



## WAVERLEY COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE WAVERLEY EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE BOOT FACTORY, SPRING STREET, BONDI JUNCTION ON THURSDAY, 15 JANUARY 2026

#### **Present:**

Councillor Will Nemesh (Mayor) (Chair)	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 Katherine Westwood	Lawson 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

*A public forum chaired by the Mayor was held at 6.30 pm before the meeting.*

*At the commencement of the meeting at 7.41 pm, those present were as listed above.*

*At 7.46 pm, following declarations of interest, a procedural motion, moved by Cr Nemesh and seconded by Cr Stephenson, to allow the media to film the proceedings of the meeting in accordance with clause 15.27 of the Code of Meeting Practice, was put and declared carried.*

**PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS HERITAGE**

The Mayor 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/Leaves of Absence**

**CM/1.1/26.01E      Leave of Absence - Cr Wy Kanak (A03/0029)**

**MOTION**

Mover: Cr Fabiano  
Seconder: Cr Masselos

That Council grants Cr Wy Kanak a leave of absence from this meeting as he is travelling out of state.

THE MOTION WAS PUT AND DECLARED LOST.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

The Chair called for declarations of interest and none were received.

**3. Mayoral Minutes**

**CM/3.1/26.01E      Royal Commission on Antisemitism and Social Cohesion (A25/2312)**

**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh  
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Acknowledges the overwhelming sentiment of the Waverley community for a Commonwealth Royal Commission to be established to inquire into antisemitism in Australia and the events relating to the Bondi Beach terror attack that occurred on 14 December 2025.
2. Commends the Australian Government for its announcement on 8 January 2026 establishing a Commonwealth Royal Commission.
3. Notes that the Royal Commission will cover four key areas:
  - (a) Investigating the nature and prevalence of antisemitism in institutions and society, examining its key drivers in Australia, including religious and ideologically motivated extremism and radicalisation, including in the lead up to the antisemitic Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025

- (b) Make recommendations to assist law enforcement, border control, immigration and security agencies to tackle antisemitism.
- (c) Examine the circumstances leading up to, during and following the antisemitic Bondi terrorist attack on 14 December 2025.
- (d) Make recommendations to strengthen the national consensus in support of democracy, freedom and the rule of law (social cohesion) and counter the spread of ideologically and religiously motivated extremism in Australia.

4. Notes the appointment of former High Court Justice Virginia Bell AC to lead the Royal Commission, with a report due back to Government by no later than 14 December 2026.

5. Requests the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister, the Hon Anthony Albanese, MP informing him of this resolution.

*A Ostrovsky (on behalf of Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council), M Goldman (on behalf of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies), T Coburn and J Pinczewski addressed the public forum.*

**CM/3.2/26.01E                    Condolences for the Victims of the Bondi Beach Terror Attack (A25/2312)**

**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh  
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Notes that it will invite public obituaries at its first ordinary Council meeting on Tuesday 24 February 2026 for the following individuals:
  - (a) Matilda.
  - (b) Edith Brutman.
  - (c) Dan Elkayam.
  - (d) Boris Gurman.
  - (e) Sofia Gurman.
  - (f) Alexander Kleytman.
  - (g) Rabbi Yaakov Levitan.
  - (h) Peter Meagher.
  - (i) Reuven Morrison.
  - (j) Marika Pogany.
  - (k) Rabbi Eli Schlanger.

- (l) Adam Smyth.
- (m) Boris Tetleroyd.
- (n) Tania Tretiak.
- (o) Tibor Weitzen.

2. Informs the families of the bereaved and places a notice on Council's digital and social media channels of this resolution.

## Background

The loss of 15 souls as a result of the senseless violence that occurred on 14 December 2025 has been deeply felt not just across our Waverley community but Australia and the rest of the world. For those who called them family, friends, colleagues, neighbours, their presence can never be replaced. We will continue to remember and honour them. Council extends its deepest sympathies to the families, friends and loved ones of the victims.

