



WAVERLEY
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 10 FEBRUARY 2026

Emily Scott
General Manager

Waverley Council
PO Box 9
Bondi Junction NSW 1355
DX 12006 Bondi Junction
Tel: 9083 8000
Email: info@waverley.nsw.gov.au

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/Leaves of Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Confirmation of Minutes

FC/3.1/26.02 Confirmation of Minutes - Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting - 2 December 2025..... 5

4. Mayoral Minutes

5. Reports

FC/5.1/26.02 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting - 16 October 2025 - Minutes 13

FC/5.2/26.02 Australian Local Government Association - National General Assembly 2026 - Attendance and Motions 27

FC/5.3/26.02 Waverley Art Prize - Celebrating 40 Years in 2026 54

FC/5.4/26.02 Wairoa Community Centre, 2B Brighton Boulevard, North Bondi - Lease - Exhibition 58

6. Urgent Business

7. Closed Session 61

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

FC/7.1/26.02 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Clementson Park, Newland Street, Bondi Junction - Part Lot 1 DP 120184 - Lease

8. Resuming Open Session 63

9. Meeting Closure

**CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES
FC/3.1/26.02**

Subject: Confirmation of Minutes - Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting - 2 December 2025

TRIM No: A25/0080

Manager: Richard Coelho, Executive Manager, Governance

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council confirms the minutes of the Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee meeting held on 2 December 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 - 2 December 2025



WAVERLEY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE BOOT FACTORY, SPRING STREET, BONDI JUNCTION ON TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 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.

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 Spicer declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in item FC/5.3/25.12 – Waverley Artist Studio Appointments – 2026-2027 and informed the meeting that he was good friends with Jake Starr in high school.

3. Addresses by Members of the Public

3.1 M Sparke – FC/5.5/25.12 – Fig Tree at 28-30 Edward Street, Bondi – Root Mapping.

3.2 K Johnson – FC/5.5/25.12 – Fig Tree at 28-30 Edward Street, Bondi – Root Mapping.

3.3 P Ross (on behalf of Strata Plan 5223 – 28–30 Edward Street) – FC/5.5/25.12 – Fig Tree at 28-30 Edward Street, Bondi – Root Mapping.

3.4 C Morris – FC/5.5/25.12 – Fig Tree at 28-30 Edward Street, Bondi – Root Mapping.

ITEMS BY EXCEPTION**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Westwood

Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That the recommendations for the following items be adopted as recommended in the business paper:

FC/4.1/25.12 Confirmation of Minutes – Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting – 4 November 2025.

FC/5.1/25.12 Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee Meeting – 11 November 2025 – Minutes.

FC/5.2/25.12 Floodplain Management Committee Meeting – 22 October 2025 – Minutes.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

FC/4.1/25.12 Confirmation of Minutes - Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting - 4 November 2025 (A25/0080)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood
Seconder: Cr Nemesh

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

5. Reports

FC/5.1/25.12 Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee Meeting - 11 November 2025 - Minutes (A25/0279)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood
Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That Council notes the minutes of the Arts, Culture and Creativity Advisory Committee meeting held on 11 November 2025 attached to the report.

FC/5.2/25.12 Floodplain Management Committee Meeting - 22 October 2025 - Minutes (SF25/4205)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood
Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That Council notes the minutes of the Floodplain Management Committee meeting held on 22 October 2025 attached to the report.

FC/5.3/25.12 Waverley Artist Studio Appointments - 2026-2027 (A25/0285)

Cr Spicer declared a less than significant non-pecuniary interest in this item and informed the meeting that he was good friends with Jake Starr in high school.

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Stephenson
Seconder: Cr Westwood

That Council:

1. Offers the following artists a placement in the Waverley Artist Studios from March 2026 to February 2027:
 - (a) Jack Ball.
 - (b) Lauren Brincat.
 - (c) Diana Barker Smith.
 - (d) Fergus Berney-Gibson.
 - (e) Aurelia King.

2. Offers the following artists a reserve placement in the Waverley Artist Studios from March 2026 to February 2027:
 - (a) Keila Terencio de Paula.
 - (b) Jake Starr.
 - (c) Neil Beedie.
 - (d) Belinda Yee.
 - (e) Yanti Peng.

FC/5.4/25.12 Barracluff Park Dog Off-Leash User Satisfaction Survey - Consultation Outcomes (A22/0336)**MOTION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh
Seconder: Cr Frazer

That Council:

1. Notes the Barracluff Park Dog Off-Leash User Satisfaction Survey Consultation Summary Report attached to the report.

2. Allocates funding in the Long Term Financial Plan to install a low linear fence with dog signage at Barracluff Park along the inside of the Warners Avenue footpath to provide greater security for dog owners and to separate users during sporting activities.

3. Considers the other community requests for improvements to Barracluff Park in the draft Local

Parks Plan of Management, scheduled to commence in 2026.

4. Undertakes a Good Dog Owner Education Program using Council's social media platforms to inform and educate the community about the rules and regulations relating to companion animals and locations where Council supports dog off-leash activities.

AMENDMENT

Mover: Cr Wy Kanak
Seconder: Cr Fabiano

That clause 3 be amended to read as follows:

‘Allocates funding in the Long Term Financial Plan for the other community requests for improvements to Barracluff Park in the draft Local Parks Plan of Management, scheduled to commence in 2026.’

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND DECLARED LOST.

Division

For the amendment: Crs Fabiano, Spooner and Wy Kanak.

Against the amendment: Crs Frazer, Lewis, Masselos, Merten, Nemesh, Spicer, Stephenson, Townsend and Westwood.

THE MOTION WAS THEN PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED.

DECISION

That Council:

1. Notes the Barracluff Park Dog Off-Leash User Satisfaction Survey Consultation Summary Report attached to the report.
2. Allocates funding in the Long Term Financial Plan to install a low linear fence with dog signage at Barracluff Park along the inside of the Warners Avenue footpath to provide greater security for dog owners and to separate users during sporting activities.
3. Considers the other community requests for improvements to Barracluff Park in the draft Local Parks Plan of Management, scheduled to commence in 2026.
4. Undertakes a Good Dog Owner Education Program using Council's social media platforms to inform and educate the community about the rules and regulations relating to companion animals and locations where Council supports dog off-leash activities.

Fig Tree at 28-30 Edward Street, Bondi - Root Mapping (A25/0630)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood
Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That Council:

1. Undertakes root pruning works along the front boundary of 28–30 Edward Street, Bondi and installs a root barrier consistent with the deed of release entered into with the owners corporation of 28 Edward Street.

2. Allocates budget as part of the Q2 budget amendment process.
3. Monitors the performance of the root mitigation works in one year.
4. Officers prepare a report to Council in December 2026 with the results of the monitoring program and recommendations on next steps, including removal if necessary.

M Sparke, K Johnson, P Ross (on behalf of Strata Plan 5223 – 28-30 Edward Street) and C Morris addressed the meeting.

FC/5.6/25.12 Reduced Speed Limits in Laneways (A25/0880)

MOTION

Mover: Cr Westwood
Seconder: Cr Townsend

That Council:

1. Further investigates the transformation of specific laneways into shared spaces (civic laneways), including the preliminary list as set out in the report.
2. Approves in principle the following speed limits in laneways, subject to the outcome of Transport for NSW's review of the Roads Act 1993:
 - (a) Civic laneways: 10 km/h (shared zone).
 - (b) Residential and service laneways: 30 km/h.

THE MOVER OF THE MOTION ACCEPTED AMENDMENTS TO CLAUSE 1 SUCH THAT IT NOW READS AS FOLLOWS:

'Further investigates the transformation of specific laneways into shared spaces (civic laneways and/or residential and service laneways), including the preliminary list as set out in the report with the addition of:

- (a) Ruthven Lane, Bondi Junction.
- (b) Gowrie Lane, Bondi Junction.
- (c) Virgil Lane, Bronte.
- (d) Alice Lane, Waverley.
- (e) Belgrave Lane, Bronte.
- (f) Read Lane, Bronte.
- (g) O'Dowd Street, Waverley.

AMENDMENT

Mover: Cr Lewis
Seconder: Cr Masselos

That the following clause 1(h) be added to the motion:

‘Gowrie Street, Bondi Junction.’

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND DECLARED LOST.

THE MOTION WAS THEN PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

UNANIMOUS DECISION

That Council:

1. Further investigates the transformation of specific laneways into shared spaces (civic laneways and/or residential and service laneways), including the preliminary list as set out in the report with the addition of:
 - (a) Ruthven Lane, Bondi Junction.
 - (b) Gowrie Lane, Bondi Junction.
 - (c) Virgil Lane, Bronte.
 - (d) Alice Lane, Waverley.
 - (e) Belgrave Lane, Bronte.
 - (f) Read Lane, Bronte.
 - (g) O'Dowd Street, Waverley.
2. Approves in principle the following speed limits in laneways, subject to the outcome of Transport for NSW's review of the Roads Act 1993:
 - (a) Civic laneways: 10 km/h (shared zone).
 - (b) Residential and service laneways: 30 km/h.

6. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

7. Meeting Closure

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.53 PM.

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SIGNED AND CONFIRMED
CHAIR
10 FEBRUARY 2026

REPORT
FC/5.1/26.02

Subject: Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting - 16 October 2025 - Minutes

TRIM No: A25/0077

Manager: Richard Coelho, Executive Manager, Governance

Director: Tara Czinner, Director, Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council notes the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 16 October 2025 attached to the report.

1. Executive Summary

Council established the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee (ARIC) in February 2019. In accordance with the ARIC terms of reference, the minutes are reported to Council once confirmed by ARIC.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2025 were confirmed by ARIC at its meeting on 11 December 2025 and are attached to this report.

2. Introduction/Background

ARIC provides independent assistance to Council by monitoring, reviewing and providing advice on governance processes, risk management and control frameworks and external accountability obligations.

The Committee is supported by an internal audit function and together they are one mechanism Council uses to ensure its internal controls and management approaches are effective for the management of risk across the organisation.

In accordance with clauses 9 and 10.1 of the ARIC terms of reference, the minutes are reported to Council after being confirmed by the Committee. They are then published on Council's website.

3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Nil.

4. Discussion

Nil.

5. Financial Impact

There is no unbudgeted cost to Council to prepare the minutes.

6. Risks/Issues

The minutes are reported to Council for information only.

7. Attachments

1. ARIC - 16 October 2025 - Minutes [Download](#) .



WAVERLEY
COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE AUDIT, RISK AND IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT THE BOOT FACTORY, SPRING STREET, BONDI JUNCTION ON
THURSDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2025**

Members Present:

John Gordon (Chair)	Independent Member
Sheridan Dudley	Independent Member
Elizabeth Gavey	Independent Member
Cr Joshua Spicer	Councillor Member (non-voting)

In Attendance:

Emily Scott	General Manager
Tara Czinner	Director, Corporate Services
Fletcher Rayner	Director, Planning, Sustainability and Compliance
Ben Thompson	Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience
Kenny Tan	Associate Director, Financial Audit, Audit Office of NSW (item 5.2 and 5.5)
Hany Kamel	Manager, Audit and Risk
Richard Coelho	Executive Manager, Governance
Rita D'Arcy	Executive Manager, People and Culture
Teena Su	Executive Manager, Finance
Sneha Sabu	Corporate Planning and Reporting Coordinator (item 5.7)
Fernando Carrillo	Procurement Manager (item 5.8)
Kevin Trinh	Chief Information Officer (item 5.10)
Carol Jones	Manager, Work Health and Safety (item 5.12)
Cr Keri Spooner	Waverley Council
Vina Xiao	Governance Officer
Al Johnston	Committee Secretary

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, the General Manager gave a presentation to the ARIC members on a review of payroll and introduced the new Executive Manager, People and Culture.

