



W A V E R L E Y  
COUNCIL

## **FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

A meeting of the FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE will be held at the  
Boot Factory, Spring Street, Bondi Junction at:

**7.00 PM, TUESDAY 1 APRIL 2025**

Emily Scott  
**General Manager**

Waverley Council  
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Bondi Junction NSW 1355  
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## Delegations of the Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee

On 18 March 2025, Waverley Council delegated to the Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee the authority to determine any matter other than:

1. The matters in s 377(1) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, which are as follows:
  - (a) The appointment of a general manager.
  - (b) The making of a rate.
  - (c) A determination under section 549 as to the levying of a rate.
  - (d) The making of a charge.
  - (e) The fixing of a fee.
  - (f) The borrowing of money.
  - (g) The voting of money for expenditure on its works, services or operations.
  - (h) The compulsory acquisition, purchase, sale, exchange or surrender of any land or other property (but not including the sale of items of plant or equipment).
  - (i) The acceptance of tenders to provide services currently provided by members of staff of the council.
  - (j) The adoption of an operational plan under section 405.
  - (k) The adoption of a financial statement included in an annual financial report.
  - (l) A decision to classify or reclassify public land under Division 1 of Part 2 of Chapter 6.
  - (m) The fixing of an amount or rate for the carrying out by the council of work on private land.
  - (n) The decision to carry out work on private land for an amount that is less than the amount or rate fixed by the council for the carrying out of any such work.
  - (o) The review of a determination made by the council, and not by a delegate of the council, of an application for approval or an application that may be reviewed under section 82A of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.
  - (p) The power of the council to authorise the use of reasonable force for the purpose of gaining entry to premises under section 194.
  - (q) A decision under section 356 to contribute money or otherwise grant financial assistance to persons.
  - (r) A decision under section 234 to grant leave of absence to the holder of a civic office.
  - (s) The making of an application, or the giving of a notice, to the Governor or Minister.
  - (t) This power of delegation.
  - (u) Any function under this or any other Act that is expressly required to be exercised by resolution of the council.

## **Statement of Ethical Obligations**

Councillors are reminded of their oath or affirmation of office made under section 233A of the Act and their obligations under Council's code of conduct to disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.

## **Live Streaming of Meeting**

This meeting is streamed live via the internet and an audio-visual recording of the meeting will be publicly available on Council's website.

By attending this meeting, you consent to your image and/or voice being live streamed and publicly available.

## AGENDA

### PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

The Chair will read the following Opening Prayer and Acknowledgement of Indigenous Heritage:

*God, we pray for wisdom to govern with justice and equity. That we may see clearly and speak the truth and that we work together in harmony and mutual respect. May our actions demonstrate courage and leadership so that in all our works thy will be done. Amen.*

*Waverley Council respectfully acknowledges our Indigenous heritage and recognises the ongoing Aboriginal traditional custodianship of the land which forms our Local Government Area.*

#### 1. Apologies

#### 2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

#### 3. Addresses by Members of the Public

#### 4. Confirmation of Minutes

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#### 5. Reports

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#### 6. Urgent Business

#### 7. Closed Session ..... 60

The following matters are proposed to be dealt with in closed session and have been distributed to Councillors separately with the agenda:

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- 9. **Meeting Closure**

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES  
FC/4.1/25.04**

**Subject:** Confirmation of Minutes - Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting - 4 March 2025

**TRIM No:** A25/0080

**Manager:** Richard Coelho, Executive Manager, Governance

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council confirms the minutes of the Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee meeting held on 4 March 2025 as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

**Introduction/Background**

The minutes of committee meetings must be confirmed at a subsequent meeting of the committee, in accordance with clause 20.23 of the Code of Meeting Practice.

**Attachments**

1. Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting Minutes - 4 March 2025



**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT THE BOOT FACTORY, SPRING STREET, BONDI JUNCTION ON  
TUESDAY, 4 MARCH 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor Katherine Westwood (Chair)	Lawson Ward
Councillor Will Nemesh (Mayor)	Hunter Ward
Councillor Keri Spooner (Deputy Mayor)	Waverley Ward
Councillor Ludovico Fabiano	Waverley Ward
Councillor Dov Frazer	Hunter Ward
Councillor Steven Lewis	Hunter Ward
Councillor Paula Masselos	Lawson Ward
Councillor Margaret Merten	Bondi Ward
Councillor Joshua Spicer	Waverley Ward
Councillor Michelle Stephenson	Bondi Ward
Councillor Lauren Townsend	Lawson Ward
Councillor Dominic Wy Kanak	Bondi Ward

**Staff in attendance:**

Emily Scott	General Manager
Sharon Cassidy	Director, Assets and Operations
Tara Czinner	Director, Corporate Services
Fletcher Rayner	Director, Planning, Sustainability and Compliance
Ben Thompson	Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

*At the commencement of proceedings at 7.00 pm, those present were as listed above, with the exception of Cr Wy Kanak who arrived at 7.02 pm during declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests.*

*Cr Wy Kanak attended the meeting by audio-visual link.*

## **PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS HERITAGE**

The Chair read the following Opening Prayer and Acknowledgement of Indigenous Heritage:

*God, we pray for wisdom to govern with justice and equity. That we may see clearly and speak the truth and that we work together in harmony and mutual respect. May our actions demonstrate courage and leadership so that in all our works thy will be done. Amen.*

*Waverley Council respectfully acknowledges our Indigenous heritage and recognises the ongoing Aboriginal traditional custodianship of the land which forms our local government area.*

### **1. Apologies**

There were no apologies.

### **2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

The Chair called for declarations of interest and the following were received:

- 2.1 Cr Wy Kanak declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in item CM/5.2/25.02 – Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Beach Volleyball Event – Commemoration of 25th Anniversary and informed the meeting that he was involved in community objections to the design and potential environmental impacts of the volleyball stadium.
- 2.2 Cr Townsend declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in item CM/5.3/25.02 – Leichhardt Street, Waverley – Traffic Calming – Consultation Outcomes and informed the meeting that she lives in one of the surrounding streets.

### **3. Addresses by Members of the Public**

- 3.1 C Wright – FC/5.3/25.02 – Leichardt Street, Waverley – Traffic Calming – Consultation Outcomes.
- 3.2 M Keen - FC/5.3/25.02 – Leichardt Street, Waverley – Traffic Calming – Consultation Outcomes.

### **4. Confirmation of Minutes**

**FC/4.1/25.03 Confirmation of Minutes - Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting - 4 February 2025 (A25/0080)**

#### **MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh  
Seconder: Cr Stephenson

That Council confirms the minutes of the Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee meeting held on 4 February 2025 as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

## 5. Reports

### FC/5.1/25.03 Artwork Acquisition - Kathy Cavaleire, 'Transient Collage' (A23/0398)

#### MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Stephenson

Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That Council accepts the donation of Kathy Cavaliere's artwork *Transient Collage* (2000) to the Waverley Council Art Collection.

### FC/5.2/25.03 Sydney 2000 Olympic Games Beach Volleyball Event - Commemoration of 25th Anniversary (A25/0248)

*Cr Wy Kanak declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in this item and informed the meeting that he was involved in community objections to the design and potential environmental impacts of the volleyball stadium.*

#### MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Nemesh

Seconder: Cr Spicer

That Council commemorates the 25th anniversary of the beach volleyball event held during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games by:

1. Nominating the event for a Blue Plaque.
2. Acknowledging and celebrating the event during the Festival of the Winds on 14 September 2025.

### FC/5.3/25.03 Leichhardt Street, Waverley - Traffic Calming - Consultation Outcomes (A20/0069)

*Cr Townsend declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in this item and informed the meeting that she lives in one of the surrounding streets.*

#### MOTION

Mover: Cr Westwood

Seconder: Cr Townsend

That Council:

1. Notes that the speed limit in Leichhardt Street, Waverley, will reduce to 40 km/h in the next four to six months, in accordance with the 40 km/h speed limit changes south of Bondi Road.
2. Consults the community on the following five options to improve traffic calming and congestion in Leichhardt Street:
  - (a) Option 1 – Install traffic calming devices.
  - (b) Option 2 – Implement one-way southbound and traffic calming devices.

- (c) Option 3 – Implement one-way northbound.
- (d) Option 4 – Remove parking between 13 and 19 Leichhardt Street (western side) and install traffic calming devices.
- (e) Option 5 – Widen the street between 13 and 19 Leichhardt Street (eastern side) and install traffic calming devices.

3. Officers prepare a report to Council on the outcome.

THE MOVER OF THE MOTION ACCEPTED THE ADDITION OF A NEW CLAUSE 2(f).

THE MOTION AS AMENDED WAS THEN PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

### **UNANIMOUS DECISION**

That Council:

1. Notes that the speed limit in Leichhardt Street, Waverley, will reduce to 40 km/h in the next four to six months, in accordance with the 40 km/h speed limit changes south of Bondi Road.
2. Consults the community on the following five options to improve traffic calming and congestion in Leichhardt Street:
  - (a) Option 1 – Install traffic calming devices.
  - (b) Option 2 – Implement one-way southbound and traffic calming devices.
  - (c) Option 3 – Implement one-way northbound.
  - (d) Option 4 – Remove parking between 13 and 19 Leichhardt Street (western side) and install traffic calming devices.
  - (e) Option 5 – Widen the street between 13 and 19 Leichhardt Street (eastern side) and install traffic calming devices.
  - (f) Option 6 – Closure of Leichhardt Street at the intersection of Macpherson Street and Leichhardt Street.
3. Officers prepare a report to Council on the outcome.

*C Wright and M Keen addressed the meeting.*

**FC/5.4/25.03 Ruthven Street, Bondi Junction - Traffic Calming - Consultation Outcomes (A20/0069)****MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Townsend  
Seconder: Cr Westwood

That Council:

1. Notes that the speed limit in Ruthven Street, Bondi Junction, will reduce to 40 km/h within the next four to six months, in accordance with the 40 km/h speed limit changes south of Bondi Road.
2. Notes the outcome of the review and consultation process, including an information package on parking across driveways/footpaths.
3. Approves the following traffic calming measure in Ruthven Street, as set out in the report:
  - (a) The conversion of rubber speed cushions to concrete-based asphalt-embedded flat top speed humps.
4. Notifies the residents of Ruthven Street and the Mill Hill Precinct Committee of this resolution.

**6. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**7. Closed Session****FC/7/25.03 Closed Session****MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh  
Seconder: Cr Frazer

That:

1. Council moves into closed session to deal with the matters listed below, which are classified as confidential under section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act* for the reasons specified:

FC/7.1/25.03 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Clementson Park, Newland Street, Bondi Junction - Part Lot 1 DP 120184 – Lease

This matter is considered to be confidential in accordance with section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act*, and Council is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.

2. Pursuant to sections 10A(1), 10(2) and 10A(3) of the *Local Government Act*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is

classified as confidential under section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act*.

3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from the media and public as provided by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act*.