Council acknowledges the profound and enduring impact of this attack on those directly affected, on the Waverley community and especially its Jewish community. As our community continues to grieve this senseless act of violence and loss of life, Council proposes to honour the 15 victims at its first ordinary Council meeting on 24 February 2026 by providing an opportunity for public obituaries to be shared.

Waverley Council will formally inform and invite the families of the bereaved to attend this meeting and again extends its heartfelt condolences to all those affected.

In memory of the victims, we choose light over darkness.

*A Ostrovsky (on behalf of Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council), M Goldman (on behalf of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies), J Pinczewski and S Betts addressed the public forum.*

## CM/3.3/26.01E      **Council Response to the Bondi Beach Terror Attack (A25/2312)**

### **MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh  
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Notes the letters of condolence from mayors, councillors and other individuals and organisations in response to the Bondi Beach terror attack on 14 December 2025, including those listed in the attachments to this mayoral minute.
2. Notes the following actions Council has taken in response to the Bondi Beach terror attack:
  - (a) Allocated \$100,000 to community organisations to provide direct support to the Jewish community (Council resolution CM/4.1/25.12E), including distributing \$78,000 of this grant funding via an expressions of interest process to the following organisations as at 11 January 2026:
    - (i) COA Sydney Incorporated – \$10,000.

- (ii) Jewish Education Matters – \$10,000.
- (iii) Our Big Kitchen – \$10,000.
- (iv) Community Health Support – \$10,000.
- (v) Bridges for Peace – \$4,500.
- (vi) Kids Giving Back – \$6,000.
- (vii) Dover Heights Synagogue – \$10,000.
- (viii) Sydney Chevra Kadisha – \$10,000.
- (ix) North Bondi Surf Life Saving Club – \$7,500.

(b) Allocated from 23 December 2025 the Yalagang Room and the Garu and Guya courtyards for marquee space, and the Artist Studio in the Art Gallery for use by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, NSW Health and Lifeline community services and notes that this will be operational until the end of January 2026.

(c) Allocated an additional space for Lifeline Australia to provide direct mental health support services to impacted community members (Council resolution CM/4.1/25.12E).

(d) Flew flags at half-mast on all Council buildings from 15 December 2025 to 2 January 2026 (Council resolution CM/4.1/25.12E).

(e) Repositioned the Chanukiah (designed by artist Joel Adler) from Dover Heights to 'Archer Park' to serve as a temporary memorial until a permanent memorial is established.

(f) Approved a temporary kiosk located in Park Drive North adjacent to North Bondi Playground to be used by the community as a place for connection and prayer.

(g) Supported the Sydney Jewish Museum and the Australian Jewish Historical Society and their volunteers in the preservation of the floral tribute decommissioning process on 22 December 2025.

3. Acknowledges and thanks LGNSW President Mayor Darcy Byrne and all participating NSW mayors, deputy mayors, councillors and general managers for their support and show of solidarity in participating in the wreath-laying tribute on Thursday 18 December 2025.

4. Expresses our deep appreciation and gratitude to the NSW Government for the assistance provided to Council and the community, including:

- (a) Financial assistance to Waverley Council, the Jewish community and Waverley businesses through the NSW Reconstruction Authority.
- (b) Ongoing support from NSW Police and the Waverley Local Area Command.
- (c) The establishment of the Bondi Community Hub at Bondi Pavilion on 23 December 2025 and notes that it will be in place until the end of January 2026.
- (d) Supporting Chabad of Bondi and NSW Jewish Board of Deputies in the coordination of the

Light Over Darkness, A Night of Unity, Menorah Lighting and Commemoration event held in Bondi Park with over 15,000 participants on the final day of Channukah 2025.