At the commencement of proceedings at 9.02 am, those present were as listed above, with the exception of the Executive Manager, Governance, who arrived at 10.55 am during item 5.7.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

The Chair read the following Acknowledgement of Indigenous Heritage:

The Waverley Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee respectfully acknowledges the Indigenous heritage and recognises the ongoing Aboriginal traditional custodianship of the land which forms the Waverley local government area.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Manuel Moncada, Director, Financial Audit, Audit Office of NSW.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

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

3. Confirmation of Minutes

ARIC/3.1/25.10 Confirmation of Minutes - Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting - 28 August 2025 (A25/0077)

DECISION

That the Committee confirms the minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee meeting held on 28 August 2025 as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4. Actions from Previous Meetings

ARIC/4.1/25.10 Actions from Previous Meetings (SF25/660)

DECISION

That the Committee:

1. Notes the status of the actions from previous meetings as at 16 October 2025 attached to the report.
2. Requests that the independent external review of the internal audit function and Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee be conducted together, once every Council term, and for this Council term, in late 2026.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the timing of the independent external review of the internal audit function and the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and requested they be conducted at the same time, once every Council term, and for this Council term, in late 2026.

5. Reports

ARIC/5.1/25.10 General Manager's Update (SF25/658)

DECISION

That the Committee:

1. Notes the General Manager's verbal update provided at the meeting.
2. Receives a report providing a high-level review of the proposed changes under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Amendment (Planning System Reforms) Bill 2025 and what the changes mean for Waverley.
3. Recommends that the proposed changes under the Planning System Reforms Bill 2025 be added to the Strategic Risk Register.

DISCUSSION

The General Manager provided a verbal update to the Committee. The key topics discussed were as follows:

People and Culture team update

- Welcome our new Executive Manager, People and Culture, Rita D'Arcy.
- Welcome our new Payroll Manager, Anthony Gale.
- Welcome our new Payroll Officer, Lara Correa Rocha.

Skills and Performance Assessment (SAPA) update

SAPA annualisation implemented

- Council successfully implemented the first round of annualised skills and performance assessment for all employees.
- In July and August, over 800 employees completed a performance conversation.
- Management completed the first annual reward and recognition program evaluation.
- New SAPA form and guidelines.
- 15 facilitated drop-in sessions run by the People and Culture team.

SAPA – Post-consultation change

- Decision to decouple performance progression from salary progression.
- Made in response to employee and union concerns post consultation to remove disadvantage and simplify pay progression.
- Introduces a fairer, simpler, and more transparent pay progression.
- Focus shifts towards development, coaching and career growth.

SAPA – Decoupling

- What does 'decoupling' mean?
 - Annual step increase happens automatically on position anniversary date, separate from the SAPA review.

- SAPA reviews will continue every year in July/August with focus on development, career goals and performance improvement.

Enterprise Agreement negotiations

- Received formal request from the United Services Union (USU) on 12 September 2025 to commence negotiations on the Waverley Enterprise Agreement 2010.
- Meeting scheduled with unions in the week of 12 November 2025 to agree on negotiations terms and conditions.
- Commence meeting with union and staff delegates in the week of 19 November 2025.

Coastal instability

Rockfalls along coastline

- Rodney Reserve landslip – Request for quotation (RFQ) process has closed. Discussions are underway with the preferred contractor. Timing not finalised.
- Bronte Rockfall remediation – RFQ ongoing giving consideration to the Surf Club construction zone.
- Marks Park Coastal Walk – Walkway reconstruction works now in progress. Due to access and safety constraints, construction will pause during the Sculpture by the Sea event. Installation of the new stainless steel balustrade and walkway is expected to be completed by November 2025.

The Committee further discussed the following matters:

- The Committee was briefed on the new arrangements for Skills and Performance Assessments.
- The Skills and Performance Assessment process, consistency of performance reviews and performance management communication training for managers.
- Bronte rockfall remediation and the cost of public domain works.
- Coastal risk mitigation and methods of determining high-risk locations. The Committee also discussed funding options for Council's coastal risk mitigation program.
- The proposed changes under the State Government's Planning System Reforms Bill 2025, how the changes will affect Waverley and their impact on Council's resources. Officers are in the process of preparing a Bondi Junction Master Plan, which involves a comprehensive review of all the planning controls and will take into account feedback from the community. The Committee requested it receive a high-level review of the proposed planning changes and what they mean for Waverley. The Committee also recommended that the proposed planning changes be added to the Strategic Risk Register.

ARIC/5.2/25.10 Audit Office of NSW - Audit Update (A24/0933)

DECISION

That the Committee notes:

1. The Engagement Closing Report for the year ended 30 June 2025 circulated before the meeting.

2. That the final Financial Statements were presented to the Committee on 7 October 2025.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The Engagement Closing Report for the year ended 30 June 2025. The report was circulated to members after the agenda was issued and tabled at the meeting. The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the report, noting the audit was on-time and the audit findings categorised as low-risk.
- The Committee noted the final Financial Statements were reviewed by members at a meeting on 7 October 2025 prior to their presentation to Council on 21 October 2025.

ARIC/5.3/25.10 Financial Sustainability - Action Plan Update (A24/0365)

DECISION

That the Committee:

1. Notes the progress update on the Financial Sustainability Action Plan, as set out in the report.
2. Requests that the next action plan update report include a high-level summary of the results and objectives achieved.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed outputs and outcomes of the action plan and their effect on the financial position Council is working towards, and requested that the next update include a high-level summary of the results and objectives achieved.

ARIC/5.4/25.10 2026-27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 7.1 - Preparation Considerations (A25/1975)

DECISION

That the Committee notes:

1. The challenges to meet the financial sustainability objectives in the current income and expenditure structure.
2. Management's approach to the preparation of the 2026–27 Pricing Policy, Budget and Long Term Financial Plan, including strategic objectives and key assumptions, as set out in the report.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The considerations for the preparation of the 2026–27 Budget and Long Term Financial Plan 7.1 have been developed in response to the recommendations of AEC's financial sustainability report. Management acknowledged there are further improvements to be made.
- Whether Council's policy makers are committed to management's financial sustainability objectives and conscious of reducing expenditure on capital works where possible.
- Reviewing strategic property assets to maximise Council's returns.
- The comprehensive Pricing Policy, the inclusion in the Long Term Financial Plan of a dollar figure for the benefit realisation of the ICT Modernisation Program and an explanation of how the graphs work on page 42 of the report.
- The importance of qualitative outputs and outcomes for the community.

ARIC/5.5/25.10 Financial Statements in Annual Report - Executive Summary (A24/0933)**DECISION**

That the Committee requests:

1. Feedback from the Audit Office of NSW on the draft executive summary attached to the report.
2. That management review the language used in the draft executive summary so it reflects a finely balanced budget.
3. That once the language has been reviewed and feedback has been received from the Audit Office of NSW, a revised executive summary be circulated to members for comment.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The Committee requested the language in the draft executive summary be reviewed to more accurately reflect Council's finely balanced budget, particularly in relation to the performance ratios and Office of Local Government (OLG) benchmarks.
- OLG's removal of some of its benchmarking requirements from the financial statements, such as key performance indicators, increases reliance on the Annual Report to explain Council's financial position.
- The executive summary should include Council's performance over time because it is important for context and assists the community's understanding of Council's financial position.
- Feedback on the executive summary was requested from the Audit Office of NSW, given its aim is to ensure the executive summary is consistent with the audited Financial Statements and a more useful tool for the community.
- The Committee requested that once the language has been reviewed and feedback has been received from the Audit Office of NSW, a revised executive summary be circulated to members for comment.

ARIC/5.6/25.10 Internal Audit Plans 2024-25 and 2025-26 - Status Update (SF25/771)**DECISION**

That the Committee:

1. Notes the status of the Internal Audit Plans for 2024–25 and 2025–26 attached to the report.
2. Receives a report at the December 2025 meeting summarising the Procurement team's review of its fraud and corruption controls and risk mitigation strategies.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The scope of the Procurement review and the team's planned improvement activities around fraud and corruption processes and controls.
- The Committee requested that it receive a report at the December 2025 meeting summarising the Procurement team's review of its fraud and corruption controls and risk mitigation strategies.

ARIC/5.7/25.10 Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement 2024-25 (A23/0573)**DECISION**

That the Committee:

1. Notes the draft Internal Audit and Risk Management Attestation Statement 2024–25 attached to the report (Attachment 1) to be signed by the General Manager for inclusion in the Annual Report 2024–25, and has no further comment.
2. Notes the summary of audit and probity activities in 2024-25 attached to the report (Attachment 2).
3. Receives an assurance map on how assurances from the various sources are captured.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The four-year strategic plan and the review of the internal audit function each Council term can be marked compliant even though the tasks have not been completed because they are not yet due. This is based on the Committee's interpretation that 'not yet due' does not equate to non-compliance.
- Errors in the 'ARIC version with detailed comments' table where the ARIC Annual Report has been mistaken for the End of Term Report or other strategic assessment reviews.

- An assurance map as a tracking tool for the Committee to show how assurances from the various other sources of assurance activity are captured.
- Under the guidelines, the Committee is not required to endorse the statement because the attestation is by the General Manager. The Committee may choose to comment on the statement if it thinks necessary.

ARIC/5.8/25.10 Modern Slavery - Update (A18/0557)**DECISION**

That the Committee:

1. Notes the update on Council's compliance with modern slavery requirements, as set out in the report.
2. Receives a copy of the consultant's report and the actions management is taking in response before the next meeting.
3. Recommends that modern slavery be added to the Strategic Risk Register.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- Council's engagement of a consultant to conduct a review of procurement processes and suppliers was an initiative of the South Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils, of which Council is a member.
- The consultant's report and the actions management is taking in response to it. The Committee requested it receive a copy of the report and management's responses before the next meeting.
- Management's satisfaction with its procurement controls.
- The Committee's recommendation that modern slavery be added to the Strategic Risk Register.

ARIC/5.9/25.10 Capital Works Program - Update (A21/0532)**DECISION**

That the Committee notes:

1. The progress on the Capital Works Program and the update on key projects and Strategic Asset Management Plan programs, as set out in the report.
2. The actions proposed to improve controls around capital project and program management, as set out in the report.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The Bondi Surf Life Saving Club Upgrade Project, the Charing Cross Streetscape Upgrade Project and the Seven Ways Flood Mitigation Project.
- The status of the asbestos register and the escalation process if asbestos is found.
- The importance of identifying and communicating outputs and outcomes achieved, particularly for the community.
- The Committee expressed its satisfaction with the report, noting improvements in the management of project variations, and the report's informative and easy-to-understand style. Management confirmed that the reports are also used by the Executive Leadership Team and provided to Councillors.