*At 7.44 pm, Council moved into closed session.*

**FC/7.1/25.03                      CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Clementson Park, Newland Street, Bondi Junction - Part Lot 1 DP 120184 - Lease (A02/0237)**

**MOTION / DECISION**

Mover:        Cr Nimesh

Seconder:    Cr Frazer

That Council:

1. Treats the report as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as it relates to a matter specified in section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
2. Grants a lease to The Grace Child Centre Incorporated for Part Lot 1 DP 120184, Clementson Park, Newland Street, Bondi Junction, for 12 months, on the terms and conditions set out in the report.
3. Authorises the General Manager or delegate to complete negotiations and execute all necessary documentation to finalise the matter.

**8. Resuming in Open Session**

**FC/8/25.03                      Resuming in Open Session**

**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover:        Cr Nimesh

Seconder:    Cr Frazer

That Council resumes in open session.

*At 7.55 pm, Council resumed in open session.*

***Resolutions from closed session made public***

*In accordance with clause 14.21 of the Waverley Code of Meeting Practice, when the meeting resumed in open session the chair announced the resolutions made by Council while the meeting was closed to members of the public and the media.*



**9. Meeting Closure**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.56 PM.**

.....  
**SIGNED AND CONFIRMED**  
**CHAIR**  
**1 APRIL 2025**

**REPORT**  
**FC/5.1/25.04**

**Subject:** **Multicultural Advisory Committee Meeting - 11 February 2025 - Minutes**

**TRIM No:** A25/0221

**Manager:** Annette Trubenbach, Executive Manager, Community Services

**Director:** Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes the minutes of the Multicultural Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 February 2025 attached to the report.

**1. Executive Summary**

This report provides information about Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting held on 11 February 2025. The minutes of the meeting are attached to this report.

**2. Introduction/Background**

The MAC has been established in support of Council's vision and strategies that:

- Promote human rights, address discrimination and disadvantage.
- Actively encourage participation, social connections and a sense of belonging.
- Deliver fair and equitable services, facilities and resources to our culturally diverse community.
- Promote relationships based on understanding and respect.

**3. Relevant Council Resolutions**

Nil.

**4. Discussion**

This report updates Councillors on items discussed at the MAC meeting held on 11 February 2025. The minutes, once noted, will be placed on Council's website.

**5. Financial Impact**

The operations of the MAC are covered in Council's operational budget.

**6. Risks/Issues**

The minutes are reported to Council for information only.

**7. Attachments**

1. MAC - 11 February 2025 - Minutes [↓](#)

## MULTICULTURAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Tuesday 11 February 25  
6pm – 7:30pm



### 1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

Acknowledgement of Country was conducted by Councillor Nemesh.

#### Present

Councillors	
Clr Will Nemesh	Mayor/Chair
Clr Dov Frazer	Councillor (online)
Clr Ludovico Fabiano	Councillor
Clr Steven Lewis	Councillor
Clr Paula Masselos	Councillor
Council Officers	
Ben Thompson	Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience
Annette Trubenbach	Executive Manager, Community Programs
Madly Bodin	Diversity Community Development Officer
Rebecca Rodwell	Manager, Community Planning & Partnerships
Community Member/Organisations	
Anna Friedman	Community Member
Lana Kofman	Jewish Care
Emily Bogue	Community Member
Marcia Monje de Castro	Community Member
Raphael Crowe	Community Member
Linda Deutsch	Expert
Valentina Baú	Community Member
Margaret Teed	Sydney East Community College

### 2. Apologies

Rozy Dorizas, Baris Atayman, Robert Farotto, Emily Scott, Clr Westwood, Clr Townsend

### 3. Acceptance of previous minutes & business arising

The minutes were accepted via email.



No business arising.

#### **4. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**

NIL

#### **5. Update on Social Cohesion Mayoral Roundtable**

Waverley co-hosted a roundtable last Thursday on 6 February attended by around 20 Mayors/Deputy Mayors across Sydney, including the co-hosts from Liverpool Council, Inner West Council, Randwick Council and Woollahra Council.

It was heartening to see Mayors from different backgrounds and political parties coming together to take proactive and tangible steps working together to improve social cohesion. The outcome was a joint statement which was signed by all attendees, along with some Councils who were not represented.

Feedback from the committee included support for the initiative, information on strategies and next steps and reaction from the community.

#### **6. Update on strategy to combat antisemitism**

As mentioned at the previous MAC meeting, Council has been developing a Strategy to Combat Antisemitism. The draft strategy was presented for feedback to a select group of stakeholders on 7 February. The draft strategy will be reported to Council in March for adoption.

Suggestions and discussion included engaging in dialogue with communities across Sydney including faith and civic leaders, education and young people engagement, having difficult conversations and promoting "upstanders" to be good allies, promoting connections, supporting those who are experiencing fear, recognising organisations like Jewish Care who are providing ongoing community support, building community resilience and collecting data to measure impact.

#### **7. Culture Waves (Youth Social Cohesion Project) Update**

Officers have inducted 11 community mentors over two sessions. These mentors will support young people in the program which will begin on 21 February. There will be a strong focus on cultural heritage, but also identity and sharing their authentic self. The mentors will support the young people in four key areas:

- Find your strengths
- Build your support network
- Share your story
- Create positive change every day

This initiative aims to have 15 young people complete the program.

#### **8. Cultural Diversity Strategy 2021 – 2031**

MAC Minutes 11 February 2025

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- **Dawn Reflection 2025**

Held for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time, the Dawn Reflection was a great success on a perfect morning in Bondi. Around 800 community members attended. Aunty Lola Ryan conducted a Welcome, the Wagana dancers and the Gamay dancers gave a great performance, and a smoking ceremony was included as part of the program.

- **Lunar New Year**

Lunar New Year was celebrated at the Bondi Pavilion with Lion Dancing on Saturday 8 February, and a range of activities took place at the Waverley Library.

- **Bondi Latin Fiesta**

The Bondi Latin Fiesta was held on Sunday 8 February at the Bondi Pavilion. The event included a range of performances with people from diverse backgrounds taking part in the celebrations.

## 9. Events Coming Up

Information will be shared with MAC members about upcoming events and activities – including Global Table 2025.

Members expressed an interest in working with other Councils to celebrate local events and festivals.

## 10. Other Business/Correspondence

Margaret acknowledged the support of Council for the Mentoring Program, which has resulted in several employment outcomes, and provided learning opportunities for Council Officers.

Following a debate at a Council Committee meeting, a discussion was held regarding a Councillor's proposal for Council to delete its 'X' account. The committee had a discussion around the topic but did not wish to make a formal recommendation to Council on the topic.

## 11. Next Meeting

Meeting dates for 2025

- 8 April 2025
- 12 August 2024
- 11 November 2025

## REPORT

### FC/5.2/25.04



**Subject:** Petitions Policy - Exhibition

**TRIM No:** SF25/1018

**Manager:** Richard Coelho, Executive Manager, Governance

**Director:** Tara Czinner, Director, Corporate Services

#### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Publicly exhibits the draft Petitions Policy attached to the report for 28 days.
2. Officers prepare a report to Council following the exhibition period.

#### 1. Executive Summary

The Petitions Policy has been reviewed and simplified to make it easier for members of the public to lodge petitions and therefore collectively share their views with Council. This report also responds to a resolution to investigate methods to facilitate online petitions. The existing policy already allows online petitions, and a dedicated online platform is not recommended because it would reduce flexibility and there are already suitable options available. The amended policy will be publicly exhibited for 28 days before being put to Council for adoption.

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Council has a long history of accepting petitions. A formal Petitions Policy was first adopted in June 2009. The policy was last reviewed in April 2016, with one of the changes being to allow online petitions.

In May 2024, Council passed a resolution in response to a notice of motion from Cr Fabiano for Council to investigate methods to provide online petitions.

#### 3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Meeting and date	Item No.	Resolution
Council 21 May 2024	CM/8.2/24.05	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes that the Australian Parliament and NSW Parliament have established mechanisms for online petitions.</li> <li>2. Investigates methods to provide online petitions to Council, with officers to prepare a report to Council with recommendations no later than the August 2024 meeting of the Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee.</li> </ol>

		<p>3. Considers as part of the investigation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The suitability of existing/popular online petition platforms.</li> <li>(b) The feasibility and costs of providing online petitions on a Council website similar to the NSW and Federal parliamentary petitions.</li> <li>(c) Whether amendments to Council’s Petitions Policy would be necessary.</li> </ul>
<p>Operations Committee 5 April 2016</p>	<p>OC/5.4/16.04</p>	<p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopts the Petitions Policy attached to this report subject to the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Petition Lodgement Form and Petition (attached to the Policy) to include statements that demonstrate consent and understanding from persons signing the petition that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) All personal details are provided to Council in accordance with the <i>Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998</i> for considering the subject of the petition and to verify its authenticity.</li> <li>(ii) Petitions and related documents received by Council may be publicly available under the <i>Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009</i>.</li> </ul> </li> <li>(b) The Petitions Policy be extended as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) For electronic petitions, to require that all petitioners provide their full address. Point 4 on page 3 of the Policy would therefore be amended to read ‘The full name, address (including postcode), and email address of those people who support the e-petition.’</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Provides copies of the Petitions Policy to all precinct conveners.</li> <li>3. Officers investigate and report to Council on:</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Including for all petition types an additional column and nomenclature for address category so that residents, landowners, business people, users of Council services, visitors, or non-locals can be distinguished from each other. This could either be mandatory or optional.</li> <li>(b) The costing, feasibility and timing of Council hosting e-petitions on its website or developing a web portal.</li> <li>(c) The actions and likely timing of the NSW Government introducing legislation for e-petitions to local government.</li> <li>(d) Council’s May 2013 resolution on Electronic Lobbying and submissions, following consultation with precinct groups and the community on these matters.</li> </ul>
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**4. Discussion**

**Petitions Policy review**

The Petitions Policy has been rewritten and simplified. The main changes are as follows:

- Defining petitions.
- Making the lodgement requirements less prescriptive and more flexible to encourage community participation. As long as there is sufficient identifying information to verify a signatory, the petition will comply. This will also reduce the personal information collected, consistent with the Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998. However, petitioners are still encouraged to use the petition lodgement form and petition template on Council’s website to ensure that sufficient information is provided.
- Having the same requirements for petitions regardless of format (paper or online).
- Clarifying that the policy does not apply to petitions relating to development applications and matters that are being publicly exhibited or consulted on by Council. These petitions are addressed through separate processes.
- Clarifying that Councillors can table petitions via the notice of motion process.

The draft policy is attached to this report.

**Online petitions**

Council’s current Petitions Policy already allows online petitions. These are uncommon and are usually created on Change.org. The last online petition was received in April 2023.



The Australian Parliament and NSW Parliament have dedicated platforms for online petitions. They have less stringent requirements than Council's current policy, only requiring supporters to provide their name, email address and/or signature and be a resident of NSW or an Australian citizen.