5. Authorises the General Manager, in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, to make recommendations for recipients of the Prime Minister's Special Honours List on behalf of Council, including a nomination to posthumously acknowledge the following individuals for bravery in risking and sacrificing their lives to stop the gunmen:
  - (a) Boris Gurman.
  - (b) Sofia Gurman.
  - (c) Reuven Morrison.
6. Authorises the Mayor to present a 'Key to the City' (including a lifetime Waverley Beach Pass) to:
  - (a) Ahmed al-Ahmed.
  - (b) Gefen Bitton.
  - (c) Leibel Lazaroff.
7. Organises a civic function in appreciation and gratitude to all first responders.
8. Acknowledges and thanks Waverley Council staff first responders and those involved in the crisis incident response at the Waverley Council Staff Awards in March 2026.
9. Provides Lifeline with month-to-month venue hire access for up to six months to a dedicated space in Bondi Pavilion to continue offering community services at this time, noting that the Bondi Story Room is currently closed until it is refurbished as a community gallery.
10. Writes to the following individuals and organisations informing them of this resolution:
  - (a) Prime Minister of Australia – The Hon Anthony Albanese MP.
  - (b) Leader of the Opposition – The Hon Sussan Ley MP.
  - (c) Premier of NSW – The Hon Chris Minns MP.
  - (d) Leader of the Opposition – Kellie Sloane MP.
  - (e) Member for Coogee – Marjorie O'Neill MP.
  - (f) Federal Member for Wentworth – Allegra Spender MP.
  - (g) Mayor of Inner West Council – Cr Darcy Bryne.
  - (h) NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.
  - (i) Executive Council of Australian Jewry.
  - (j) Chabad of Bondi – Rabbi Yehoram Ulman.
  - (k) Rabbinical Council of NSW.

- (l) Sydney Jewish Museum.
- (m) Australian Jewish Historical Society.
- (n) Surf Life Saving NSW.
- (o) North Bondi RSL.
- (p) Bondi and Districts Chamber of Commerce.

## **Background**

Council would like to express its sincere gratitude firstly to the Waverley community and secondly to the broader Australian community for its response following the horrific terror attack at Chanukah by the Sea at Bondi Beach on Sunday 14 December 2025.

While this attack deliberately targeted our Jewish community, it was an attack on all Australians. Our Waverley community has always been and remains a resilient and tight-knit community where people support each other and look out for one another in the good times and the bad. This has never been so evident in the days and weeks following the attack. The paddle-out by surfers and board riders, the honour guard of lifesavers standing shoulder to shoulder across Australia's beaches and the thousands of people who came to pay their respects are testament to the spirit of our community and that of the Australian people.

Council recognises the extraordinary bravery and selflessness of the first responders and everyday heroes, the police and emergency services, our businesses, our residents, and all those who showed acts of kindness, both big and small, in the days and weeks that followed.

Council would also like to acknowledge the support provided from mayors and councillors from across Australia, as well as acknowledge the assistance provided by the NSW State Government.

Council also recognises the outpouring of grief and support from countless dignitaries and local government officials from Australia and across the world in the form of condolence letters and messages.

Council would like to outline our response to the attack so far.

At an emergency meeting on Tuesday 16 December 2025, Council allocated \$100,000 to community organisations that provide vital direct support to the Jewish Community.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority, NSW Health and Lifeline community services have operated a Community Hub from 23 December 2025 to offer immediate and wide-ranging support to those affected within the Yalagang Room, the Garu and Guya courtyards and the Artist Studio in the Art Gallery. Council notes that this Hub will operate until the end of January 2026. Council has also allocated an additional space for Lifeline to continue offering mental health support services to impacted community members on a temporary but ongoing basis.

Council relocated a Chanukiah from Military Road in Dover Heights to Bondi Park on Tuesday 5 January to serve as a temporary memorial until a permanent memorial is established. This Chanukiah was designed by Jewish artist Joel Adler, in partnership with the Jewish Climate Network, and was commissioned by Waverley Council in 2025 as part of its investment into Chanukah decorations for the community. It is a contemporary interpretation of a Chanukiah, fitted with solar power to light the 'candles.' A plaque will be added to the Chanukiah to read as follows:

*This temporary memorial honours the fifteen souls murdered in the attack on our community on the first night of Chanukah on 14 December 2025. In their memory we choose light over darkness.*

Council also facilitated a temporary kiosk located in Park Drive North adjacent to North Bondi Playground to be used by the community as a place for connection and prayer.