ARIC/5.10/25.10 Information Management and Technology - Cyber and Work Program Update (A18/0665)

DECISION

That the Committee:

1. Notes the update on the information management and technology program, as set out in the report.
2. Receives a summary report on Council's most valuable assets ('crown jewels') in the context of the Audit Office of NSW's *Cyber Security Insights 2025* report.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- There were no surprises in the report from management's perspective.
- The 25 mandatory requirements have increased to 31 mandatory requirements. The Committee requested that it receives a summary report on Council's most valuable assets ('crown jewels') in the context of the *Cyber Security Insights 2025* report and the 31 mandatory requirements.
- Developments in multi-factor authentication and management's response to increased risks.
- Third party vendor controls and risk mitigation.
- Enforcement of privacy clauses in contracts.

ARIC/5.11/25.10 Governance Report (SF25/662)**DECISION**

That the Committee:

1. Notes the Governance Report.
2. Receives a verbal update at the next meeting on the litigation matter concerning asbestos.
3. Receives a summary of the matter concerning the Office of Children's Guardian once resolved.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed some of the complaints and referrals received since the August Governance Report, as well as internal reporting changes concerning the legislative compliance database.

ARIC/5.12/25.10 Work Health and Safety Report (A25/0200)**DECISION**

That the Committee notes:

1. The Work Health and Safety report for May 2025 to July 2025.
2. The Q4 Employee Assistance Program (Converge) utilisation for April to June 2025, previously reported to the Committee.
3. The Q1 Employee Assistance Program (Converge) utilisation report for July to September 2025 attached to the report, with the industry utilisation rate comparison.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The large amount of information provided to the Committee in the report and ways to improve and refine analysis in future reports.
- Outputs and outcomes and how they are supporting the reduction in work health and safety issues.
- The StateCover workers compensation premium for 2024-25 is missing from the report so there is no comparison for the 2025-26 premiums.

ARIC/5.13/25.10 Complaints and Compliments - Quarterly Report (A25/0121)**DECISION**

That the Committee notes the quarterly customer experience dashboard for April 2025–June 2025 attached to the report.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- The actions taken in response to complaints and whether compliments are considered in Skills and Performance Assessments.
- A greater focus on complaints and investigation outcomes by management. Outcomes should be considered as service improvements.

ARIC/5.14/25.10 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee - Terms of Reference - Review (SF19/5469)**DECISION**

That the Committee notes the annual review of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Terms of Reference and confirms that no changes are required.

ARIC/5.15/25.10 Internal Audit Charter - Review (SF20/3005)**DECISION**

That the Committee notes the annual review of the Internal Audit Charter and confirms that no changes are required.

ARIC/5.16/25.10 ARIC Work Program 2025 - Review (SF25/661)**DECISION**

That the Committee:

1. Notes the ARIC Work Program 2025 attached to the report, subject to the following amendments:
 - (a) A line item be added for service reviews completed by management.
 - (b) Defer the October 2025 item on the ICT Strategy to December 2025.
2. Requests the in-camera sessions scheduled for November 2025 with the Manager, Audit and Risk, and the Audit Office of NSW be rescheduled for the December 2025 pre-meeting.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the following matters:

- Adding a line item for service reviews completed by management.
- Deferring the item on the ICT Strategy to December 2025
- Noting the Committee's in-camera sessions to be held in November 2025 with the Manager, Audit and Risk, and the Audit Office of NSW be scheduled for the December 2025 pre-meeting.

6. Other Business**ARIC/6.1/25.10 ARIC Meeting Dates 2026****DECISION**

That the Committee confirms its meeting dates for 2026 as follows:

- 9.00 am Thursday 26 March 2026.
- 9.00 am Thursday 14 May 2026.
- 9.00 am Thursday 27 August 2026.
- 9.00 am Thursday 15 October 2026.
- 9.00 am Thursday 10 December 2026.

ARIC/6.2/25.10 ARIC Meeting Dates 2025

The remaining Committee meeting dates for 2025 are as follows:

- 9.00 am Thursday 11 December 2025.

7. Meeting Closure**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.34 PM.**

.....
SIGNED AND CONFIRMED
CHAIR
11 DECEMBER 2025

**REPORT
FC/5.2/26.02**

Subject: Australian Local Government Association - National General Assembly 2026 - Attendance and Motions

TRIM No: A13/0314

Manager: Richard Coelho, Executive Manager, Governance

Director: Tara Czinner, Director, Corporate Services

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. Nominates Cr [INSERT NAME] and Cr [INSERT NAME] to attend the 2026 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from Tuesday 23 June to Thursday 25 June 2026.
2. Nominates Cr [INSERT NAME] as Council's voting delegate and Cr [INSERT NAME] as reserve voting delegate, if more than one Councillor is nominated to attend.
3. Meets the applicable registration fees and travel, accommodation, meal and incidental expenses, in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy for those Councillors nominated to attend the Assembly.
4. Approves the attendance of the General Manager and/or nominee at the Assembly.
5. Considers any motions for submission to the Assembly at the Council meeting on 24 February 2026.

1. Executive Summary

The Australian Local Government Association's National General Assembly 2026 will be held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, from Tuesday 23 June to Thursday 25 June 2026. It is recommended that Council nominates Councillors to attend the Assembly, one of whom must be Council's voting delegate.

2. Introduction/Background

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is the national voice of local government, representing 537 councils across the country. Its annual National General Assembly (NGA) is the premier national gathering of local governments, and provides councils with the opportunity to come together, share ideas, debate motions and unite and further build on the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

The NGA 2026 will be held at the National Convention Centre, Canberra, from Tuesday 23 to Thursday, 25 June 2026. The theme for this year's assembly is 'Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United'.

3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Meeting and date	Item No.	Resolution
Council 18 February 2025	CM/7.10.25.02	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nominates Crs Nemesh, Spooner, Stephenson, Masselos, Frazer, Merten and Fabiano to attend the 2025 Australian Local Government Association National General Assembly to be held at the National Convention Centre in Canberra from Tuesday, 24 June, to Friday, 27 June 2025. 2. Nominates Cr Nemesh as Council's voting delegate and Cr Spooner as reserve voting delegate, if more than one Councillor is nominated to attend. 3. Meets the applicable registration fees and travel, accommodation, meal and incidental expenses, in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy for those Councillors nominated to attend the Assembly. 4. Approves the attendance of the General Manager at the Assembly. 5. Considers any motions for submission to the Assembly at the Council meeting on 18 March 2025.

4. Discussion

Program and discussion paper

The draft program for the Assembly is available on ALGA's website [here](#). The discussion paper is attached to this report.

Councillor attendance

It is recommended that Council nominates at least two Councillors to attend the Assembly, one of whom must be Council's voting delegate. There is no limit on the number of Councillors that Council can nominate to attend the Assembly. Council may also nominate a reserve voting delegate, who can attend the Assembly regardless of whether they are called on to be Council's voting delegate.

Each council is entitled to a single vote on each motion.

Motions

Council can submit motions for consideration at the Assembly. ALGA advises that motions must be received by 11.59 pm Friday 27 February 2026. Should Council wish to submit motions, it will need to adopt them at the Council meeting on 24 February 2026 via the notice of motion process.

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA business papers and debate on the floor of the NGA, the motions must meet the following criteria:

- *Submit a new motion that has not been debated at an NGA in the preceding two years as found in previous business papers on the ALGA website.*
- *Ensure your motion is relevant to the work of local government across the nation, not focused on a specific location or region, unless the project has national implications.*
- *Align your motion with the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association.*
- *Propose a clear action and outcome on a single issue, calling on the Australian Government to take action. Motions covering more than one issue will not be accepted.*
- *Ensure the motion does not seek to advantage one or a few councils at the expense of others.*
- *Avoid being prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.*

ALGA further recommends that:

- Motions should seek the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs. Motions should therefore commence with the following wording: 'This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...'
- Motions should be less than 100 words.
- The background to the motion should help delegates understand the issue and address the national objective.

See the discussion paper for details.

5. Financial Impact

The early bird cost of registration to attend the conference for the three days is \$999 per person. Accommodation ranges from \$219–\$412 per night for each of the three nights. These costs, as well as travel, meals and incidental expenses, will be met by Council in accordance with the Councillor Expenses and Facilities Policy. Council allocates up to \$30,000 per year (excluding GST) to fund Councillor attendance at conferences.

6. Risks/Issues

Should Council decide not to nominate a voting delegate to attend the Assembly it will miss an important opportunity to be represented at the premier local government gathering, network and consider the issues facing communities across the country.

7. Attachments

1. ALGA 2026 National General Assembly - Discussion Paper [↓](#) .

**Stronger Together:
Resilient. Productive. United**

**2026
National
General
Assembly
Discussion Paper**

National Convention Centre Canberra



The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) is pleased to convene the 32nd National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA), to be held in Canberra in June 2026.

As convenor of the NGA, the ALGA Board warmly invites all councils to send representatives to this important national event. The final date for the NGA will be confirmed once the 2026 Federal Government Parliamentary sitting calendar is released.

The NGA is the premier national gathering of local governments. It gives councils a chance to come together, share ideas, debate motions, and strengthen the relationship between local government and the Australian Government.

This discussion paper contains essential information for Australian councils considering submitting motions for debate at the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA).

It is recommended that all councils and delegates intending to attend the 2026 NGA familiarise themselves with the guidelines for motions contained in this paper.

KEY DATES

27 October 2025 | Opening of Call for Motions

27 February 2026 | Acceptance of Motions closes

TO SUBMIT YOUR MOTION

VISIT: ALGA.COM.AU

ALGA AND THE NGA – WORKING FOR YOU

Established 1947, ALGA is a federation of member state and territory associations. Its mission is to achieve outcomes for local government through advocacy with impact, and maximise the economic, environmental and social wellbeing of councils and our communities.

Since 1994, the NGA has raised the profile of local government on the national stage, showcasing the value of councils and demonstrating – particularly to the Australian Government – the strength and value of working with local government to deliver on national priorities.

Debate on motions was introduced to the NGA as a vehicle for councils from across the nation to canvas ideas. Outcomes of these debates (NGA Resolutions) can be used by councils to inform their own policies and priorities, as well as their advocacy when dealing with federal politicians.

At the same time, they help ALGA and its member state and territory associations gain valuable insight into council priorities, emerging national issues, and the level of need and support for new policy and program initiatives.

Given ALGA's structure, Constitution, and resources, the NGA resolutions do not bind ALGA. However, NGA resolutions are carefully considered by the Board to determine ALGA's policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

This is your NGA, and ALGA is pleased to act as the convenor. ALGA's policies and priorities will continue to be determined by the ALGA Board in the interests of all councils.

We encourage councils to consider the topics and guidance in this paper as you develop your motions.

The ALGA Board thanks all councils for attending the NGA 2026 and those who submit motions for debate.

SUBMITTING MOTIONS

The National General Assembly of Local Government (NGA) gives you and your council an important opportunity to influence the national policy agenda.

The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) Secretariat has prepared this short discussion paper to help you identify motions that address the NGA 2026 theme of "Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United." This theme encourages debate on how councils across Australia can become more resilient, contribute to the nation's productivity agenda, and present a united voice to the federal government on key issues in the national sphere.

We encourage you to read all the sections of the paper. We have included guiding questions to assist in developing your motion, but you do not have to respond to every question. You can address one or more of the issues identified in the discussion paper with your motion.

Your NGA motion should focus on how local governments can work in partnership with the Australian Government to address the challenges our communities face or seize the opportunities that are national priorities.