The main benefit of a dedicated platform is that it ensures compliance with the policy. However, a dedicated platform is not recommended for the following reasons:

- The aim of the amended policy is to make it easier to petition Council. Prescribing a particular platform is inconsistent with this objective.
- If residents are unaware of the platform, they could create a petition on another platform first, meaning their petition may not be accepted by Council.
- Most petitions received by Council are traditional paper petitions. Council only receives a small number of online petitions.
- It would be an inefficient use of resources for Council to create and host its own petitions platform, with online platforms such as Change.org already providing this service and imposing adequate requirements upon signatories.

As noted above, the policy has been amended to reduce the lodgement requirements for online petitions, thereby enabling more platforms to be used.

### **Petitions page on website**

As part of the review process, a separate petitions page on Council's website will be created, containing the new policy, the sample lodgement form and the petition template. This will make it easier for community members to access information about petitions.

### **Consultation**

The draft Petitions Policy will be publicly exhibited for 28 days via Have Your Say before being put to Council for adoption.

The draft policy was endorsed by the Executive Leadership Team at its meeting on 27 February 2025.

## **5. Financial Impact**

There is no unbudgeted cost to Council to review or adopt the Petitions Policy, to consider petitions generally or to create a new petitions page on Council's website.

A dedicated online petitions platform could potentially be developed in-house. Otherwise, it would need to be purchased at cost.

## **6. Risks/Issues**

The main issue with the current policy is that it is too restrictive, meaning that some petitions do not technically comply despite sufficient identifying information being provided. For example, Change.org petitions do not comply because the full address of supporters is not required.

For this reason, petitions that do not comply with the policy are put to Council regardless for Council to determine whether to accept them. Making the lodgement requirements less onerous will mean that most petitions will comply.

One risk of making the policy too flexible is that it will be harder to verify the authenticity of signatories in some cases. To mitigate this risk, the amended policy allows the General Manager to reject a petition if it does not sufficiently comply with the policy. However, neither the current nor amended policy requires petitioners to be residents.

## **7. Attachments**

1. Draft Petitions Policy [↓](#)



WAVERLEY  
COUNCIL

# Petitions Policy



<b>Department</b>	Governance
<b>Approved by</b>	Council
<b>Date approved</b>	TBC
<b>File reference</b>	A25/0360
<b>Next revision date</b>	April 2029
<b>Relevant legislation</b>	<i>Local Government Act 1993 (NSW)</i>
<b>Related policies/ procedures/guidelines</b>	
<b>Related forms</b>	Petition lodgement form

DRAFT

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## 1. Background

A petition is a formal request from more than one person for Council to take action or not take action in a particular matter. Petitions are one of the ways in which the community can collectively share its views, ideas and concerns with Council.

Petitions are not specifically covered by legislation. However, some of the guiding principles for councils under the *Local Government Act 1993* are to:

- Act fairly, ethically and without bias in the interests of the local community when exercising their functions.
- Recognise diverse local community needs and interests when making decisions.
- Actively engage with their local communities.

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## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that:

- The views of the community are communicated to Councillors and officers and considered in the decision-making process.
- Each petition is treated consistently and in a timely manner.

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## 3. Scope

This policy applies to petitions submitted to Council; persons submitting petitions; and Councillors and officers who deal with petitions.

This policy does not apply to petitions that relate to:

- Development applications. These petitions will be treated as submissions and considered as part of the development assessment process.
- Matters that are being publicly exhibited or consulted on by Council. These petitions will be considered as part of the community engagement process.

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## 4. Content

### 4.1 Petition lodgement requirements

Council accepts petitions from persons who have an interest in the Waverley local government area as residents, landowners, businesses or in some other capacity.

Petitions must concern matters that Council is authorised to determine.

Petitions must contain:

1. A clear statement identifying the subject of the petition.
2. The name, postcode and signature (or other identifying information such as an email address or phone number) of the chief petitioner and of each person who supports the petition.

Council accepts online petitions.

A sample petition lodgement form and petition template are available on Council's website.

### 4.2 Submitting petitions

Petitions can be submitted in the following ways:

- Email: [info@waverley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:info@waverley.nsw.gov.au)
- Post: Waverley Council, PO Box 9, Bondi Junction NSW 1355.
- At Council's Customer Service Centres.
- Via a Councillor, who may forward it to officers or table it through a notice of motion.

### 4.3 Reporting petitions to Council

Petitions will generally be reported to the next available Council or Council Committee meeting for consideration.

A petition will not be reported to Council if in the opinion of the General Manager it:

- Is defamatory.

- Contains threatening or offensive material.
- Proposes action that is unlawful or concerns a matter that Council is not authorised to determine.
- Does not sufficiently comply with this policy.

If the petition is to be reported to Council, officers will advise the chief petitioner of the date of the meeting at which the petition will be considered.

If the petition is not reported to Council, officers will notify the chief petitioner of Council's decision and the reasons for it.

#### **4.4 Outcome of petitions**

Council will decide at a Council or Council Committee meeting what action, if any, it will take in respect of the petition. Council's decision can be accessed in the minutes of the meeting, which are available on Council's website.

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### **5. Review**

This policy will be reviewed at least every four years.



**REPORT**  
**FC/5.3/25.04**

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Bondi Mermaid Public Artwork - Consultation Outcomes</b>
<b>TRIM No:</b>	A23/0398
<b>Manager:</b>	Tanya Goldberg, Executive Manager, Arts, Culture and Events
<b>Director:</b>	Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Does not commission a public artwork at Site 5 (Bondi Park) in the Public Art Masterplan at this time, in accordance with the recommendation of the Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee and in response to public feedback.
2. Progresses the commissioning of a public artwork at Site 6 (Clementson Park) in the Public Art Masterplan in future years.
3. Notes that current public art projects are being prioritised, including the Campbell Parade mosaic furniture seating restoration, the Westfield tragedy memorial public artwork and the Waverley-Woollahra joint public artwork.

**1. Executive Summary**

Site 5 in the Waverley Public Art Masterplan provides for a public artwork to work with a prescribed historical context; specifically, that of one of Waverley's most fondly remembered past installations, the mermaids at Ben Buckler.

The Public Art Masterplan nominated a new public artwork that works with the historic context of the mermaids in Bondi Park and calls for a sculpture work in this location.

Artwork concept designs were sought from three applicants who responded to the expression of interest (EOI) call-out for this work and these designs were reviewed by Council's Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee (ACCAC) before proceeding to public exhibition in 2024.

The summary of community feedback was reviewed by the ACCAC at its meeting on 10 March 2025. Following review of public consultation results and ACCAC feedback, it is recommended that Council does not award any concept with the design brief and that the commission for Site 5 be ceased at this point.

**2. Introduction/Background**

Bondi Park is identified as Site 5 in Waverley's Public Art Masterplan, which provides for a public artwork to work with a prescribed historical context; specifically, that of one of Waverley's most fondly remembered past installations: the mermaids at Ben Buckler.

In 1960, a local sculptor installed two mermaids on the rock now affectionately known as ‘Mermaid Rock’ on Ben Buckler in North Bondi. This installation was unauthorised at the time. The mermaids were cast in the image of two local women. Both mermaids suffered badly in a storm in 1974, with one swept off the rock, and another losing her tail and an arm. The damaged mermaid was removed, and her remains are on display at Waverley Library.

The original site of Mermaid Rock at Ben Buckler is considered inappropriate for a public art site as it presents safety concerns as it is subject to large swells and other dangerous ocean conditions. Further, Ben Buckler is an ecologically protected aquatic reserve and environmental constraints prohibit the public drilling of these rocks. For these reasons, the Public Art Masterplan nominated a new public artwork that works with the historic context of the mermaids in Bondi Park.

The public art masterplan calls for a sculpture work in this location. It notes that Bondi Park is subject to high local, national and international tourism and an artwork featured within Bondi Park has the potential to become an internationally renowned icon. The location is subject to extreme and ever-changing weather conditions, including rain and storm conditions, as well as a high level of public engagement. Proposals must exhibit a clear understanding of the impact of these conditions and outline measures undertaken to ensure artwork can withstand them.

Council’s Public Art Policy principal framework for public art in Waverley is:

- Place making (making spaces into places).
- Artistic merit and integrated design.
- Local culture and heritage.
- Sustainability and materiality.

Proposed artwork briefs are scoped, responses sought for and assessed, and approvals granted with regard to the ways a proposed work and concept design satisfies these principles.

### 3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Nil.

### 4. Discussion

The public art commissioning and public exhibition process for Site 5 was initiated in May 2023 and is outlined in the table below.

*Table 1. Commissioning and public exhibition timeline.*

When	What
May 2023	EOI open for submissions from interested artists, 1 to 31 May
June 2023	Three applications received and assessed Project control group recommends all applicants progress to concept design stage
Aug to Nov 2023	Site visits conducted with each applicant Concept designs submitted
Nov 23 to Jan 24	Project control group assessed concept designs for technical compliance with brief

March 2024	Concept designs reviewed by ACCAC
March to April 2024	Public exhibition of designs for community consultation and feedback
March 2025	Summary of community feedback reviewed by ACCAC

Community input on the three concept designs was sought between 25 March and 29 April 2024 and promoted via the *Wentworth Courier*, Instagram, Facebook and the Waverley Weekly, Waverley Library and Waverley Arts and Culture e-newsletters. Council received 284 responses via Have Your Say and email. The majority of respondents were locals who visit the beach and park daily.

Community feedback did not indicate a preferred design, and the largest number of responses selected 'None of the above' designs. A significant number of responses that did choose one of the three concept designs indicated they were selecting the 'least bad' concept but that none was actually good enough.

Issues raised include concerns regarding:

- Representation of women's bodies.
- Spend of public money on sub-standard designs.
- Impact on park usage, open space and topography.
- Irrelevance of concepts to Bondi.
- Poor quality of designs not appropriate for highly visible site.
- Opposition to relocation of a mermaid artwork from the rock ledge at Ben Buckler to Bondi Park.

On the balance of site constraints and community feedback, there is no likelihood that a repeated commissioning process would yield a successful outcome.

These results were shared with the Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee (ACCAC) at its meeting on 10 March 2025. At that meeting, the ACCAC unanimously recommended against awarding any concept with the design brief and for ceasing the commission for Site 5 at this time.

The ACCAC also unanimously recommended progressing Public Art Masterplan activity in due course to Site 6 (Clementson Park, Bondi Junction) and noted that, since finalising the masterplan, Council has prioritised the following additional public art projects for immediate action:

- Campbell Parade mosaic furniture seating restoration.
- Westfield tragedy memorial public artwork.
- Waverley/Woollahra joint public artwork.

## 5. Financial Impact

There is no resource implication flowing from this decision. Public art funds will be allocated to those immediate priority projects.

## 6. Risks/Issues

### Environmental

It is noted that the proposed location is subject to extreme and changing conditions, including rain and storm conditions, as well as a high level of public engagement. Proposals that fail to satisfy the

particular needs of these environmental circumstances must exhibit a clear understanding of the impact of these conditions and outline measure undertaken to ensure artwork can withstand them.

The original site of Mermaid Rock is considered inappropriate for a public art site as it presents safety concerns due to the large swell and other dangerous ocean conditions. Further, as an ecologically protected aquatic reserve, drilling for artwork footings is constrained, further deeming it an unsuitable location.