Flags on all Council buildings were flown at half-mast for a two-week period beginning 15 December 2025. In addition, Council suspended all advertising campaigns from 16 December 2025 and, where possible, replaced visuals with commemorative messages for the community. It has committed to additional and ongoing messaging to highlight the resilience and hope of the Bondi and Waverley community.

Beginning on 22 December 2025, Council supported the Sydney Jewish Museum and the Australian Jewish Historical Society and their volunteers to preserve elements of the floral tribute at Bondi Pavilion as it was decommissioned. Council notes that the Jewish community plans to use some of these items, from dried flowers to gifts and cards, in permanent memorials and artworks commemorating victims and survivors.

Council will continue to honour the victims and the survivors of the attack. It will also recognise the heroism of those who put themselves in harm's way with no concern for their own individual safety or welfare. Council intends to award a 'Key to the City'—including a lifetime Waverley beach pass—to Ahmed al-Ahmed, Gefen Bitton and Leibel Lazaroff. Council will also host a civic function to show appreciation and gratitude for all first responders and make recommendations about potential recipients of the Prime Minister's Special Honours List, including posthumous commendations for Boris and Sofia Gurman and Reuven Morrison.

*A Ostrovsky (on behalf of Australia/Israel and Jewish Affairs Council), M Goldman (on behalf of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies), J Pinczewski and A Simon (on behalf of Zionist Council of NSW) addressed the public forum.*

**CM/3.4/26.01E      Commemoration and Memorialisation Process for the Victims of the Bondi Beach Terror Attack (A25/2312)**

**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh  
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Treats the attachment to the mayoral minute 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)(e) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The attachment contains information that would, if disclosed, prejudice the maintenance of law.
2. Notes that the Chanukiah designed by artist Joel Adler has been repositioned from Dover Heights to 'Archer Park' and will serve as a temporary memorial for the community in response to the Bondi Beach terror attack until a permanent memorial can be established.
3. Notes that the NSW Government will lead future conversations with the families of victims, Waverley Council and the Jewish community about the establishment of a permanent memorial.

4. Notes that the commencement of these conversations will be led by the NSW Government supported by Waverley Council, with the timetable yet to be determined.
5. Provides a number of dedicated Bondi Beach Sea Wall mural panels for 12 months along the Bondi Beach promenade with a select expression of interest process to engage artists.
6. Officers curate a reflective visual arts exhibition in Bondi Pavilion Art Gallery showcasing the cultural and community artistic response to the tragedy, and that this exhibition be a collaboration with Shalom Collective incorporating local creatives.
7. Notes that Council commissioned a Bondi Park Bridges and Barrier – Structural Recommendations Report in 2024, which concluded that both the north and south heritage-listed pedestrian bridges across Park Drive in Bondi Park are reaching the end of their useful life and require replacement within several years.
8. Noting that the replacement of the northern pedestrian bridge may form part of a future discussion of a permanent memorial, requests officers to prepare a report to Council to determine the cost, timetable and approvals process for a replacement and/or restoration of both heritage-listed pedestrian bridges, and notes that this resolution does not make a determination on the future of these heritage bridges, only that further assessment will be undertaken.
9. Rescinds resolution PD/5.3/25.03 that proposed to progress design, consultation, approvals and construction of a modified half court in Bondi Park, located to consider the future playground expansion.
10. Initiates the approval process to permanently locate a half-court basketball court as part of the skatepark redevelopment project.
11. Writes to the following individuals and organisations informing them of this resolution:
  - (a) Prime Minister of Australia – The Hon Anthony Albanese MP.
  - (b) Leader of the Opposition – The Hon Sussan Ley MP.
  - (c) Premier of NSW – The Hon Chris Minns MP.
  - (d) Leader of the Opposition – Kellie Sloane MP.
  - (e) Member for Coogee – Marjorie O'Neill MP.
  - (f) Federal Member for Wentworth – Allegra Spender MP.
  - (g) NSW Jewish Board of Deputies.
  - (h) Executive Council of Australian Jewry.
  - (i) Chabad of Bondi – Rabbi Yehoram Ulman.
  - (j) Rabbinical Council of NSW.
  - (k) Sydney Jewish Museum.