Each year the Secretariat receives a high volume of motions. Councils are encouraged to submit only their highest-priority motions and ensure it meets the criteria below. Multiple motions on a similar topic may be re-written into a single strategic motion, and councils will be invited by the Secretariat to put their council name to the proposal.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- Each motion requires a contact officer, a clear national objective, a summary of the key arguments in support of the motion, and endorsement of your council.
- You can lodge motions electronically using the online portal available at www.alga.asn.au
- **Motions should be received no later than 11:59 pm AEST on Friday 27 February 2026.**

WHO CAN SUBMIT A MOTION

- Any council that is a financial member of their state or territory local government association can submit a motion.
- We will not accept motions submitted on behalf of external third parties that may seek to use the NGA to apply pressure to Board members or gain national political exposure for positions that are not directly relevant to the work of, or in the national interests of, local government.

CRITERIA FOR MOTIONS

To be eligible for inclusion in the NGA Business Papers, and debate it on the floor of the NGA, you must meet the following criteria:

- > Submit a new motion that has not been debated at an NGA in the preceding two years as found in previous business papers on the ALGA website.
- > Ensure your motion is relevant to the work of local government across the nation, not focused on a specific location or region, unless the project has national implications.
- > Align your motion with the policy objectives of your state and territory local government association.
- > Propose a clear action and outcome on a single issue, calling on the Australian Government to take action. Motions covering more than one issue will not be accepted.
- > Ensure the motion does not seek to advantage one or a few councils at the expense of others.
- > Avoid being prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.

WRITING TIPS

Motions should seek the NGA's support for a particular action or policy change at the federal level which will assist local governments to meet local community needs.

- > Start with: "This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to..." . Be concise, clearly worded, and unambiguous.
- > Use the background section of the form to help delegates understand your issue.
- > Keep your motion to 100 words, the national objective to 100 words, and the key arguments to 150 words.

PROCESS OF SELECTION

The ALGA Secretariat will review motions for quality control and consistency with the criteria.

- With the agreement of the relevant council, we may edit motions to ensure consistency.
- If we have any questions about the substance or intent of a motion, we will raise these with the nominated contact officer.
- Where there are multiple motions on a similar issue, the Secretariat may combine them into a single overarching strategic motion and invite the council to attach their name to the strategic motion.
- Motions that reflect existing ALGA policy will be noted in the Business papers—but will not be included for debate, as they have already been covered in existing ALGA advocacy and policy positions.

The ALGA Board provides final decision on which motions are included in the Business paper.

- The ALGA Board and state and territory local government associations will review all submitted motions to determine their eligibility.
- The ALGA Board will consider the importance and relevance of the issue to local government and whether the motions meet all the criteria.
- The ALGA Board will refer any motion primarily concerned with local or state issues to the relevant state or territory local government association and it will not include it in the NGA Business Papers.

WHO WILL SPEAK TO THE MOTION AT NGA?

We expect any council that submits a motion to be present at the National General Assembly to move and speak to the motion. The decision on the speaker is at the discretion of the council.

AFTER THE NGA

The resolutions of the NGA will be referred to the relevant federal Minister as an outcome of the NGA. Resolutions passed at the NGA do not become binding policy on ALGA, with policy positions to remain at the discretion of the ALGA Board.

All NGA resolutions will be published on www.alga.com.au.

As the host of the NGA, ALGA will communicate resolutions to the relevant Australian Government Minister and publish Ministerial responses as they are received on the ALGA website.

OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

- It is important to complete the background section of the submission form. Do not assume NGA delegates will know the background of the proposal. This section helps all delegates to understand your motion and informs decision making. Please note, motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- Keep motions practical, focussed and can be implemented. This ensures that relevant Australian Government Ministers can respond thoughtfully and promptly. Avoid complex motions with multiple points that require cross-portfolio implementation.
- If there are any questions about a motion, ALGA will contact the nominated officer. With the council's agreement, these motions may be edited before being included in the NGA Business Papers.
- Debate will follow the rules published in the Business Papers and will focus on the strategic motions.

SETTING THE SCENE

In the face of evolving challenges and opportunities, local governments around Australia stand at the forefront of driving resilience and productivity. Local governments know we are stronger together and the importance of unity across all levels of government. The theme for this year's NGA, **Stronger Together: Resilient. Productive. United**, underscores the pivotal role councils play in shaping the nation's future and delivering national priorities.

As the backbone of local communities, councils are uniquely positioned to implement place-based solutions that address both local needs and national priorities. This year's NGA encourages debate on how councils can enhance their resilience, contribute meaningfully to the nation's productivity agenda, and present a cohesive voice to the federal government on critical issues.

By fostering collaboration and innovation, local governments can lead the way in creating sustainable and thriving communities.

The 2026 NGA provides you - the elected representatives of Australia's local councils and communities - with the opportunity to engage with the Federal Government and key Ministers, ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard at the national level.

In this context, this year's call for motion focusses on ten priority areas:

- Financial sustainability
- Emergency management
- Housing and planning
- Roads and infrastructure
- Closing the Gap
- Jobs and skills
- Environment
- Cyber security
- Climate change
- Intergovernmental relations.

1. FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Financial sustainability is the biggest challenge facing Australia's local governments which is why it remains one of ALGA's top priorities. Sustainably funded, councils can play a key role delivering local solutions to national priorities.

The 2025 Parliamentary inquiry interim report into local government sustainability confirmed that the role of councils has evolved and expanded over time, putting significant pressure on local government budgets. It is critical the Federal Government reinstates and finalises the Parliamentary inquiry into local government sustainability.

For almost one in four councils, federal Financial Assistance Grants make up at least 20 per cent of their annual operating revenue. This funding is untied, meaning it can be used to address local priorities.

Over the past 30 years, the value of Financial Assistance Grants as a percentage of Commonwealth taxation revenue has dropped from 1% in 1996 to just 0.5% today. To address this, ALGA is advocating for a **return to 1% of Commonwealth taxation revenue for local government over the next three years.**

ALGA also proposes five new, untied funding streams to be distributed to all councils on a formula basis, including:

- \$1.1 billion per year for enabling infrastructure to unlock housing supply,
- \$500 million per year for community infrastructure,
- \$600 million per year for safer local roads,
- \$900 million per year for increased local government emergency management capability and capacity, and
- \$400 million per year for climate adaptation.

Additionally ALGA advocates for permanent, full membership of National Cabinet, the Council on Federal Financial Relations and the Local Government Ministers' Forum to ensure local perspectives are considered in national decision making.

What are the opportunities to address financial sustainability across councils, and support their capacity to deliver local solutions to national priorities?

Are there improvements to be made to existing federal funding programs and arrangements that would support improved local government financial sustainability?

2. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The frequency, duration, and severity of natural disasters in Australia are a major concern for local governments.

Between 2019 and 2023, 434 of Australia's 537 councils faced natural disasters. Since 2020, 346 councils have dealt with at least two or more natural disasters. These numbers highlight that Australia will likely face more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters in the future, as noted by the 2025 Australian National Climate Risk Assessment (NCRA). Regional communities, which have the least capacity to plan and respond to natural disasters, are often hit the hardest. However, the NCRA also warns that even areas that have never experienced disasters will face one at some point as the climate continues to warm.

More frequent disasters will further strain emergency services and disaster response and recovery efforts at all levels of government. Natural disasters currently cost Australia \$38 billion per year in direct physical damage, economic disruption, and social impacts, affecting millions of people. This figure is forecast to rise to approximately \$73 billion by 2060.

Councils are crucial in supporting their communities during and after disasters, but do not have enough funding to carry out these functions. They are already stretched thin, with many councils facing financial instability, and the increasing frequency of disasters has a cumulative financial impact.

Investing more in disaster prevention and resilience, as well as boosting local government emergency management response funding, will save money in the long run and better protect lives, homes, and businesses. Every dollar spent on reducing the impact of climate-related disasters saves the government up to \$8 in the long term.

ALGA is asking for \$900 million per year to help councils improve their disaster response and resilience. They also want the Commonwealth to fully implement the recommendations from the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements and other major reviews, including the Independent Review of National Natural Disaster Governance Arrangements (the Glasser Review) and the Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding (the Colvin Review).

The Independent Reviews by Colvin and Glasser support a strategic shift towards disaster risk reduction and resilience. The Colvin Review recommended a major capacity uplift for local government and an enhanced national training and exercise regime which tests and builds local government capability. However, while ALGA notes the need to invest in risk-reduction and resilience-building initiatives, embedding recovery at all points along the emergency management continuum, should always be at the front of mind for all levels of government. ALGA's response to these Reviews reiterated the need for a sustainable funding model for disasters through a non-competitive pathway, and dedicated funding for local government.

Councils are encouraged to draw on their practical experience of the improvements that could be made to better support them in preparing, responding to, and recovering from, natural disasters.

Please note that many aspects of emergency management are state or territory responsibilities, and your motions should focus on how the Australian Government could assist.

What new programs, or improvements to existing programs, could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to improve the current natural disaster management systems to further assist in recovery and build resilience?

How can the Government best support Australian councils to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters?



3. HOUSING AND PLANNING

Australia is experiencing an affordable housing crisis, with a lack of housing supply impacting on homeowners and renters.

The crisis is leading to more people experiencing homelessness and struggling with housing insecurity and affordability.

In many jurisdictions, local government performs a key role in zoning and approving housing and delivering enabling infrastructure. However, councils are often unfairly blamed for delays in housing approvals when most applications that meet the requirements are processed quickly and efficiently.

One of the biggest barriers to building more homes is a lack of funding for enabling infrastructure, including the roads, power and water connections necessary for new developments.

The National Housing Accord – which ALGA is a signatory to on behalf of local government - sets an ambitious national target of 1.2 million new, well-located homes over the next five years. According to ALGA's research, it will cost at least \$5.7 billion to build the infrastructure needed to meet the national housing target. This is in addition to the existing funding gaps for local government infrastructure, which is estimated to be between \$50-\$55 billion for replacing infrastructure in poor condition (2024 National State of the Assets Report).

The 2024 Addressing the Housing Crisis: Unlocking Local Government's Contribution Report by Equity Economics found that 40% of surveyed local governments have reduced new infrastructure developments due to insufficient funding for enabling infrastructure required to support new housing, further exacerbating the housing crisis.