### **Reputational**

Community consultation feedback clearly demonstrates that no artwork design is supported by the public. Commentary regarding the waste of public funds is already a feature of the public consultation and is likely to become an ongoing message should an artwork continue. Continuing to spend funds on this project would create a risk of reputational harm.

Conversely, there could be a perceived risk that Council has not answered the requirements of the prescribed historical context of the Bondi Mermaids, referenced in the Public Art Masterplan.

### **Financial**

If Council chooses to progress this artwork in the absence of community consensus for it to proceed, it would risk over-extending Council's allocated spending on public art projects, and would jeopardise the delivery of more recent public art projects prioritised by Council including the Campbell Parade mosaic restoration works, the Westfield tragedy memorial artwork and joint Waverley-Woollahra artwork.

## **7. Attachments**

Nil.

**REPORT**  
**FC/5.4/25.04**WAVERLEY  
COUNCIL

**Subject:** Bondi Pavilion - Venue Hire Fee Review

**TRIM No:** A25/0248

**Manager:** Alistair Graham, Executive Manager, Community, Library and Recreation Venues

**Director:** Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Notes the financial impact on Council of providing discounted venue hire of Bondi Pavilion for local residents and businesses, as set out in the report.
2. Maintains the current pricing policy for Bondi Pavilion venue hire.

**1. Executive Summary**

At its meeting on 18 June 2024, Council asked officers to investigate the feasibility of providing discounted venue hire of Bondi Pavilion for local residents and businesses in the Waverley local government area (LGA).

Given the existing high rate of utilisation by local residents and businesses, implementing an additional discounted pricing category would result in a reduction of at least 30% in venue hire income for the Pavilion.

It is recommended that Council maintains the current pricing policy and no further discount categories be applied to venue hire fees for Bondi Pavilion.

**2. Introduction/Background**

Since reopening in September 2022, Bondi Pavilion's spaces have been heavily utilised by a variety of hirers including individuals, small businesses, support groups, not for profit community and arts organisations and commercial businesses. Activities range from small one-off meetings, health and wellbeing classes, community forums, celebrations and live performances to large scale multi-day events.

Venue hire is charged according to Council's annual schedule of fees and charges and are categorised as either a 'standard' or 'charity/not-for-profit groups' rate. To qualify for the charity/not-for-profit groups rate, which is a 50% discount on the standard rate, the hirer must provide evidence of their not-for-profit status as registered with the Australian Government.

### 3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Meeting and date	Item No.	Resolution
Council 18 June 2024	CM/7.1/24.06	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adopts the Pricing Policy, Fees and Charges 2024–25 attached to the report (Attachment 2).</li> <li>2. Adopts the budget for 2024-25 attached to the report (Attachments 3 and 4).</li> <li>3. Adopts the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 6.2 attached to the report (Attachment 5), noting that the LTFP will be reviewed annually in line with the Operational Plan and annual budget development.</li> <li>4. Officers prepare a report to Council on the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The feasibility of providing discounted venue hire for the Pavilion for local residents and local businesses.</li> <li>(b) The financial budget impact of providing discounted venue hire for the Pavilion for local residents and local businesses.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

### 4. Discussion

Income generated from Bondi Pavilion venue hire activity is approximately \$450k per annum. Of the 3,000-plus venue bookings across the year, 85% of bookings are either made by locals, local organisations or deliver locally-focused activities.

The standard fees and charges for use of Bondi Pavilion spaces have been benchmarked and maintained at reasonable rates, reinforcing the community focus of the venue, with 50% discount option available to support charitable and not-for-profit groups in-line with Council's annual pricing policy. In 2024, 56% of bookings were charged at the standard rate and 44% at the charity/not-for-profit groups rate.

Council has requested investigating the feasibility of an additional pricing category being established for residents and businesses from the Waverley LGA.

There are two options for consideration:

#### Option 1 – No change to pricing policy

This option would maintain the current pricing policy and fees and charges for Bondi Pavilion, noting that venue hire fees are benchmarked and maintained at reasonable rates for the community. In addition to the charity/not-for-profit groups discount rate, Council already provides a 50% discount for arts and education initiatives delivered in the Bondi Pavilion Theatre and a 50% discount for groups undertaking rehearsals in the Seagull, High Tide and Yalagang Rooms. Critical support services receive a further 50% discount on the charity/not-for-profit rate.

## **Option 2 – Locals pricing category**

This option would establish a new ‘locals’ pricing category that provides a 50% discount on standard Bondi Pavilion venue hire rates for individuals and businesses from the Waverley LGA. This proposal would need to be publicly exhibited.

Due to the majority of Bondi Pavilion bookings being made by local residents and businesses, implementing this pricing category would significantly impact venue hire income and reduce its financial contribution towards the annual operational costs of the venue. Although clear conditions regarding the type of activity would need to apply, the additional administrative burden of having to verify the ‘local’ status of the hirer is not feasible to manage and presents challenges when determining the eligibility of who qualifies as a local resident or business and their intended participants or audience. This would not take into consideration ‘capacity to pay’ by either residents or businesses.

### **5. Financial Impact**

Despite the popularity of Bondi Pavilion as a hireable venue, Council has not increased fees substantially since reopening or in-line with demand or local competitors. Due to the cost of operating the building, and the \$1m subsidy Council currently provides, the hire fees are not set at full cost recovery and maintained at affordable rates to ensure as much community access as possible.

Offering a ‘locals’ rate for Waverley residents and businesses would result in a minimum 30% reduction in venue hire income for the Pavilion, or more than \$130k, from the \$450k revenue expectation for 2025–26. This is due to 85% of current bookings being made by locals, local organisations/businesses or delivering locally focused activities, and more than half of revenue being charged at the standard rate. This also risks reducing income from larger scale events, such as festivals or precinct takeovers, which typically have venue hire fees of up to \$60k per event and could be now booked by a local resident or business to receive the discount. Implementing this option is not recommended.

### **6. Risks/Issues**

Council currently provides a \$1m subsidy towards the operational budget of Bondi Pavilion each year, with the remainder of costs met through venue hire and commercial tenants. Reducing venue hire income risks a decrease in the service and standard of the facility provided for the community, or the decrease of another Council service.

Bondi Pavilion is heavily booked across many of the spaces throughout the year, particularly during the early morning and evening peaks and weekends. Even if eligible for the additional discounted rate, any hirer seeking to access the community groups rate would be required to follow the existing procedures in place for bookings and is subject to availability.

Implementing this change to the pricing policy for use of Bondi Pavilion also presents a risk that community members may also seek similar concessions for other hireable Council spaces, which is also not recommended at this time.

### **7. Attachments**

Nil.

**REPORT**  
**FC/5.5/25.04**

**Subject:** Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street Intersection, Bondi Junction - Road Safety Concerns

**TRIM No:** A03/0578

**Manager:** Nikolaos Zervos. Executive Manager, Infrastructure Services

**Director:** Sharon Cassidy, Director, Assets and Operations

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council:

1. Installs additional signage and line marking in Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street, Bondi Junction, to indicate the presence and increase the visibility of the cycleway to vehicles at the intersection of Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street.
2. Converts the parking space in Birrell Street adjacent to the eastbound lane and located immediately west of the Mackenzie Street intersection to motorcycle only parking.
3. Authorises the Executive Manager, Infrastructure Services, to implement further works or refinements in line with the findings of the road safety audit if on-site circumstances warrant changes.

**1. Executive Summary**

This report outlines the findings of a post-construction road safety audit undertaken in January 2025 in response to road safety concerns in Birrell Street. The road safety audit (RSA) identified minor risks at the intersections of Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street and Birrell Street and Bourke Street. As a result of the RSA, two areas of improvement are proposed: increasing conspicuity of the cycleway and improving sightlines at the Mackenzie Street and Birrell Street intersection. These improvements can be implemented under existing delegations and do not require Traffic Committee input. The RSA identified the garden beds at the intersection of Mackenzie/Birrell Street to be beneficial in slowing vehicles as they enter and exit the street.

**2. Introduction/Background**

As a result of the need for safe and fit for purpose bicycle infrastructure in the local government area (LGA), the Birrell Street renewal project was undertaken. This project involved the construction of a separated cycleway on the northern side of Birrell Street. The construction work was completed in June 2023.

Following on from this project, residents have provided additional feedback. This feedback centred on the intersection of Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street and Birrell Street and Bourke Street. The feedback cites poor visibility for vehicles exiting Mackenzie Street and manoeuvrability issues for vehicles and busses exiting Bourke Street.

As a result of this feedback, two main actions were undertaken by Council officers:



- The installation of additional line marking along Birrell Street (between Newland Street and Bronte Road). This line marking was completed in late 2024.
- The initiation of a road safety audit (RSA) undertaken by a consultant to assess the concerns put forward by residents.

The results and outcomes of the RSA are the purpose of this report. The results are detailed in section 4. It is noted that the RSA assesses the section of Birrell Street from Stanley Street to Bourke Street. This report focuses on the findings related to the intersections of Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street and Birrell Street and Bourke Street. The findings identified at the other locations will be used for ongoing consideration, and internal capacity building for similar future projects.

### 3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Meeting and date	Item No.	Resolution
Council 26 November 2024	CM/8.4/24.11	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Notes that:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) The Birrell Street cycleway has now been built and was largely funded by Transport for NSW.</li> <li>(b) Residents living near this intersection and in Mackenzie Street have written to Council with serious road safety concerns as a result of the cycleway including:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Poor visibility when turning right out of Mackenzie Street into Birrell Street, requiring cars making this right hand turn to sweep into the other side of the road.</li> <li>(ii) The garden bed closest to the road on the corner of Birrell and Mackenzie Streets is problematic, as it creates safety issues when trying to make a right hand turn.</li> <li>(iii) Concerns that this location could cause a fatality.</li> <li>(iv) Small sweep for buses turning left into Birrell Street from Bourke Road creating safety concerns and potential damage to parked vehicles.</li> </ol> </li> <li>(c) Officers are presently conducting a road safety audit of this location.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Expedites the completion of the road safety audit as a matter of urgency given the serious road safety implications.</li> <li>3. As matter of urgency:</li> </ol>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Ensures any planting in the garden beds is low and does not impede vision of drivers.</li> <li>(b) Installs additional line marking in the vicinity to reinforce safe vehicular movements.</li> </ul> <p>4. Officers prepare a report with the outcomes of the road safety audit and recommended actions to address any concerns identified, including removal of the garden bed closest to the road at the intersection of Birrell and Mackenzie Streets, as a matter of urgency and continues meaningful consultation with residents about the solutions.</p>
Traffic Committee 23 March 2023	TC/C.01/23.03	<p><i>Council adopted the recommendation below.</i></p> <p>That Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approves the signage and line marking plans for the Birrell Street Renewal Project between Newland Street and Bronte Road, as shown in Attachment 1 of the report.</li> <li>2. Notes the community consultation report on the project attached to the report (Attachment 2).</li> <li>3. Notes that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Modifications to the lanes at the signalised intersections of Birrell Street and Bronte Road will be submitted to Transport for NSW for approval, with any required design and signage changes being approved by Transport for NSW.</li> <li>(b) Council will proceed to tendering for construction services for the length of Birrell Street between Newland Street and Bronte Road.</li> <li>(c) A separate report will be submitted to the Traffic Committee in the 2023–24 financial year for a subsequent stage of works for the length of Birrell Street between Bronte Road and Tamarama Street.</li> </ul> </li> <li>4. Delegates authority to the Executive Manager, Infrastructure Services, to modify the designs should on-site circumstances warrant changes.</li> </ul> <p>This was confirmed and adopted by Council in the April 2023 Council Meeting.</p>

#### 4. Discussion

A Road Safety Audit was undertaken on Wednesday, 29 January 2025, by the Transport Planning Partnership (TPPP). This audit assessed Birrell Street between Stanley Street and Bourke Street (see Figure 1 below). This included the following intersections:

- Birrell Street and Stanley Street.
- Birrell Street and Gardiner Street.
- Birrell Street and Stanley Lane.
- Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street.
- Birrell Street and Fitzgerald Street.
- Birrell Street and Brisbane Street.
- Birrell Street and Bourke Street.

