024 (request 91175) regarding parked boat trailers, the advice on June 19 was that *"all trailers have been added to a separate IC each. This one will be finalised, the others are remaining open to send letters to registered owner"*. What action has been taken since then?

June 24 at Johnston's lookout



June 21 around Ray Reserve



**Regulatory Coordinator in response (*In Italics*):**

1. How many fines by Woollahra Council have been issued since the Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and regulations since the date the last advice was given?

*Since the NSW Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act came into effect on 1 November 2022;*

- *64 penalty notices have been issued since 1 November 2022 and*
- *39 penalty notices have been issued since the last advice*

2. How many items of property have been impounded in our area since the new Act and regulations came into effect on 1 November 2022 and since the date of the last advice?

*Since the NSW Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act came into effect on 1 November 2022;*

- 90 items and vehicles have been impounded and
- 26 items and vehicles have been impounded since the last advice

3. Of the overall investigations how many boat trailers or other vehicles have been found to be unregistered and what action has been taken since the last advice?

*Since the NSW Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act came into effect on 1 November 2022;*

- 378 unregistered vehicles were detected and issued a penalty notice

*Since the last advice;*

- 233 unregistered vehicles were detected and issued a penalty notice
- 36 Penalty Notices were issued under the NSW Public Spaces (Unattended Property) Act and
- 26 items and vehicles impounded and sold

4. What is the total monetary amount of such fines imposed and any amounts recovered where property has been impounded since the last advice?

*\$117,886.00 in penalty notices and \$24,243.00 where items and vehicles have been impounded and sold.*

5. Is it possible to identify the cost of enforcement or at least the number of staff allocated to compliance within the Council area since the last advice?

*All regulatory staff are involved in attending to or managing these processes including parking officers, rangers and supervisors and is estimated to be equivalent to one full time staff member.*

6. More specifically in Vaucluse around Ray Reserve and Johnstons lookout, in response to the requests I submitted on May 15 on the Woollahra Council app (request 91173) where on May 19 staff marked 37 vehicles boats and trailers on New South head Road Vaucluse primarily between Ray Ave and Giralang, how many were eventually issued with infringement notices and fines (and the monetary amount) have been issued under the new rules, noting that at last report 5 parking infringements were issued and a further 3 were being investigated as potentially 'unattended vehicles'.

*Refer to the answer to question 7 below.*

7. Noting that on 21 June there were 35 such vehicles and by 24 June on New South Head Road the number had increased to 37 vehicles again, mostly boats and trailers but also one large truck and a caravan. (12 around Johnstons lookout, 18 around Ray Reserve and 7 around St Michaels/Kincoppal), what action has been taken most recently?

*37 vehicles and boat trailers audited and investigated via Service Request 91173 specifically New South Head Road Vaucluse:*

- 21 vehicles moved within the prescribed time frame of 28 days under the NSW Public Spaces Unattended Property Act
- 16 Section 28 Notices sent directing the owner to remove the vehicle
- 1 penalty notice issued – Fail to comply with Section 28 Notice to remove the vehicle and vehicle was removed by the owner
- 1 vehicle is attended owner lives adjacent where the vehicle is parked no further action is proposed
- Total amount of penalty notices issued for this service request is \$1,320

<i>Follow up service requests arising from 91173</i>	
<i>Service Request 95986</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 95989</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 95990</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 88628</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 96308</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 95391</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 96310</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 95392</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>

- *No vehicles were impounded from service request 91173*
- *11 August 2024 New South Head Road Vacluse checked and all vehicles had been removed for City to Surf.*

8. More specifically on Wentworth Road on 15 May 2024 (request 91175) regarding parked boat trailers, the advice on 19 June was that “all trailers have been added to a separate IC each. This one will be finalised, the others are remaining open to send letters to registered owner”. What action has been taken since then?

*9 vehicles and boat trailers audited and investigated via Service Request 91175 specifically Wentworth Road Vacluse:*

- *2 penalty notices issued ‘stand unregistered registerable Class A vehicle on a road’*
- *3 vehicles moved within the prescribed time frame of 28 days under the NSW Public Spaces Unattended Property Act*
- *6 Section 28 Notices sent directing the owner to remove the vehicle*
- *2 penalty notices issued – Fail to comply with Section 28 Notice and vehicle(s) were removed by the owner*
- *1 vehicle is attended – vehicle is attended owner lives adjacent where the vehicle is parked no further action is proposed*
- *Total amount of penalty notices for this service request is \$3,244*
- *1 vehicle impounded and 1 pending*

<i>Follow up service requests arising from 91175</i>	
<i>Service Request 93893</i>	<i>Vehicle removed</i>
<i>Service Request 93894</i>	<i>Penalty notice issued vehicle impounded awaiting collection or sale</i>
<i>Service Request 94117</i>	<i>Penalty notice issued – impound pending</i>
<i>Service Request 94121</i>	<i>vehicle is attended owner lives adjacent where the vehicle is parked no further action is proposed</i>

**QWN:** 17.2  
**From:** Councillor Witt  
**Subject:** Questions with Notice - Litigation Protocol Policy

**Councillor Witt asking:**

1. Could Council seek confirmation from applicants that amended plans approved by the LEC, either through an S34 Conciliation Conference or as a result of a hearing, are substantially complete? Too often LEC approved plans are subject to S.4.56 modification applications that request changes to the most contentious aspects of the LEC approved plans.
2. Could potential litigants be given advice about recent LEC decisions that have upheld the Council's Woollahra Local Environment Plan 2014 (WLEP) and/or the Woollahra Development Control Plan 2015 (WDCP) as a means to deter appeals against WLPP refusals?
3. Could Council engage a property barrister to provide advice on the likelihood of success in the LEC earlier in the process, i.e. before the S34 Conciliation Conference is conducted?

**Discussion**

On 15 August 2024, the Woollahra Local Planning Panel (WLPP) approved a S4.56 modification request to a LEC approved DA (DA 280/2022/1 294-298 New South Head Road & Nos. 2-10 Bay Street Double Bay). See 2 Bay Street Pty Ltd v Woollahra Municipal Council [2023] NSWLEC 1222 <https://www.caselaw.nsw.gov.au/decision/187fe6a167070384d55bb2a2>

**Manager Legal, Compliance & Enforcement in response:**

On Notice.

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