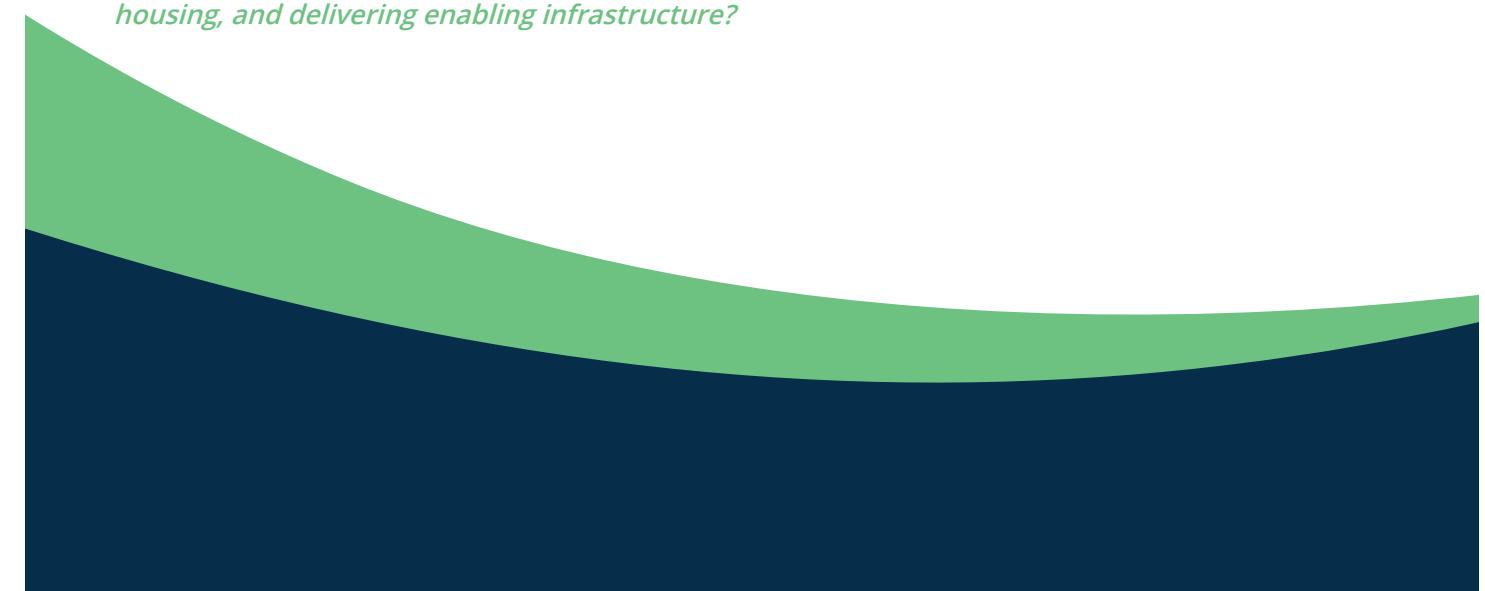
ALGA is calling for a new five-year, \$1.1 billion annual fund that would be provided to all councils to get the foundations right for increasing Australia's housing supply.

We are advocating for local governments to be provided with \$500 million per year for critical and community infrastructure and assets that will help create more liveable communities.

ALGA is also seeking a seat at the table for national discussions on housing policy, including full membership of National Cabinet and the Housing and Homelessness Ministerial Council.

What new programs and policies could the Australian Government develop to partner with local government to support the provision of more affordable housing?

How can local governments be better supported in their role in planning and approving housing, and delivering enabling infrastructure?



4. ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Local governments are responsible for about one-third of Australia's public infrastructure, including local roads, buildings, facilities, airports, water and land.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, Australia's councils manage over \$600 billion worth of assets and infrastructure, which is about ten times their annual revenue.

This makes local governments the most asset-intensive level of government. Councils manage local roads, which make up around 75% of the national road network, totalling more than 650,000 km. These roads serve every Australian and business daily, and are key to Australia's productivity.

Safer roads

The unacceptable number of deaths and serious injuries on Australian roads has continued to rise every year since 2020.

Tragically, around half of all fatal road crashes occur on local roads in regional areas. During the 12 months ending August 2025 there were 1,353 road deaths, 4.3% higher than the same time in the previous year, according to national road safety data.

Effectively funding the maintenance and necessary safety upgrades of Australia's local road network is a big challenge, and despite recent increases in the federal Roads to Recovery funding, there is still a \$500 million per year shortfall, according to the 2023 Grattan Institute's Potholes and Pitfalls report.

ALGA is calling for \$600 million per year safer roads fund – with \$500 million for infrastructure improvements and \$100 million for road safety programs – to support all councils to play a more effective role reducing deaths on Australian roads.

Community infrastructure

Local government libraries, playgrounds, bike paths and community centres are vital to the wellbeing and liveability of communities. However, many of these facilities need significant attention and upgrades.

According to ALGA's 2024 National State of the Assets report, around \$8.3 billion of local government buildings and facilities and \$2.9 billion of parks and recreation assets are in poor condition.

On a positive note, since 2021, the amount of local government buildings and facilities in poor condition has fallen from 10 per cent to eight per cent. This is the result of increased federal investment through the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure program, from both the Coalition and Labor governments since 2020.

Unfortunately, this program has ceased and there is an urgent need for ongoing and significant community infrastructure. ALGA is proposing a \$500 million per year community infrastructure fund – to be provided to all councils – to build, (and importantly), maintain and upgrade the local facilities that make communities great.

Are there new programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to improve the long-term sustainability of local government roads and community infrastructure?

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's capacity to manage local government infrastructure and to integrate these plans into long-term financial plans?

Are there opportunities for the Australian Government to support councils to invest in local infrastructure that will help address national priorities?

5. CLOSING THE GAP

Local governments play a crucial role in closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. ALGA is a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Partnership, which focuses on four priority reform targets and 19 socio-economic targets in areas like education, employment, health, justice, safety, housing, land and waters, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages.

Local governments are uniquely positioned to support partnerships that address long-term service gaps and ensure their delivery. However, the Productivity Commission Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap found that Federal and state governments are not adequately supporting or involving local governments in these reforms.

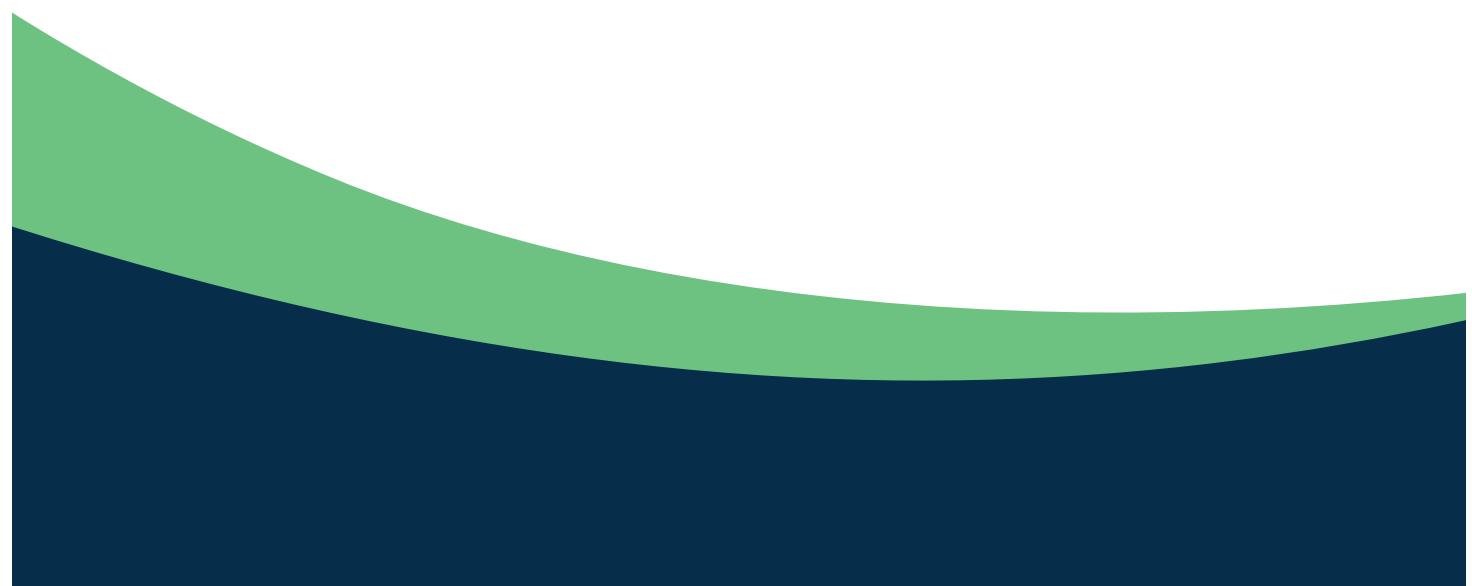
ALGA is calling for more resourcing and funding for local government, to support place-based initiatives or broader programs to enable councils to better facilitate and meet Closing the Gap objectives in their communities.

ALGA is also advocating for the Commonwealth to:

- Establish a national framework/set of protocols outlining which Federal Government departments/agencies should engage with local government in place-based initiatives, and planning for community-level projects or expenditure.
- Seek greater local government input in programs that impact on Closing the Gap targets to better shape programs with local knowledge and the needs of specific communities.
- Develop programs, with state and territory governments, to include funded support positions for local government coordination and partnership efforts (including member associations).
- Recognise councils with majority or all Aboriginal-elected members as key service delivery bodies in policy and program development.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could adopt to assist local government to advance reconciliation and close the gap?

Are there practical programs or initiatives that local government and the Australian Government could introduce to maintain, build and strengthen the level of trust between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and governments?



6. JOBS AND SKILLS

Australia's jobs and skills crisis is significantly impacting local governments, which employ around 213,000 people nationwide. ALGA's 2022 Local Government Workforce Skills and Capability Survey found that nine out of ten Australian councils face jobs and skills shortages, hindering project and service delivery.

Town planners, building surveyors, and engineers are the most in-demand professions. These roles are crucial for supporting and enabling communities to become more resilient and to help boost local economic growth and national productivity. National priorities, such as increasing housing supply, cannot be achieved without local government support and the right professionals to undertake this work.

Several factors drive these skill shortages, including difficulty attracting young people to local government jobs, lack of available training courses, wage competition, and insufficient resources to upskill the current workforce. This includes access to training facilities for rural and remote councils, workplace supervisors, subject matter experts, and contextualized training resources.

Councils urgently need more federal funding to invest in workforce development and training programs, attract workers to regional areas, and address broader skills shortages in the national economy.

ALGA is calling for the Federal Government's National Skills Plan to acknowledge the vital role of local governments as employers in training and skills development. ALGA also seeks funding opportunities for council employees to access training for identified skills shortage areas, especially in regional and remote communities.

Additionally, it is important for the Commonwealth to undertake a national audit of institutions offering urban and land use planning, building surveyors, and engineering qualifications, and to identify more readily available pathways for regional and remote study.

Are there programs or initiatives that the Australian Government could implement that would enhance local government's capacity to attract and retain appropriately skilled staff now and into the future?

Are there programs or changes to existing programs that would increase local government's ability to employ apprentices and trainees?

Are there other initiatives that the Australian Government could provide to improve the sector's ability to plan and develop skills fit for the future?

7. ENVIRONMENT

Local governments play a crucial role in protecting our local environment including places, flora and fauna.

Councils spend more money on environmental protection than any other level of government. According to SGS Economics and Planning, councils spent \$6.75 billion in 2021-22 on biodiversity, biosecurity, water management, and waste management. By comparison, states and territories spent \$6.62 billion, and the Commonwealth allocated \$6.7 billion over the same period.