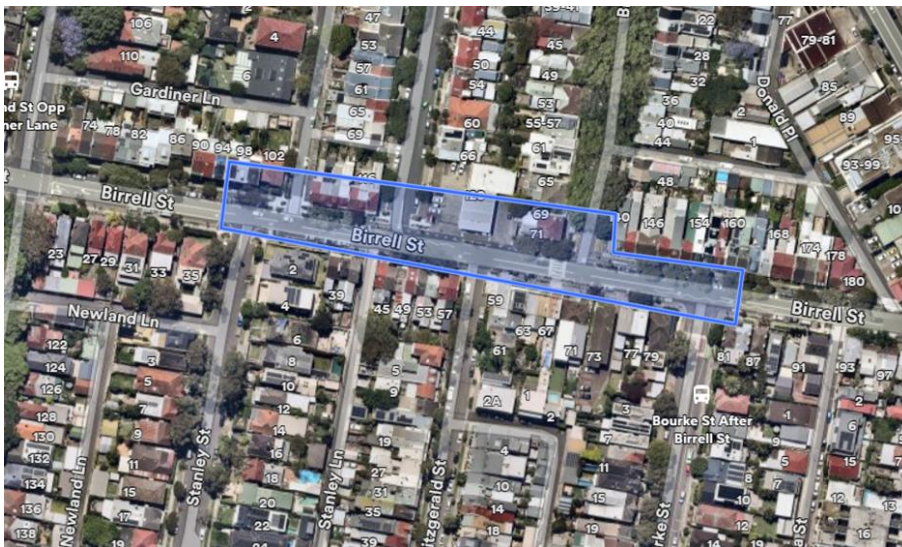


Figure 1. Extent of road safety audit.

This report focuses on the findings raised in the road safety audit that relate to the intersections of Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street and Birrell Street and Bourke Street.

The key findings from audit are as follows:

#### **Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street intersection**

- There is limited signage or delineation indicating the presence of the cycleway to drivers turning from Birrell Street into Mackenzie Street. This creates further issues with regards to which user has priority at the intersection. It is ambiguous as to whether cyclists or drivers have priority over the other at this location. There is also limited signage or delineation indicating the presence of the cycleway to drivers exiting Mackenzie Street into Birrell Street.
- The 'No Stopping' zone on the northern side of Birrell Street at the intersection of Mackenzie Street is currently about 5 metre in length (see Figure 2). NSW Road Rule 170.3 indicates a minimum no stopping distance of 10 metres at intersections. It should be noted that a Road Controlling Authority may reduce this if required and based on local context. Many intersections in the LGA have shorter no stopping zones. This requires an ongoing balance between multiple user needs (including on-street parking).

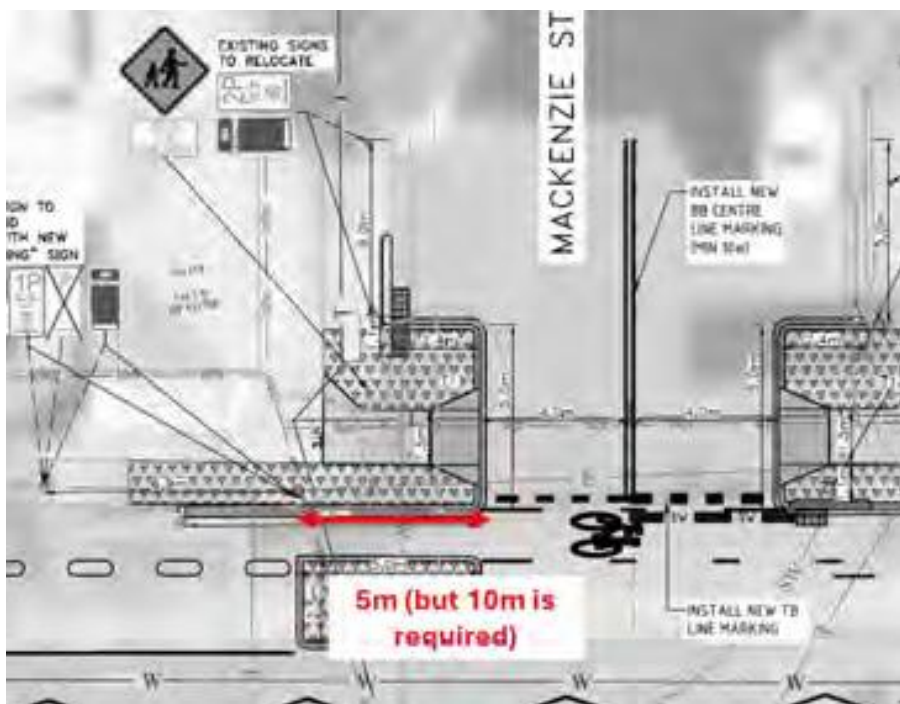


Figure 2. ‘No Stopping’ zone at the intersection of Birrell Street/ Mackenzie Street.

- The RSA indicates limited sightlines at the intersection of Birrell Street and Mackenzie Street due to parked vehicles. The report suggests removing one car parking space to aid in achieving the required sight distance for the road environment. It is worth noting that limited sightlines are commonplace throughout the LGA.

As a result of limited sightlines, a ‘Give Way’ hold line was placed both before and after the cycleway on Mackenzie Street (see Figure 3) in December 2024. Drivers are expected to check for cyclists using the cycleway and then check again for oncoming vehicles before exiting Mackenzie Street onto Birrell Street. This has aided in improving sight distance; however, the RSA identified that this has created a risk of vehicles queueing over the cycleway. The cycleway is uphill at this location. As such, a cyclist is not anticipated to be travelling at a speed that results in them being unable to identify a queued vehicle.



Figure 3. Give way lines at the intersection of Birrell Street/ Mackenzie Street.

- Vehicles often cross the painted centreline (double barrier line) on Mackenzie Street when entering from Birrell Street. It is noted that the design swept paths for this intersection show the same behaviour will occur for medium rigid vehicles (rubbish trucks). This is considered a

low risk and would likely lead to a property damage only type incident due to low vehicle speeds. This centreline was installed because of public consultation during the design phase of the project.

The likelihood of a vehicle entering Mackenzie Street as another is attempting to leave and an incident occurring is considered low risk. The overall risk of a collision occurring due to the narrow road width at the entrance to Mackenzie Street is considered low.

- The tightening of the intersection, due to the installed kerb extensions and garden bed, significantly lowers vehicle speeds though the intersection and narrows the crossing distance for pedestrians and cyclists. The reduction of speed results in significantly lower crash risk, especially with regards to cyclist and pedestrian crashes. Typically, the risk of a fatal injury occurring for a pedestrian/cyclist accident with a vehicle travelling at 50 km/h is over five times as high as when a vehicle is travelling at 30 km/h. This reduction in crash risk and severity is significant.

### **Birrell Street and Bourke Street**

- The nature of the intersection, as well as the constrained lane width on Birrell Street results in left-turning busses from Bourke Street to Birrell Street needing to occupy much of the eastbound travel lane on Birrell Street as they make a turn (see Figure 4). This is considered low risk, both due to low vehicle speeds and the associated crash risk. This condition is also commonplace throughout the LGA. The swept paths performed during the design phase indicate that a bus can perform this movement without impacting vehicles parked on the northern side of Birrell Street.



*Figure 4. Turning path of a bus exiting Bourke Street westbound onto Birrell Street.*

### **Recommendations**

As a result of the road safety audit, the following improvements are recommended:

- Install cycleway warning signage in Birrell Street where vehicles turn into Mackenzie Street. This would likely need to be facing either direction on Birrell Street. The typical signage for this is shown in the figure below.



W8-200n (Bicycle Crossing On Side Street):



W6-7 – Bicycle (symbolic):



W8-23 – Crossing Arrows (double ended arrow):



Figure 5. Cycleway warning signage.

- Install additional line markings to increase conspicuity of the cycleway at the Birrell Street/ Mackenzie Street intersection. This will include logos facing drivers and arrows to show the cycleway directions. It should be noted that these are advisory signs only. They do not require formal approval under delegation as they are not a prescribed traffic control device by Transport for NSW.
- Convert one car parking space in Birrell Street on the western side of Mackenzie Street to motorcycle parking. This will improve sight distance, resulting in a safer environment for vehicles exiting Mackenzie Street onto Birrell Street. Further, as vehicles have more visibility, it is expected they will be stopped in the cycleway for a shorter period. This results in the intersection aligning with NSW Road Rule 170.3. This improvement can be implemented under the Temporary Delegation of Traffic Management and Pedestrian Works (see Figure 6). Traffic Committee advice is not required.

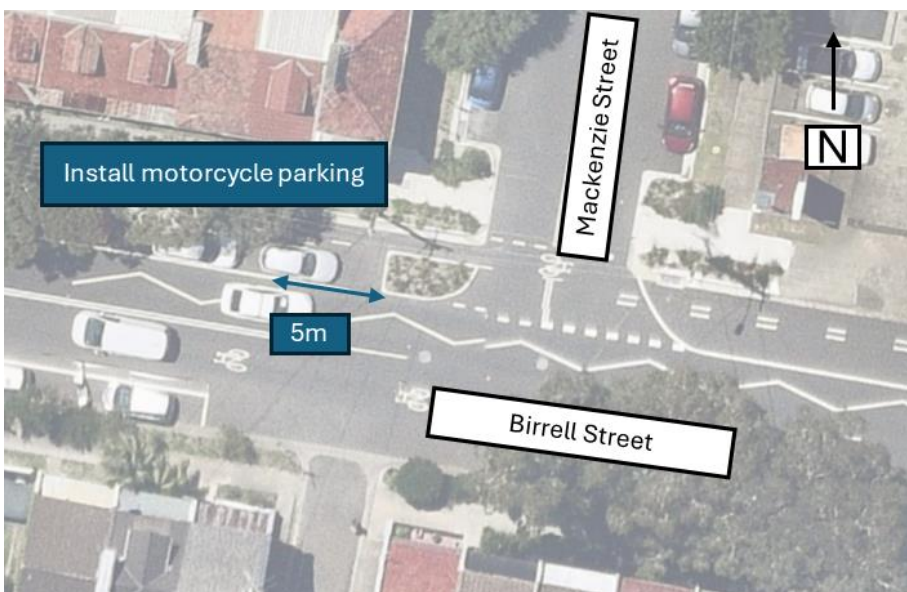


Figure 6. Motorcycle parking.