- (l) Australian Jewish Historical Society.
- (m) Surf Life Saving NSW.
- (n) North Bondi RSL.
- (o) Bondi and Districts Chamber of Commerce.

## Background

Waverley Council continues to work with the families of the victims, the NSW Government and the Waverley community including the Jewish community to honour those whose lives were lost as well as the survivors following the terror attack at Chanukah by the Sea on 14 December 2025. The process for a permanent memorial at Bondi Beach and Park will be led by the NSW Government. Council acknowledges that there are many beautiful ideas, but this consultation process will take time.

As the process for a permanent memorial will be ongoing, Council will in the interim provide access to the Bondi Beach Sea Wall for a more immediate commemoration response through an EOI process. In addition to this, Council relocated a Chanukiah from Military Road in Dover Heights to Bondi Park on Tuesday 5 January 2026. This Chanukiah was designed by Jewish artist Joel Adler, in partnership with the Jewish Climate Network, and was commissioned by Waverley Council in 2025 as part of its investment into Chanukah decorations for the community. It is a contemporary interpretation of a menorah, fitted with solar power to light the 'candles.'

Council also has facilitated a temporary kiosk located in the Park Drive North adjacent to North Bondi Playground to be used by the community as a place for connection and prayer.

In preparation for Council's Strategic Assessment Management Plan (SAMP) 7, Council commissioned SDA structures to review the structural condition and remediation requirements of the two heritage-listed pedestrian bridges over Park Drive in Bondi Park (the northern heritage-listed bridge being the primary location of the Bondi Beach terror attack on 14 December 2025). The pedestrian bridges (south and north) are both heritage-listed items locally and listed within the Bondi Pavilion, Beach and Park Plan of Management, required under the *Crown Lands Management Act*.

A further report was commissioned by SDA structures in August 2024 to consider the recommendations and remediation of the pedestrian bridges in light of the structural review of adjacent and adjoining assets to the bridges (including but not limited to the walls, paths, stairs). The findings of the report determine that the bridges are nearing the end of their useful life and require replacement in the next few years, with a few options available for Council to consider. Any decision Council makes should be considered in the context of any future discussion on the establishment of a permanent memorial in Bondi Park to honour the victims of the Bondi Beach terror attack. This mayoral minute does not require Council to make a determination on the two heritage-listed pedestrian bridges.

*M Goldman (on behalf of NSW Jewish Board of Deputies), J Pinczewski, S Betts, S Hollis (on behalf of Sydney Jewish Museum), L Webb (on behalf of Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club), N Boaz (on behalf of Friends of Bondi Pavilion), C Saul and A Kern, P Philippsohn (on behalf of Australian Jewish Historical Society), S Solomon (on behalf of Rabbinical Council NSW), B Klein and A Bevege addressed the public forum.*

**CM/3.5/26.01E      Financial Donations to Support the Victims and Families of the Bondi Beach Terror Attack (A25/2312)****MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh  
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Notes that Waverley Council has been approached by many local councils wishing to provide a financial donation to support the victims and families of the Bondi Beach terror attack on 14 December 2025.
2. Approves the establishment of a partnership with Local Government NSW (LGNSW) and other relevant state authorities to facilitate the collection of donations from councils to support the victims and families and community programs and initiatives.
3. Authorises the General Manager to enter into discussions with LGNSW and appropriate authorities to determine the most effective and transparent mechanism for accepting and distributing donations, ensuring compliance with all relevant legal and regulatory requirements.
4. Offices prepare a report to Council detailing the framework for the acceptance of donations in this case, including administrative procedures, criteria for the distribution of funds and the proposed programs to be supported.
5. Ensures that all donations are allocated equitably and transparently, and that community members are kept informed about how the funds are being used.

**4. Urgent Business**

There was no urgent business.

**5. Meeting Closure**

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.00 PM.**

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**SIGNED AND CONFIRMED**  
**MAYOR**  
**24 FEBRUARY 2026**