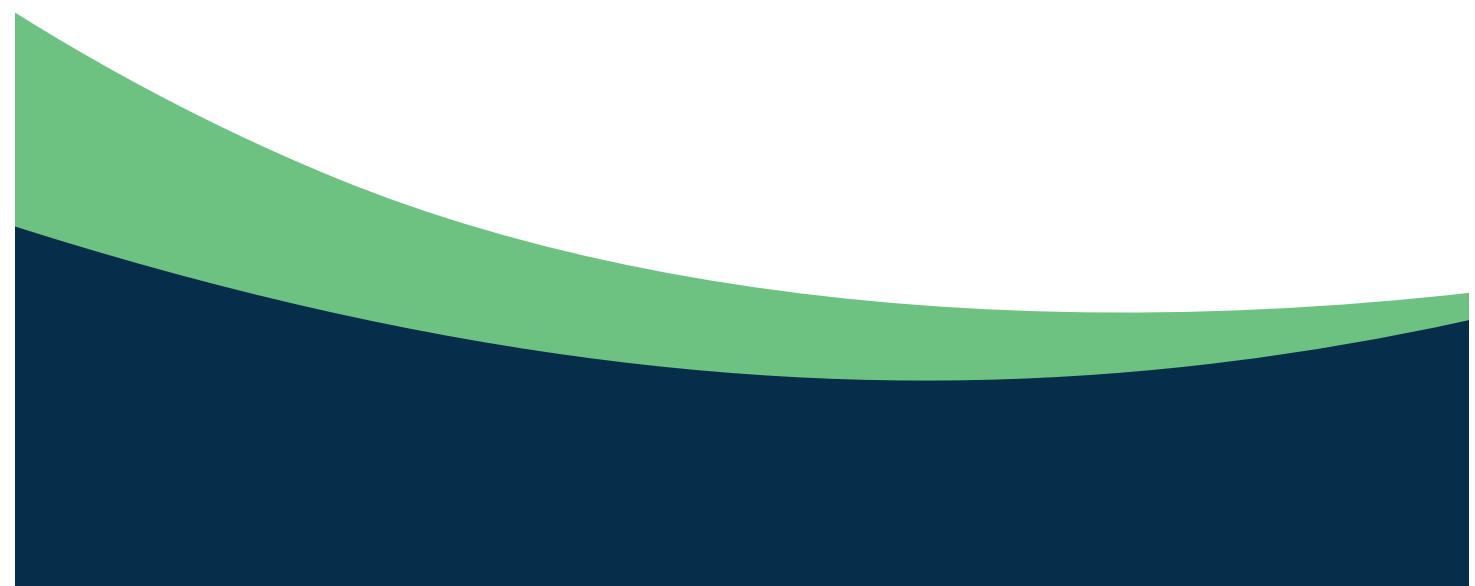
Local government is also key in improving waste management and resource recovery to reduce pollution, maintain communities and keep people healthy. However, as the Australian Government recently reported, we are running out of viable landfill space and circular economy solutions are required.

Local governments are ideal partners for on-the-ground action to deliver environmental priorities and outcomes, but they need better funding and support.

Councils bring a local, community-based and integrated approach to managing environmental issues, including weed and pest management, monitoring and protecting threatened species, contributing to water security and enhancing biodiversity.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to:

- Fund councils to support the delivery of national environmental outcomes. This includes outcomes stipulated in international conventions, threatened species action plans, matters of national, state, and local environmental significance, and any new obligations/expectations under reforms to the Environmental Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) Act.
- Fund local governments to manage environmental threats, including pests, weeds, and biosecurity threats.
- Ensure local government is appropriately recognised and engaged through environmental law reform processes.
- Seek agreement, under the National Water Initiative, on the overarching social, cultural, economic and environmental outcomes and goals for water on a national and holistic basis, and action planning and funding and achieve these outcomes and goals.



Waste management and resource recovery

Collecting, treating, and disposing of waste costs local governments an estimated \$3.5 billion annually.

The 2022 National Waste report revealed waste generation has increased 20 per cent over the last 15 years (8.3 per cent coming from municipal waste). Although, recycling and recovery of Australia's core waste has increased by 57 per cent since 2006-07, Australia still has one of the lowest rates of recycling among OCED countries.

The responsibility and cost for waste reduction in Australia should be borne by industry, and not local governments.

Implementing mandatory product stewardship, including payments to local governments for any residual resource recovery services, would ensure producer responsibility is operationalised and reduce the cost and risk burden on councils.

ALGA is advocating for the Federal Government to:

- Establish a mandatory product stewardship approach for waste materials and ensure product stewardship schemes include, and are effective, in regional and remote areas.
- Ban the importation and manufacturing of products containing identified contaminants.
- Prioritise national policy attention to waste streams with the highest potential to improve environmental outcomes, reduce costs to local government, and create economic opportunity.
- Introduce a 'local government impact assessment' into national waste policy and reform processes to ensure council interests are systematically incorporated into policy design.

How could the Australian Government partner with local government to strengthen Australia's environmental services and infrastructure?

What new programs could the Australian Government partner with local government in to progress local regional and national objectives?

What actions and investments should the Australian Government prioritise to improve resource recovery rates?

What initiatives and approaches should the Australian Government take to improve waste, recycling and resource recovery in regional, rural and remote LGAs?

What are the most significant opportunities in the circular economy and how can the Australian Government engage with local governments to leverage these opportunities?

8. CYBER SECURITY

Cyber security is a growing risk for all Australian governments and businesses, and councils are not immune. However many local governments are under-resourced and struggle to deal with increasingly sophisticated cyber threats and attacks.

Local governments manage large amounts of sensitive data about communities and community members, including private information from the aged care, health, and social services they deliver. Furthermore, most councils are responsible for managing critical infrastructure, including water, waste, power networks, and transport systems.

Councils need greater support to strengthen their cyber security preparedness and response capability, and protect valuable data.

ALGA is calling for greater funding and support from the federal government to improve cyber security capability and capacity across the local government sector.

Drawing upon your council's experience, and your knowledge of other councils within your state or territory, are there programs and initiatives that the Australian Government could implement to help local government develop its digital technology services and infrastructure?

Are there actions the Australian Government could take to improve cyber security within the local government sector?

9. CLIMATE CHANGE

The impacts of climate change – including from more frequent and severe natural disasters, coastal erosion and rising temperatures – are being felt right across every community.

Councils, being the closest government to communities, are crucial in creating a sustainable future and helping the Federal Government achieve net zero emissions by 2050. However, they need support to manage these impacts.

Climate adaptation

Local governments are on the frontline of climate adaptation. They build public swimming pools to keep people cool, plant trees for shade, and upgrade stormwater systems to handle heavy rains. With their local knowledge and leadership, they play a vital role in addressing climate risks and seizing new opportunities from new industries and achieving national climate adaptation objectives.

Councils are already investing significantly in climate adaptation, but they need more support to match the scale of the challenges. ALGA's modelling shows that councils deliver \$0.8 to \$3.1 in benefits for every \$1 invested. A \$2 billion investment by 2030 could benefit local communities by \$2.2 to \$4.7 billion.

ALGA is calling for a new \$400 million per year climate adaptation fund, to be distributed across all councils to provide local, place-based solutions to Australia's changing climate.

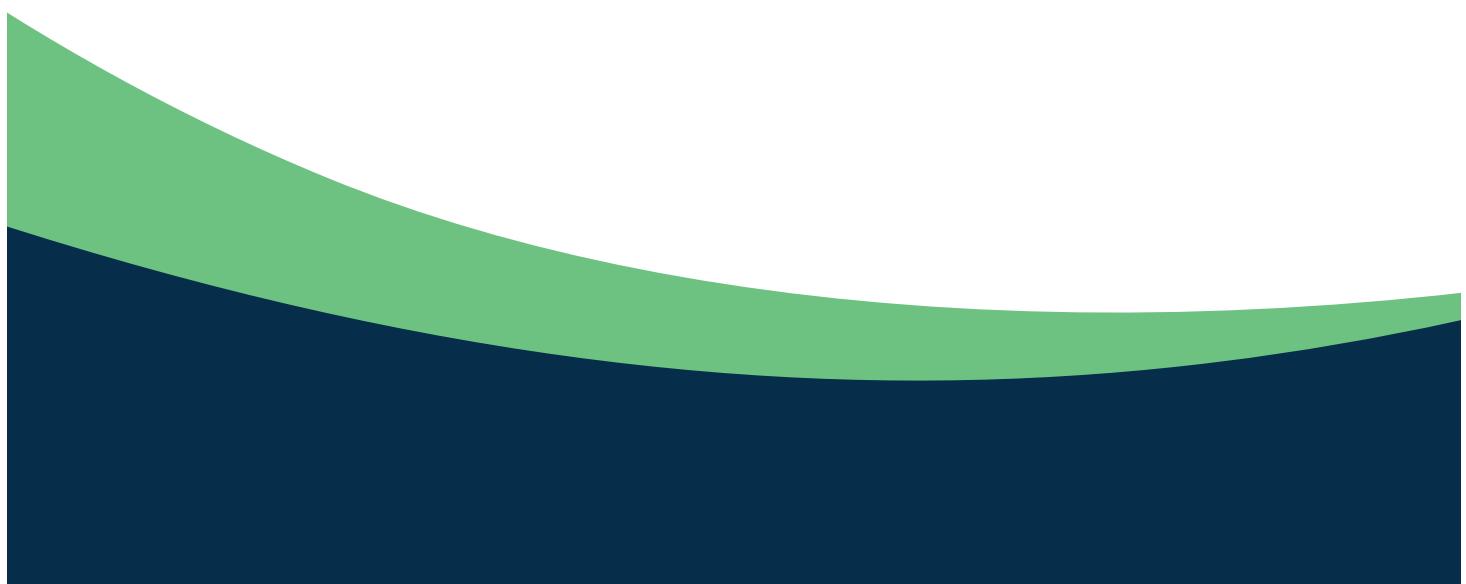
We are also asking the Federal Government to:

- Streamline and make it easier for local governments to undertake climate risk management. This should involve implementing a voluntary climate risk framework for local government which supports consistent climate risk assessment, reporting, decision making and expenditure.
- Develop, operate and maintain an information and data suite designed specifically for local government adaptation use (on an opt-in basis).

Emissions reduction

The Australian Local Government Climate Review 2024 found that 86% of councils (out of 120 respondents) had an emissions inventory. However, they face barriers in reducing corporate emissions, such as internal resourcing (69%), funding (64%), and staff capability (40%).

While councils are committed to reducing emissions locally, they need more funding to avoid burdening ratepayers and to allow communities to benefit from low-emissions technologies sooner.



ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Collaborate with local governments as part of a multi-level governance approach (per the Australian Government's pledge to the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships) to undertake strategic planning and prioritisation of net zero projects, infrastructure and service needs on a regional level.
- Fund emissions reduction plans with local governments across states and territories to facilitate a place-based approach to achieving net zero communities.
- Expand, and make more accessible, existing funding programs which enable local governments to reduce emissions and support community emissions reduction.
- Provide councils with accessible and nationally harmonised tools to maintain pace with trends in emissions measurement and reporting.
- Ensure local governments are compensated where emissions reduction processes place additional pressure on services and infrastructure (e.g, heavier EV truck impact on maintenance/standards of roads/bridges).

Renewable energy transition

Local governments are crucial partners in the transition to net zero. They engage with project proponents, negotiate community benefits, provide trusted information to residents, and manage the impacts of large projects on roads, housing, and local skills.

Councils strive to create a positive long-term legacy while balancing the immediate risks and impacts of the transition.

ALGA is asking the Federal Government to:

- Create a program of work dedicated to understanding local government experiences with renewable energy transition in their local area and region and develop specific supports for local governments.
- Establish a national approach and mechanism for cost recovery to local governments for the role of brokering benefits between project proponents and their communities, benefitting all Australians.
- Develop and maintain regional plans and a national map demonstrating zoning for prospective and proposed renewable energy projects and transmission corridors.

Noting the Australian Government's approach to reducing emissions, are there partnerships, programs, and initiatives that local government and the Australian Government can form to achieve Australia's 2050 net zero emissions target?

What are the opportunities to support councils to increase community resilience to the impacts of climate change?