- Retain the garden bed on the western side of the Mackenzie Street and Birrell Street intersection. This garden bed results in lower vehicle speeds when entering and exiting Mackenzie Street. Lower vehicle speeds lead to lower likelihood and severity outcomes for all users and is of particular importance where pedestrian and cyclist interactions are anticipated, such as at the Mackenzie Street and Birrell Street intersection.

## **5. Financial Impact**

The recommended improvements are low-cost treatments. They are proposed to be implemented using existing Council budgets.

## **6. Risks/Issues**

A potential risk associated with these works is the impact on residents regarding the reallocation of on-street parking. This issue was previously raised during public consultation during the design phase. However, the safety benefits gained through the proposed additional treatments are considered to outweigh the potential negative impacts of one fewer car parking space being available. Council officers have also previously met with a group of residents in the area. The solution of reallocating some vehicle parking was raised during that meeting.

## **7. Attachments**

Nil.

## REPORT

### FC/5.6/25.04



**Subject:** Petition - Basketball Hoop at Brae Street and Lugar Street Intersection, Bronte

**TRIM No:** A25/0066

**Manager:** Nikolaos Zervos, Executive Manager, Infrastructure Services

**Director:** Sharon Cassidy, Director, Assets and Operations

### RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Notes the petition opposing the removal of the basketball hoop at the intersection of Brae Street and Lugar Street, Bronte.
2. Removes the basketball hoop, as playing basketball on the road is illegal as per the *Road Rules 2014* (NSW), and poses a safety risk to players and drivers alike.
3. Investigates opportunities for a half-court in nearby parks.

#### 1. Executive Summary

Council has received a petition containing 43 signatures of residents of Brae Street, Lugar Street and Rose Street, Bronte, requesting that the basketball hoop on the corner of Brae Street and Lugar Streets not be removed.

It is recommended that the basketball hoop is removed as it creates a safety risk and promotes the activity of playing basketball on the road, which is prohibited by the *Road Rules 2014*.

#### 2. Introduction/Background

Council accepts petitions from persons who have an interest in the Waverley local government area as residents, landowners, businesses or in some other capacity. Petitions must concern matters that Council is authorised to determine.

#### 3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Meeting and date	Item No.	Resolution
Council 16 February 2021	CM/7.8/21.02	That Council: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Refers the petition to keep the Mackenzie Street basketball ring to the Director, Planning, Environment and Regulatory, for appropriate action.</li> <li>2. Officers report back to Council on the action taken on the petition.</li> </ol>



#### 4. Discussion

The petition states:

*We LOVE the basketball hoop that is located on the corner of Brae & Lugar Street, Bronte NSW 2024. We do not want to have the communal hoop removed please.*

*It is a real community asset and brings all the local families and children together, promoting friendship, a healthy, happy lifestyle and a formidable sense of community amongst us all.*

*Children and adults alike are taking advantage of the communal hoop each day you can see how much joy it brings to the street.*

*The communal hoop does not pose any safety concerns to our community, we all look out for one another, and it does not impact anyone's sleep as we are all on the same page with everyone needing their rest and sleep.*

The petition complies with Council's Petitions Policy.

The relevant road rules that apply in NSW that prohibit activities such as playing basketball include:

*230 Crossing a road—general*

*(1) A pedestrian crossing a road—*

*(a) must cross by the shortest safe route, and*

*(b) must not stay on the road longer than necessary to cross the road safely.*

*Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.*

*236 Pedestrians not to cause a traffic hazard or obstruction*

*(1) A pedestrian must not cause a traffic hazard by moving into the path of a driver.*

*Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.*

*(2) A pedestrian must not unreasonably obstruct the path of any driver or another pedestrian.*

*Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.*

*238 Pedestrians travelling along a road (except in or on a wheeled recreational device or toy)*

*(1) A pedestrian must not travel along a road if there is a footpath or nature strip adjacent to the road, unless it is impracticable to travel on the footpath or nature strip.*

*Maximum penalty—20 penalty units.*

Given the above context, the placement of the basketball hoop in the traffic island would result in illegal activities as defined by the *Road Rules 2014* and must be removed and not allowed to be reinstated.

For the benefit of the greater community, it is warranted to investigate alternative play options for all local users. The Open Space and Recreation Strategy (OSRS) 2021-2031 highlights a gap in youth-oriented facilities such as skateparks and basketball courts, which provide outdoor spaces for adolescents to socialise and improve health and well-being. The strategy emphasises the increasing community demand for flexible, informal activities, known as 'pick-up and play' sports. These activities, like basketball and tennis, are important for community health, offering benefits comparable to organised sports.

Suitable locations for a formalised and safe space to play basketball will be investigated in Macpherson Park, Varna Park and Simpson Park, which are close to Yanko Avenue and Evans Street.

**5. Financial Impact**

There is no financial impact to remove the basketball hoop.

**6. Risks/Issues**

There is a traffic island on the corner of Lugar Street and Brae Street. It was installed in 2021 as part of the 40km/h speed limit changes. The 85th percentile speeds in this location prior to the installation of the traffic island were 47km/h, representing a higher than desirable speed within a local street. This further amplifies the associated risks of injury or fatality. Council has a duty of care to ensure road users abide by the road rules.

**7. Attachments**

Nil.

**REPORT**  
**FC/5.7/25.04**WAVERLEY  
COUNCIL

**Subject:** Inquiry into Antisemitism in NSW - Submission

**TRIM No:** A25/0307

**Manager:** Annette Trubenbach, Executive Manager, Community Services

**Director:** Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council approves the submission to the NSW Legislative Council's Inquiry into Antisemitism in NSW attached to the report (Attachment 1).

**1. Executive Summary**

The NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities has commenced an inquiry into antisemitism in NSW. Following Council's approval of its Strategy to Combat Antisemitism on 18 March 2025, this report seeks approval to lodge the attached submission.

**2. Introduction/Background**

An inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales has commenced. Submissions are invited from interested parties and will close on 6 April 2025.

The committee will hold hearings in May and June 2025.

**3. Relevant Council Resolutions**

Nil

**4. Discussion**

The NSW Legislative Council's Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities has commenced an inquiry into antisemitism in NSW.

The committee will consider the causes underlying increasing incidents of antisemitism across the state and the threat that these incidents present to social cohesion. See Attachment 2 for the inquiry's terms of reference.

Referring to this alarming rise in antisemitism, the Chair of the committee, the Hon Robert Borsak MLC, has indicated the committee will investigate ways that the safety of the Jewish community in NSW can be enhanced. This will include examining ways to improve security around synagogues to help prevent antisemitic attacks in the future.

Other issues the Committee will be exploring include ways to protect individuals from the practice of 'doxing', and how to improve the privacy arrangements around public information that can identify an individual or their home address.

The provision of community information, education and facilitated community networks to build social cohesion have all been identified as important actions in the fight against prejudice, racism and violence. The Committee will also explore the role of the Sydney Jewish Museum (SJM) in providing Holocaust education for students. Collaboration with the SJM and other key stakeholders has already been included as a key action in Council's Strategy to Combat Antisemitism.

The committee is calling for written submissions and will hold hearings in May and June 2025. Contributions to the inquiry can be made by lodging a submission by 11.59 pm Sunday, 6 April 2025.

Having just completed the Strategy to Combat Antisemitism, a first in local government, Council believes it can make an important contribution to this inquiry. The Strategy will form part of Council's submission. The submission is attached to this report (Attachment 1).

## **5. Financial Impact**

Preparation of the submission is covered in Council's operational budget.

## **6. Risks/Issues**

Council's submission will make a valuable contribution to this inquiry and help address current and emerging developments impacting the Waverley community while proposing actions that more broadly aim to strengthen social cohesion and community connectedness.

## **7. Attachments**

1. Draft submission [↓](#)
2. Inquiry into Antisemitism in NSW - Terms of Reference [↓](#)

**Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities**  
**Submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Antisemitism in New South Wales**  
**March 2025**

**1 Introduction**

Waverley Council welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the parliamentary inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales. As a local government body committed to fostering an inclusive and harmonious community, we are deeply concerned by the increasing incidents of antisemitism affecting the Jewish population in our LGA, Sydney and New South Wales.

Antisemitism, in all its forms, poses a direct threat to the safety, well-being, and social cohesion of our diverse community. Over recent years, there has been a marked increase in reported antisemitic incidents, ranging from verbal abuse and online harassment to physical attacks and vandalism. These acts of hate undermine the fundamental values of multiculturalism and tolerance that define Australian society.

This submission outlines the prevalence of antisemitism within our council area, the challenges faced by Jewish residents, Council's leadership role in response to antisemitic threats, and our recommendations for stronger and better coordinated government action at all levels.

Our insights are based on

- Direct reports from Jewish community leaders, schools, places of worship, and residents who have experienced antisemitism firsthand,
- Feedback received from Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee,
- Information from key response agencies
- Comments we have received from targeted stakeholders during consultation activities.

**2 The causes underlying the increasing prevalence and severity of antisemitic incidents across the state**

Following the events of 7 October 2023, which saw a surge in incidences of antisemitism, Waverley Council has witnessed increases in both frequency and severity of antisemitic actions in the local area.

*Incidents and Trends*

Recent data from Jewish community organisations, including the Executive Council of Australian Jewry (ECAJ) and the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies (NSWJBD), indicate a significant increase in antisemitic incidents. Key trends observed within our council area include:

- Graffiti and vandalism: Synagogues, Jewish schools, community centres, and businesses have been defaced with swastikas and antisemitic slurs.
- Harassment and intimidation: Jewish individuals, particularly those wearing identifiable religious attire (such as kippahs or Star of David necklaces), have reported being subjected to verbal abuse and physical threats in public places.
- Online hate speech: The spread of antisemitic rhetoric, conspiracy theories, and Holocaust denial has increased across social media platforms globally, with Jewish residents being targeted with hateful messages.

Several key factors have contributed to the increasing levels of antisemitism in Sydney:

*Political and Global Influences*

- Geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East, have led to a rise in antisemitic rhetoric, targeting local Jewish individuals unfairly.
- Certain political protests have included explicitly antisemitic chants and slogans.

*Extremist Ideologies*

- The rise of extremist groups promoting white supremacist ideologies has contributed to violent and hateful rhetoric against Jewish Australians.
- Some extremist elements have engaged in rhetoric that, while ostensibly political, veers into antisemitic territory by demonising Jewish identity.

*Lack of Legal and Institutional Action*

- Underreporting and misclassification of antisemitic crimes mean that many incidents are not adequately addressed.
- Schools, universities, and workplaces often lack clear policies for addressing antisemitism.

**3 Record levels of antisemitism on university campuses and in schools undermining student safety**

Concerns about racism in schools and higher education have been growing, particularly in relation to antisemitism following the events of 7 October 2023. At the Waverley Youth Summit in 2024, Jewish students expressed concerns around their safety outside of their school grounds, as they have experienced verbal abuse on several occasions.

We are aware that the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights was tasked to inquire into and make recommendations about policies, frameworks and regulations preventing antisemitism at universities. This response clearly indicates the Government's commitment to implementing a multipronged approach to addressing antisemitism at universities and broader issues relating to racism in Australia.

The Waverley LGA is close to major tertiary education facilities and campuses with many international and domestic students accessing local accommodation and visiting our retail precincts, beaches, recreational, social and cultural opportunities. Council's cultural diversity officer has initiated a support network for international students and, at a recent Jewish stakeholder meeting, connected with the Jewish national university liaison officer. These contacts and networks present opportunities for Council facilitated and coordinated social cohesion strategies with a focus on creating welcoming, inclusive and resilient environments.

**4 The threat to social cohesion in New South Wales presented by antisemitism**

These incidents have contributed to a growing sense of fear and insecurity within the Jewish community, affecting their participation in public life and their overall quality of life. Antisemitism weakens us all and as such presents a significant threat to social cohesion. Antisemitism, like other forms of discrimination or racial vilification, impacts on people's emotional, physical and psychological wellbeing, firstly on the victim, but secondly, on people witnessing or hearing about the violence perpetrated in their 'safe' communities.

In recent consultations with community and Jewish stakeholders, everyone has agreed that by isolating and harming one segment of the community, everyone is impacted as the principles of Australia's foundations as a culturally diverse, safe and inclusive society, are being threatened. When people feel singled out and attacked, when their sense of safety and inclusion is being eroded while bearing witness to a dramatically changing landscape, social cohesion suffers. Bystander/Upstander training and support has been discussed as a strategy to empower people in the community to respond to incidents of vilification or hatred they observe in public places, their workplaces or while moving around in their social circles.

Waverley Council has been proudly supporting policies and strategies to create and maintain a connected and cohesive community, ranging from access to affordable housing to proactive cultural diversity policies, reconciliation efforts and support for vulnerable and socially marginalised people in the community.

A long history of investment in community safety, both in terms of community capacity building, policy implementation and compliance related actions has paid off. We can build on these foundations of strong community connections in the fight against antisemitism, united in our efforts and commitment to protecting community members and preserving community cohesion.

Several antisemitic incidents threatening Waverley's social cohesion in recent times have raised concerns within our council and the broader community:

- A synagogue defaced with Nazi symbols: One of the most distressing incidents involved the defacement of a synagogue with swastikas and antisemitic slogans, causing fear and anxiety within our community.
- Jewish students targeted in schools: Some people have reported that Jewish children were bullied or taunted either at school or while travelling to and from school. This can result in students feeling pressured to hide their religious identity in schools and public places.
- Public demonstrations featuring antisemitic rhetoric: Certain protests and public gatherings have included overtly antisemitic slogans, chants, and banners, creating an intimidating environment for Jewish people. In its submission to Inquiry into antisemitism at Australian universities, the Human Rights Law Centre, concerned about the rise of religious hatred, recommends amending section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act, consolidating laws, and developing guidelines to distinguish permissible expression from incitement to hatred and prohibited hate speech.

## **5 The Challenges Faced by the Jewish Community**

The rise in antisemitism has led to several pressing challenges that require urgent attention. These challenges impact the daily lives, safety, and mental well-being of Jewish residents in Sydney.

### *5.1 Safety and Security Concerns*

The Jewish community faces unique security challenges due to the persistent threat of antisemitic attacks. Specific concerns include:

- Threats against synagogues and Jewish schools: Many Jewish institutions have been forced to invest heavily in security measures, including surveillance cameras, security personnel, and reinforced infrastructure.

- Public safety fears: Jewish residents report feeling unsafe wearing religious symbols in public, with many choosing to avoid certain areas or conceal their identity to reduce the risk of harassment.
- Increased fear among elderly and vulnerable community members: Holocaust survivors and elderly Jewish residents, many of whom have already experienced historical antisemitism, are particularly affected by the rise in hate incidents.

### *5.2 Antisemitism in Schools and Universities*

Educational institutions play a critical role in fostering an inclusive society, yet antisemitism persists in schools and universities. Challenges include:

- Bullying and exclusion: Jewish students have reported being targeted with antisemitic slurs, Nazi salutes, and Holocaust jokes.

### *5.3 Online Hate and Social Media Incitement as a global threat with local impacts*

Social media platforms have become a primary vehicle for the spread of antisemitic propaganda, leading to:

- The spread of conspiracy theories: False claims about Jewish people controlling governments, banks, or the media continue to circulate widely.
- Cyber harassment: Jewish individuals, including community leaders, journalists, and students, have received threats and abusive messages online.
- Radicalisation of extremist groups: Online forums have provided a platform for extremist groups to recruit and spread antisemitic ideology.
- Doxing has been reported as a concern for Jewish people with fears their privacy is being breached, in turn threatening their security.

## **6 How community safety might be enhanced, on behalf of the Jewish community of New South Wales**

### *6.1 Council's leadership position and response to antisemitic threats*

Waverley's strong social cohesion strategies and commitment to cultural diversity and anti racism has provided a sound framework for initiatives and actions in response to antisemitic threats. Since at least 2023, Council has been working solidly on a series of initiatives culminating in March 2025 with the endorsement of the 'Strategy to Combat Antisemitism'.

Being clear of the responsibilities local government has in relation to community safety and demonstrating leadership and willingness to act has ensured the Jewish community feels supported, in turn increasing trust in government and a positive change in perceptions of safety. Whilst it is clearly impossible for Waverley Council to guarantee everyone's safety, inviting dialogue, sending signals of collaboration and support, visible statements of commitment, and proactively addressing safety concerns mean Jewish people know they no longer need to feel alone or abandoned.

In October 2021, Council formally adopted in full the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of antisemitism, including all IHRA examples of antisemitic behaviour in contemporary life, as an important tool in recognising and combating manifestations of antisemitism.

Extensive research was conducted in early 2024 to:

- Review community activities conducted by private organisations and public institutions based in Australia and overseas to combat antisemitism.
- Develop a gap analysis specifically for Waverley based on the above.



- Seek to clarify and improve our understanding how organisations/institutions have implemented the IHRA working definition of antisemitism in a practical way.

Since then, Council has:

1. Endorsed in March 2025, the Strategy to Combat Antisemitism, a toolkit of strategic partnerships and practical actions
2. Hosted a social cohesion forum, attended by over 20 mayors of Sydney, committing to urgent actions in the fight against antisemitism.
3. Initiated a social cohesion project 'Culture Waves' assisted by the NSW Social Cohesion Grants for Local Government funding and supported by trained mentors to help young people have open dialogue about issues of identity and culture.
4. Consistently condemned the dramatic and unprecedented increase in antisemitism occurring in Australia.
5. Continued to commit to removing any antisemitic graffiti and/or posters immediately upon it being reported.
6. Provided cash and in-kind support to community services organisations to assist in providing social services to those individuals affected by the recent attacks on Israel, the ongoing hostage situation and the rising antisemitism in Australia
7. Held a Mayoral Roundtable with Jewish Organisations and representatives on the formulation of Council's antisemitism strategy.
8. Written to the Sydney Jewish Museum to identify opportunities to partner with the Museum and to raise awareness of the increase in antisemitism.
9. Continued to facilitate regular meetings between the Mayor and General Manager and the Local Area Command on the state of community relations, including updates on any antisemitic behaviour within the Waverley LGA since the start of the terrorist attack by Hamas in Israel. The Local Area Command has been proactive in keeping our community safe and is responsive to any harassment and antisemitic behaviour.
10. Congratulated the NSW Premier, the Hon. Chris Minns MP, for strengthening laws in section 93Z of the Crimes Act originally introduced in 2018 against hate speech, threats and incitement to violence through a public act based on race, religion, sexual orientation or other characteristics.
11. Written to the NSW Premier, the State Members for Vaucluse and Coogee, the NSW Opposition Leader and the Member for Wentworth, calling for further actions at State and Federal levels against rising antisemitism.
12. Prepared a report in 2024 that updated the community about actions Council has already taken to combat antisemitism, outlining plans to address the matter.
13. Consultation with the Multicultural Advisory Committee (MAC) on further actions that Council can take to combat antisemitism and its physical and emotional impacts in our community and our schools.
14. Continued to support Jewish organisations and events with grants and support for Jewish culture to be celebrated in the LGA.

#### *6.2 Safety and surveillance*

An audit of CCTV was undertaken to assess current capabilities and potential gaps in the existing network to strengthen surveillance. High level this audit summarised the rise of antisemitic graffiti in the LGA as below. Subject to the sourcing of funding, a plan has been developed to increase and strengthen community safety and CCTV capability across the LGA.

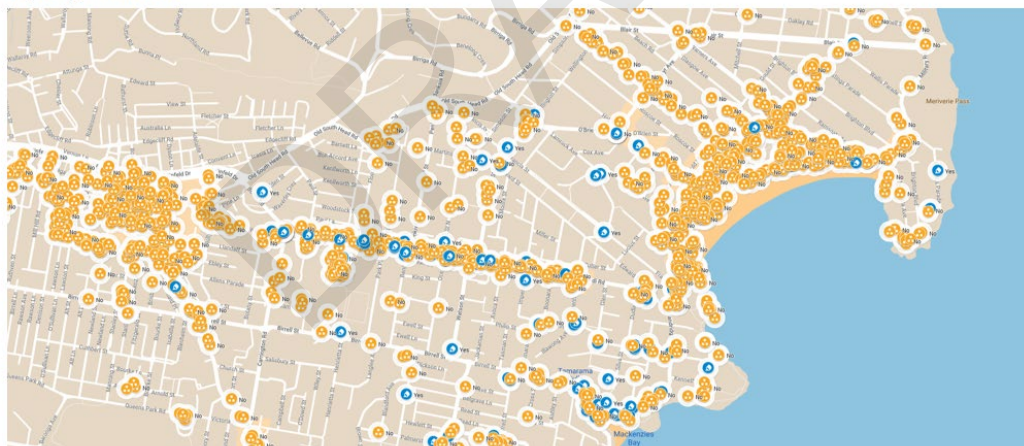
# Existing Network

## CCTV Review – Graffiti

- Graffiti on bus shelters, public bins and other metallic surfaces surrounding bus shelters make up over 60% (107 of 175) of reported antisemitic graffiti in the Waverley LGA.
- The remaining graffiti was reported on electricity boxes, public furniture, toilet blocks and an assortment of other surface types.
- The bus shelter locations that saw a prevalence of graffiti are:
  - Bondi Road
  - Tamarama Marine Drive/ Tamarama Beach
  - Bronte
- Other high-risk graffiti locations included:

Fletcher Street <b>Bondi</b>	Notts Avenue <b>Bondi Beach</b>	Murray Street <b>Bronte</b>	Macpherson & Hewlett Street <b>Bronte</b>
Bondi Beach Promenade <b>Bondi Beach</b>	Bronte Road <b>Bronte</b>	Birrell Street <b>Tamarama</b>	Pacific Avenue <b>Tamarama</b>

Reported graffiti locations



### 6.3 Building Social Cohesion

Fighting antisemitism and building social cohesion is everyone’s business – to be successful, responding to antisemitism must take a whole of government and whole of community approach. Focusing on improvements to physical security infrastructure, surveillance and Police enforcement is important but more is needed to achieve sustained positive change in people’s hearts, minds and attitudes.