What support do councils need to ensure that renewable energy projects deliver lasting benefits to the communities that house them?

What are the most significant climate risks being faced by local governments and what approach should the Australian Government take to supporting councils?

What roles and responsibilities for emissions reduction and climate risk management is your council shouldering that should be primarily managed by other levels of government? How should this responsibility be shared or rebalanced?

What are the most significant emissions reduction opportunities for your council and what could the Commonwealth provide to enable you to implement these opportunities?

10. INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

ALGA has unique access and insight into government decision-making in Australia.

We represent local government at Ministerial Councils and forums on a range of key issues including transport, emergency management, energy, climate, environment, planning, culture and Closing the Gap.

At these meetings, ALGA's leaders provide a powerful and strong voice for councils and communities, and ensure local perspectives are considered in national policy development.

However, ALGA does not have a permanent voice on National Cabinet – the main forum linking all governments across the nation.

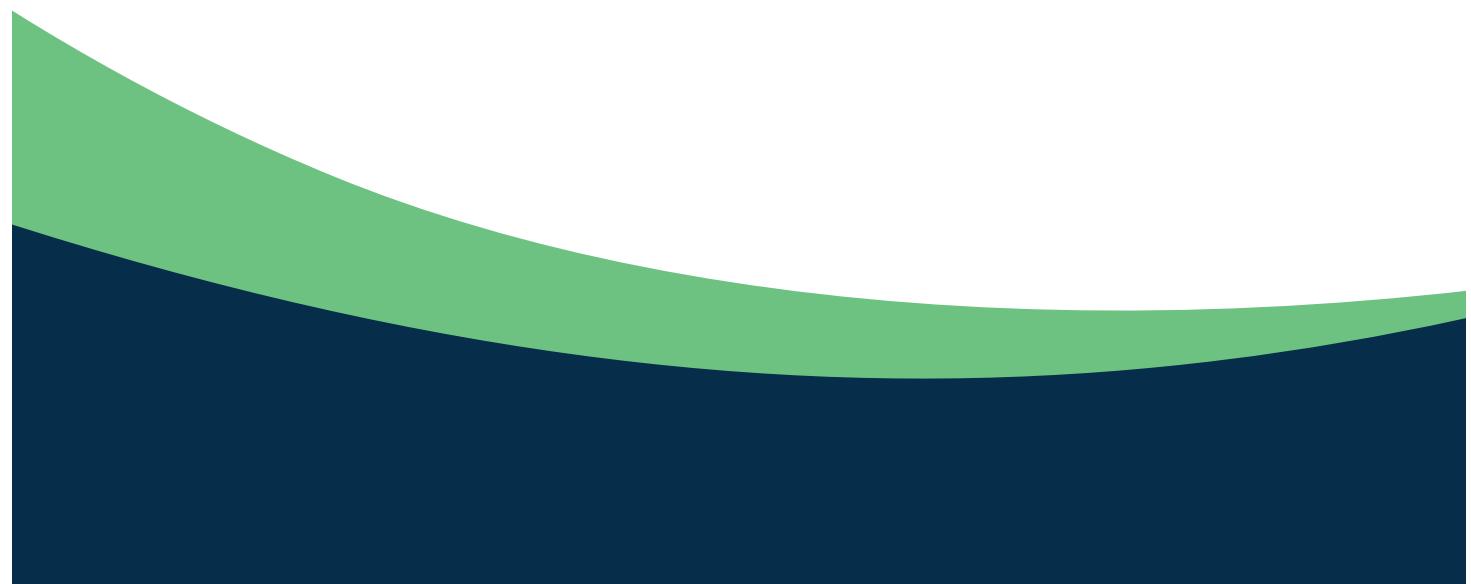
For almost 30 years, ALGA was a valued member and contributor to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). However, ALGA's membership did not carry over when COAG transitioned to National Cabinet in 2020, and ALGA now only attends one meeting each year as an observer. ALGA is also invited to attend one meeting per year of the Council on Federal Financial Relations.

ALGA is calling on the Federal Government to return ALGA as a full member of National Cabinet with ongoing membership and voting rights. This will enable local government leaders to provide local perspectives on national decision making and ensure the views of Australian communities are understood and considered.

We are also seeking full membership of the Local Government Ministers' Forum, which ALGA currently attends in an ex-officio capacity.

Given the important role councils play delivering local solutions to national priorities, how can intergovernmental arrangements be further improved in Australia?

Are there new initiatives and programs that could be adopted to improve the level of cooperation and collaboration between the Australian Government and local government?



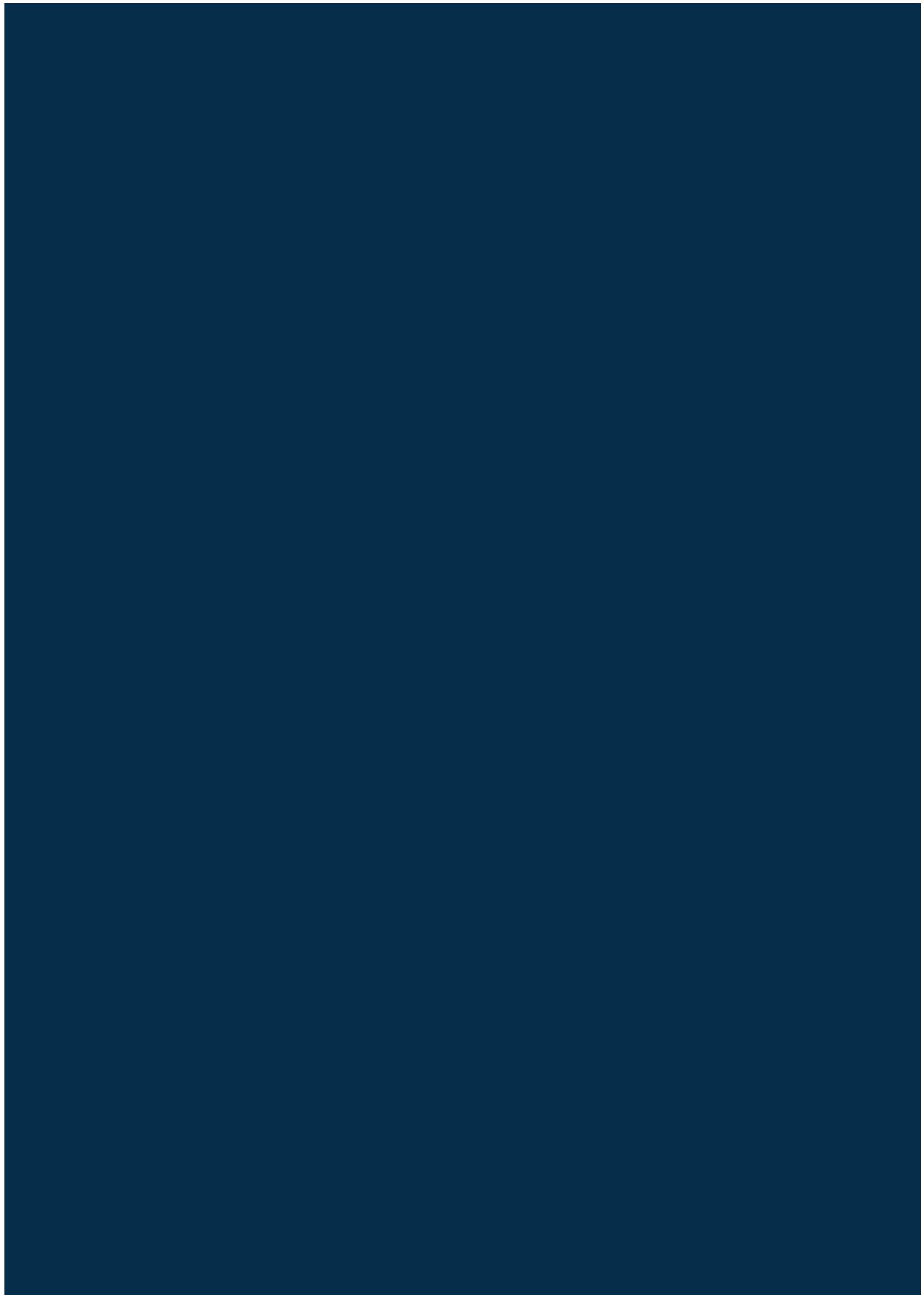
CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read this discussion paper and your support for the 2026 National General Assembly of Local Government.

A final reminder:

- Motions should be lodged electronically at www.alga.com.au and received no later than **11.59pm AEST on 27 February 2026**.
- Motions must meet the criteria published in this paper.
- Motions should commence with the following wording: *This National General Assembly calls on the Australian Government to...*
- Motions should not be prescriptive in directing how the matter should be pursued.
- Motions should be practical, focussed and relatively simple.
- It is important to complete the background section on the form.
- Motions must not seek to advance an outcome that would result in a benefit to one group of councils to the detriment of another.
- When your council submits a motion there is an expectation that a council representative will be present at the 2026 National General Assembly to move and speak to that motion if required.
- Resolutions of the National General Assembly do not automatically become ALGA's national policy positions. The resolutions are used by the ALGA Board to inform policies, priorities and strategies to advance local governments within the national agenda.

We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at the 2026 National General Assembly in Canberra.



**REPORT
FC/5.3/26.02****WAVERLEY
COUNCIL****Subject:** Waverley Art Prize - Celebrating 40 Years in 2026**TRIM No:** A24/0018**Manager:** Tanya Goldberg, Executive Manager, Arts, Culture and Events**Director:** Ben Thompson, Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience**RECOMMENDATION:**

That Council notes the program for the commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Waverley Art Prize in 2026, as set out in the report.

1. Executive Summary

At its meeting on 19 August 2025, Council resolved to especially mark the 2026 Waverley Art Prize with 40th anniversary commemorative programming. This report outlines planning for this event, including a retrospective exhibition covering the history of the prize, accompanying programming, marketing and promotion of events and the prize, integration with other Waverley activities and relevant stakeholder engagement including past winners.

2. Introduction/Background

Established in 1986, Waverley Art Prize is a long running and highly respected local government art award. Jointly presented by Waverley Council and Waverley Woollahra Art School, the prize has provided a platform for both emerging and established artists to showcase their work, build professional careers, and engage with diverse audiences.

Over the past four decades, Waverley Art Prize has evolved into a significant cultural event, platforming visual arts locally and contributing to Waverley's national reputation as a creative and culturally vibrant community. Many past winners and finalists have gone on to achieve national and international recognition, underscoring the Prize's role in fostering artistic talent.

Held annually, the Waverley Art Prize has consistently attracted high-quality submissions from across the country, judged by esteemed curators, artists and arts leaders. The finalists' exhibition at Bondi Pavilion Art Gallery provides a valuable opportunity for public engagement with contemporary Australian art.

Waverley Art Prize celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2026, providing an opportunity to reflect on its legacy, celebrate its impact and ensure its continued success. A dedicated program to mark this milestone will help honour the contributions of participating artists, engage the community, and reaffirm Council's commitment to supporting the arts.

Celebrating this anniversary in a meaningful way aligns with Council's Community Strategic Plan goals of cultural vitality, lifelong learning and creative expression. It also supports economic and social outcomes by activating public spaces and fostering local pride and participation.

3. Relevant Council Resolutions

Meeting and date	Item No.	Resolution
Council 19 August 2025	CM/8.1/25.08	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes that 2026 marks the 40th anniversary of the Waverley Art Prize, a significant cultural program that has supported and showcased artists from across Australia since its establishment in 1986. 2. Acknowledges the important role the Waverley Art Prize has played in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Supporting emerging and established visual artists. (b) Enhancing Waverley's cultural life and reputation. (c) Contributing to Australia's creative and cultural economy. 3. Recognises and thanks all artists, arts workers, judges, partners and staff who have contributed to the success of the Waverley Art Prize over the past four decades. 4. Officers prepare a report to Council outlining options for commemorating the 40th anniversary of the prize in 2026, including: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) A retrospective exhibition or publication celebrating past winners and finalists. (b) Community engagement activities that explore the history and significance of the prize. (c) Promotion of and education about the prize and its enduring contribution to visual arts. (d) Opportunities to integrate the anniversary into other cultural events across Waverley during the year. (e) Inviting past winners to the launch of the 2026 Art Prize to celebrate the anniversary and Waverley's commitment to the visual arts. 5. Officers provide an update to Council by March 2026 on the proposed program, including indicative timelines, partnership opportunities and budget considerations.

4. Discussion

2026 Waverley Art Prize 40th anniversary commemorative program planning centres around a retrospective exhibition covering the history of the prize in the Waverley Library Gallery. This will be augmented by public programs, marketing and promotion of commemorative events, integration with other Waverley engagement activities and bespoke stakeholder engagement including with past winners.

Retrospective exhibition

To align with the 2026 Waverley Art Prize exhibition to be held in Bondi Pavilion Art Gallery in July, a WAP 40 retrospective exhibition will be held concurrently in Waverley Library Gallery.

This exhibition will display acquisitions in Council's art collection from Waverley Art Prize winners over the years for the very first time. It will also incorporate information from Council's Local Studies collection relevant to the prize and visual arts in Waverley.

Partnership opportunities

In keeping with the joint presentation of Waverley Art Prize over many years, Waverley Woollahra Art School will be invited to contribute content to the exhibition, and to program their own public events alongside Council's exhibition to amplify the school's own programs.

Budget considerations

Costs have been factored into current arts and culture budget planning, with allocations for these activities provided in both the Waverley Art Prize and Waverley Library Gallery budgets.

Community engagement and activities across Waverley in 2026

Since 2022, Waverley Art Prize has been incorporated into the opening night festivities for Bondi Festival. This amplifies both the festival launch and the art prize, giving prominence to both and expanding audience reach.

This year, Waverley Art Prize 2026 will once again be featured on the opening night of Bondi Festival. That exhibition, at Bondi Pavilion Art Gallery, will reference the WAP 40 retrospective exhibition at Waverley Library, highlighting the story of the prize in Bondi Festival communications and providing a direct link between the two exhibitions for all audiences.

Waverley Library will also feature celebratory WAP 40 activities such as drop-in art workshops, and a winners artwork exhibition trail. Drop-in art workshops will also be offered at Bondi Pavilion during the school holidays coinciding with Bondi Festival, to further amplify the 40th anniversary.

Further community engagement programming will include past winner artist talks and workshops.

Promotion and education

The unique contribution of Waverley Art Prize will be illuminated and celebrated in the WAP 40 commemorative exhibition with additional commentary and wall text provided by Waverley's Local Studies team.

A comprehensive marketing and promotion campaign will communicate the story of the prize's 40th anniversary throughout the year, with e-newsletter featurettes, social media posts and printed advertising referencing key messages, including:

- Waverley Art Prize is 40 this year!
- Waverley Council is home to a vibrant community of artists and has a long tradition of commitment to arts and culture
- Arts and culture is integral to life in Waverley, bonds our community and brings the best of the artistic world into our local community.

5. Financial Impact

Current Arts and Culture budget allocations will support proposed activity without additional funding requirements.

6. Risks/Issues

Failing to celebrate significant milestones such as this risks undermining the reputation of Waverley Art Prize and jeopardises the status of arts and culture generally and visual arts specifically in Waverley. In proudly celebrating the prize's 40th anniversary, Council sends a strong positive message to local creatives, the Waverley community and the visual arts sector, acknowledging and valuing the contribution of the arts to Waverley and beyond, and affirming Council's ongoing commitment to creative development, participation and engagement.

7. Attachments

Nil.

**REPORT
FC/5.4/26.02**

Subject: Wairoa Community Centre, 2B Brighton Boulevard,
North Bondi - Lease - Exhibition

TRIM No: A17/0117

Manager: Andrew Best, Executive Manager, Property and Facilities

Director: Sharon Cassidy, Director, Assets and Operations

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 47A of the *Local Government Act 1993*, publicly notifies and exhibits for 28 days the proposal to grant a lease of up to five years to South Eastern Sydney Local Health District for part of the Wairoa Community Centre at 2B Brighton Boulevard, North Bondi.
2. Approves in principle the granting of a lease of up to five years and authorises the General Manager or delegate to negotiate the terms of the lease with South Eastern Sydney Local Health District.
3. Officers prepare a report to Council following the exhibition period to consider any submissions and grant the lease.

1. Executive Summary

The South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD) is one of the largest State Government-run Health Districts in Sydney and has been delivering child health and family support services within Waverley for many decades.

The service currently known as the Bondi Beach Early Childhood Health Centre operates from Council's property at 2B Brighton Boulevard, North Bondi. The current lease expires on 31 March 2026, and the tenant is seeking a new lease for a further five-year term.

The tenant provides important specialist services to the Waverley community that Council could not provide itself and as such it is proposed to offer the tenant a new lease. Council can directly negotiate with existing tenants in accordance with the Leasing and Licensing of Council Managed Land Policy.

This report seeks Council approval to undertake a public exhibition process of the intent to award a lease to SESLHD for a period of up to five years.

2. Introduction/Background

The SESLHD organisation provides child and family health services in NSW with free support for parents and carers with children from birth to five years, through child and family health centre nurses, providing developmental checks, feeding/sleep advice, parenting groups and referrals to specialists like mental health or allied health services.

The premises is located on a Crown Reserve known as the Wairoa Community Centre Reserve Trust R71808 Lots 1419 & 1420 DP752011, with Council acting as Crown Land Manager in accordance with the *Crown Land Management Act 2016*.

The current lease commenced on 1 October 2023 for a term of two and a half years with a commencement rent set by Council of \$2,938 per annum (excluding GST), with the rent to be reviewed upon expiry.

3. Relevant Council Resolutions

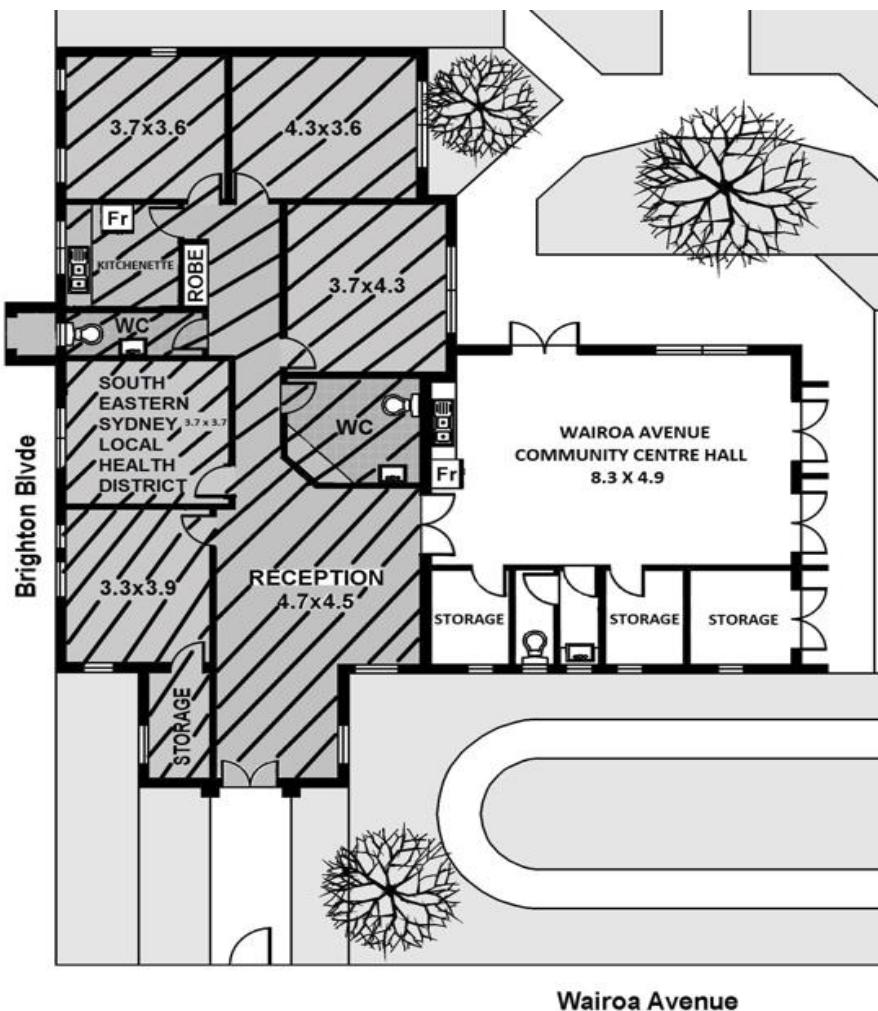
Meeting and date	Item No.	Resolution
Council 12 September 2023	CM/11.1/23.09	<p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Treats the report as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>, as it relates to a matter specified in section 10A(2)(c) of the <i>Local Government Act 1993</i>. 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 South Eastern Sydney Local Health District for part of the Wairoa Baby Health Clinic building at 2B Brighton Boulevard, North Bondi, on the terms and conditions set out in the report, subject to the rent being set at the current contribution level for the duration of the lease. 3. Authorises the General Manager or delegate to complete negotiations and execute all necessary documentation to finalise the matter.

4. Discussion

SESLHD has provided important health services to the Waverley community for many decades.

The lease to the SESLHD is awarded under Council's Community Tenancy Policy, whereby Council provides accommodation within its property portfolio to not-for-profit organisations to deliver services to the local community at subsidised rents. Through providing subsidised accommodation, Council is supporting the provision of services that it does not itself deliver direct to the community.

The Bondi Beach Early Childhood Health Centre operates from premises that form part of the Wairoa Community Centre at 2B Brighton Boulevard, North Bondi. The premises are indicated by the hatched area in the premises plan below.



Wairoa Avenue

Figure 1. SESLHD leased premises plan – Wairoa Community Centre, 2B Brighton Boulevard.

Following the end of the 28-day section exhibition period, officers will report back to Council on any submissions received and seek approval to grant the new lease.

5. Financial Impact

There are no financial impacts from Council exhibiting the intent to offer a lease in accordance with Section 47A of the *Local Government Act* other than the cost of advertising in local media and sending letter to residents in the immediate vicinity of the property. These costs are estimated to be around \$3,500 and funds are available in the Property and Facilities operational budgets.

6. Risks/Issues

There are no risks in Council undertaking a section 47A public exhibition process of the intent to offer a new lease to SESLHD.

7. Attachments

Nil.

CLOSED SESSION
FC/7/26.02**Subject:** Moving into Closed Session**Author:** Emily Scott, General Manager**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/7.1/26.02 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 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 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 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/8/26.02



Subject: Resuming in Open Session

Author: Emily Scott, General Manager

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.