Antisemitism is not a static phenomenon, it’s dynamic and manifests itself differently at various times and in different locations. Discriminatory attitudes and behaviours or racial prejudice and bias that ebb and flow in our communities, often following global incidents or exacerbated by local factors, like a downturn in the economy. While immediate actions are needed right now to

stop escalating threats and violence, we need to plan for long term community support strategies to successfully address the rise of antisemitism in Sydney and remain vigilant of flare ups in the future.

#### *6.4 Council's Strategy to Combat Antisemitism*

In March 2025, Waverley Council endorsed the Strategy to Combat Antisemitism, a toolkit of practical actions built around strategic partnerships can be scaled up or down depending on circumstances and severity of impacts. The Mayor, Cr Will Nemesh hosted a roundtable with the Sydney Jewish Museum, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and other stakeholders in early 2025 which sought input and feedback on the draft strategy and action plan. The Strategy aims to protect Jewish communities, promote social cohesion and ensure that individuals, groups and institutions are safe from discrimination, prejudice, hatred and violence.

Ideas and suggestions addressed a range of topics covered in the Strategy. There was strong agreement around the need to strengthen social cohesion to build community understanding and connection, and to ensure the Jewish community, instead of being singled out, is supported by a community of allies. Stakeholder feedback was incorporated into the final draft, along with suggestions from Council's Multicultural Advisory Committee.

We hope the Strategy can be applied in other locations as well and would also be happy to work with interested parties to implement, evaluate and further develop the action plan.

### **7 The role of the Sydney Jewish Museum in providing Holocaust education for students**

The Strategy's action plan includes support for and further strengthening the role of the SJM in providing Holocaust education for students. Feedback from our schools indicate that already there is strong interest and uptake in educational experiences and learnings facilitated by the SJM. Council has also committed to have its senior leadership team and councillors visit the SJM, both to demonstrate commitment to promoting understanding and awareness of the lingering impacts of the Holocaust but also to visibly take a leadership role in championing the importance of education in this area.

### **8 Recommendations for Government Action**

Returning briefly to the issue of 'whole of government' approach, some of the measures governments can take more broadly include:

#### *Strengthened Legal Protections*

- Updated hate crime legislation to ensure stronger penalties for antisemitic offences.
- Improve reporting mechanisms to ensure that antisemitic incidents are accurately documented and prosecuted.

Recent changes have already introduced by the NSW Government that address antisemitic offences. Criminalising the incitement of racial hatred is the latest measure to respond to acts of racial violence and hatred.

Other actions include:

- Introducing a new offence in the *Crimes Act* to ensure people of faith can attend their place of worship in safety and provide police with associated move on powers;

- Introducing a new offence in 93ZA of the *Crimes Act* directed to the display of a Nazi symbol on or near a synagogue or place of worship, Jewish school or the Sydney Jewish Museum;
- Amending existing graffiti offences to make it an aggravated offence to graffiti a place of worship; and
- Ensuring that hatred or prejudice as motive for an offence will be an aggravating factor on sentence regardless of the presence of other motives.
- Consolidating laws and establishing clear guidelines of permissible and non permissible forms of expression

New legislation will need to be adequately resourced so that perpetrators are actively deterred from carrying out criminal acts, understand they can no longer act with impunity.

#### *Increased Security Measures*

- Provide or advocate for additional funding for security assessments or security upgrades at synagogues, Jewish schools, and community centres.
- Expand law enforcement training on recognising and responding to antisemitic incidents and develop agreed measures to record and report on follow up actions in response to incidents.

#### *Educational and Awareness Programs*

- Introduce compulsory Holocaust education in all NSW schools to combat misinformation and historical revisionism.
- Implement training for teachers on identifying and addressing antisemitism in schools and provide resources and supports to assist teachers in their responses.
- Support interfaith and programs focused on culturally diverse communities to promote social cohesion.

#### *Social Media and Online Regulation*

- Work with technology companies to remove antisemitic content and prevent the spread of hate speech.
- Strengthen laws against the incitement of violence online.

#### *Workplace and Institutional Reforms*

- Implement anti-discrimination policies in workplaces and universities to address antisemitism.
- Provide support for Jewish professionals facing bias or exclusion.

## **9 Conclusion**

The rise of antisemitism in Sydney represents a direct challenge to the principles of multiculturalism, safety, and social harmony. Antisemitism, along with other forms of discrimination and racial vilification can significantly undermine social cohesion in our communities. While it is acknowledged that the three levels of government have already responded to the increase in threats and violence on many fronts, more is needed to protect Jewish residents and uphold the values of inclusivity and respect.

We urge the parliamentary inquiry to take decisive action to combat antisemitism and ensure that Sydney remains a safe and welcoming city for all. We remain open and committed to contribute to these efforts in any way we can. Waverley's recently adopted Strategy to Combat

Antisemitism may be a useful tool that can be more widely used by others in the fight against hate crimes.

**Attachment**

Waverley Council – Strategy to Combat Antisemitism, March 2025

**Inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities inquire into and report on antisemitism in New South Wales, and in particular:
  - (a) the causes underlying the increasing prevalence and severity of antisemitic incidents across the state
  - (b) record levels of antisemitism on university campuses and in schools undermining student safety
  - (c) the threat to social cohesion in New South Wales presented by antisemitism
  - (d) how community safety might be enhanced, on behalf of the Jewish community of New South Wales
  - (e) ways to improve security arrangements around synagogues
  - (f) arrangements to protect individuals from the practice of "doxing"
  - (g) privacy arrangements around public information that may identify an individual or their address, such as land title records and electoral roll information, and
  - (h) the role of the Sydney Jewish Museum in providing Holocaust education for students.



## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

## PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE NO. 5 – JUSTICE AND COMMUNITIES

**Inquiry into antisemitism in New South Wales****TERMS OF REFERENCE**

1. That Portfolio Committee No. 5 – Justice and Communities inquire into and report on antisemitism in New South Wales, and in particular:
  - (a) the causes underlying the increasing prevalence and severity of antisemitic incidents across the state
  - (b) record levels of antisemitism on university campuses and in schools undermining student safety
  - (c) the threat to social cohesion in New South Wales presented by antisemitism
  - (d) how community safety might be enhanced, on behalf of the Jewish community of New South Wales
  - (e) ways to improve security arrangements around synagogues
  - (f) arrangements to protect individuals from the practice of "doxing"
  - (g) privacy arrangements around public information that may identify an individual or their address, such as land title records and electoral roll information, and
  - (h) the role of the Sydney Jewish Museum in providing Holocaust education for students.
2. That the committee report by 1 September 2025.

The terms of reference for the inquiry were referred to the committee by the Legislative Council on 12 February 2025.<sup>1</sup>

**Committee membership**

<b>Hon Robert Borsak MLC</b>	Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party	<i>Chair</i>
<b>Dr Amanda Cohn MLC*</b>	The Greens	<i>Deputy Chair</i>
<b>Hon Greg Donnelly MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>Hon Scott Farlow MLC*</b>	Liberal Party	
<b>Hon Stephen Lawrence MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>Hon Cameron Murphy MLC</b>	Australian Labor Party	
<b>Hon Chris Rath MLC*</b>	Liberal Party	

<sup>1</sup> *Minutes*, NSW Legislative Council, 12 February 2025, item 26.

- \* Dr Amanda Cohn MLC substituted for Ms Sue Higginson MLC from 17 February 2025 for the duration of the inquiry.
- \* The Hon Nichole Overall MLC replaced the Hon Scott Barrett MLC as a substantive member of the committee from 18 February 2025. The Hon Chris Rath MLC substituted for Hon Nichole Overall MLC from 19 February 2025 for the duration of the inquiry.
- \* Hon Scott Farlow MLC substituted for the Hon Natasha Maclaren-Jones MLC from 19 February 2025 for the duration of the inquiry.

**CLOSED SESSION**  
**FC/7/25.04****Subject:** Moving into Closed Session**Author:** Emily Scott, General Manager**WAVERLEY**  
COUNCIL**RECOMMENDATION:**

That:

1. Council moves into closed session to deal with the matters listed below, which are classified as confidential under section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act* for the reasons specified:

FC/7.1/25.04 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Oxford Street Mall Markets - Licence - Exhibition

This matter is considered to be confidential in accordance with section 10A(2)(d)(i) of the *a*, and the Committee is satisfied that discussion of the matter in an open meeting would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest as it deals with commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed, prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it.

2. Pursuant to section 10A(1), 10(2) and 10A(3) of the *Local Government Act*, the media and public be excluded from the meeting on the basis that the business to be considered is classified as confidential under section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act*.
3. The correspondence and reports relevant to the subject business be withheld from the media and public as provided by section 11(2) of the *Local Government Act*.

**Introduction/Background**

In accordance with section 10A(2) of the Act, Council may close part of its meeting to deal with business of the following kind:

- (a) Personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).
- (b) Personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer.
- (c) Information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
- (d) Commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed:
  - (i) Prejudice the commercial position of a person who supplied it: or
  - (ii) Confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of Council;
  - (iii) Reveal a trade secret.
- (e) Information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.
- (f) Matters affecting the security of Council, Councillors, Council staff and Council property.
- (g) Advice concerning litigation, or advice that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the grounds of legal professional privilege.
- (h) Information concerning the nature and location of a place or an item of Aboriginal significance on community land.
- (i) Alleged contraventions of any Code of Conduct requirements applicable under section 440.



It is my opinion that the business listed in the recommendation is of a kind referred to in section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* and, under the provisions of the Act and the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, should be dealt with in a part of the meeting that is closed to members of the public and the media.

Pursuant to section 10A(4) of the Act and clauses 14.9–14.10 of the Waverley Code of Meeting Practice, members of the public may make representations to the meeting immediately after the motion to close part of the meeting is moved and seconded, as to whether that part of the meeting should be closed.

## **RESUMING IN OPEN SESSION FC/8/25.04**

**Subject:** Resuming in Open Session

**Author:** Emily Scott, General Manager



**W A V E R L E Y**  
COUNCIL

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council resumes in open session.

### **Introduction/Background**

In accordance with clause 14.21 of the Waverley Code of Meeting Practice, when the meeting resumes in open session the chair will announce the resolutions made by Council while the meeting was closed to members of the public and the media.