



WAVERLEY COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE, OPERATIONS AND COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE BOOT FACTORY, SPRING STREET, BONDI JUNCTION ON TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2026

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
Tim Sneesby	Acting Director, Planning, Sustainability and Compliance
Ben Thompson	Director, Community, Culture and Customer Experience

A public forum chaired by the Mayor was held at 6.30 pm before the meeting. There were no addresses in respect of the meeting.

At the commencement of the meeting at 7.00 pm, those present were as listed above.

Following the prayer and acknowledgement of Indigenous heritage, a motion moved by Cr Westwood and seconded by Cr Masselos to allow Cr Wy Kanak to attend the meeting and the following Strategic Planning and Development Committee meeting by audio-visual link due to medical reasons was put and declared carried.

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/Leaves of Absence

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

A PROCEDURAL MOTION TO ALTER THE ORDER OF BUSINESS TO CONSIDER OBITUARIES, MOVED BY CR WESTWOOD AND SECONDED BY CR NEMESH, WAS THEN PUT AND DECLARED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Obituaries

Stanley Roth AM

Dame Marie Bashir AD CVO

Nico Antic

Council rose for a minute's silence for the souls of people generally who have died in our local government area.

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/5.1/26.02 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting – 16 October 2025 – Minutes.

FC/5.3/26.02 Waverley Art Prize – Celebrating 40 Years in 2026.

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

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

3. Confirmation of Minutes

FC/3.1/26.02 Confirmation of Minutes - Finance, Operations and Community Services Committee Meeting - 2 December 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 2 December 2025 as a true record of the proceedings of that meeting.

4. Mayoral Minutes

FC/4.1/26.02 Waverley Citizen of the Year (A26/0275)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Nemesh
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Investigates establishing an annual Waverley Citizen of the Year Award to be presented on Australia Day each year.
2. Officers prepare a report to Council on the outcome no later than May 2026.

Background

Every year on Australia Day, Waverley Council honours and welcomes new citizens to our community showcasing the diversity and multiculturalism of Waverley and respecting the traditions and culture of First Nations people. This mayoral minute proposes that officers prepare a report to Council on establishing an annual Citizen of the Year award to be presented on Australia Day each year.

Implementing a Waverley Citizen of the Year award to be presented on Australia Day would formally

recognise a worthy resident who makes a significant contribution to our community and deserves to be recognized and celebrated.

Australia Day is an established moment of civic reflection and local pride, making it the most meaningful time to celebrate individuals who exemplify service, compassion and leadership. Highlighting positive local role models like volunteers, mentors, community builders and unsung heroes we can reinforce our shared values and remind us all that community wellbeing is driven by people, not just institutions.

It is intended that introducing this award would actively encourage greater civic participation and volunteerism across Waverley. Public recognition sends a powerful message that contributions of time, care and leadership matter and are noticed. For young people in particular, seeing a local honoured for community service helps set positive aspirations and strengthens social cohesion. Over time, the award would build a growing legacy of local achievement, fostering pride in place and a stronger sense of belonging across our suburbs and diverse backgrounds.

A Citizen of the Year award is a highly cost-effective initiative that delivers significant social value while enhancing our Australia Day program. It provides a positive, inclusive focal point that unites the community around shared achievements and local stories. By leading this initiative, we demonstrate our commitment to recognising community excellence, celebrating local identity and strengthening trust between residents and local government which are outcomes that align squarely with good governance and community leadership.

**FC/4.2/26.02 CONFIDENTIAL MAYORAL MINUTE - Bondi Junction Park - Acquisition
(A02/0237)**

Council dealt with this item in closed session.

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Nemesh
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Treats the mayoral minute as confidential in accordance with section 11(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as it relates to a matter specified in section 10A(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act 1993*. The mayoral minute contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business.
2. Notes that the Bondi Junction Master Planning process has highlighted the scarcity and importance of open space within the Bondi Junction CBD and the need to identify new opportunities for open space while protecting existing assets.
3. Notes that the NSW State Government Housing targets will result in increased densification in Bondi Junction.
4. Notes the strategic importance of the site identified in the mayoral minute as a critical community asset.
5. Explores processes and options to acquire the site to secure the continued use of the land for the amenity of Waverley residents and the community, with officers to prepare a report to Council no later than June 2026.

FC/4.3/26.02 Surf Life Saving Australia Red and Yellow Day (A26/0277)**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Supports and recognises the inaugural Surf Life Saving Australia Red and Yellow Day to be held on 4 March 2026.
2. Acknowledges all Surf Life Saving volunteers for their contribution to the community, including their incredible bravery and contributions displayed in response to the Bondi Beach terror attack on 14 December 2025.
3. Notes that Waverley is the home of Surf Life Saving in Australia with the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club being recognised as the oldest surf lifesaving club in the world.
4. In honour of Red and Yellow Day, works with Surf Life Saving in Australia to temporarily paint the pedestrian crossing on Queen Elizabeth Drive, adjacent to Bondi Beach Park, in red and yellow to represent the iconic colours of Surf Life Saving in Australia.
5. Officers work with Surf Life Saving Australia to implement this resolution.

Background

Waverley Council and volunteer Surf Life Saving clubs share a long and proud history in local beach culture. Council is fortunate to have four long-serving local Surf Life Saving clubs located along our iconic beaches, including the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club, Bronte Surf Club, North Bondi Surf Club and Tamarama Surf Club. Furthermore, the Bondi Surf Bathers Life Saving Club has been recognised as the oldest surf lifesaving club in the world.

Local Surf Life Saving clubs and their volunteers have continued to provide essential and valuable services to both the Waverley community and visitors at our iconic beaches. More recently, Surf Life Saving volunteers bravely responded alongside Waverley Council Lifeguards, other first responders and members of the public to provide critical first aid to save lives during the Bondi Beach terror attack on 14 December 2025.

Surf Life Saving Australia will be launching a new, annual national day Red and Yellow Day on 4 March 2026. The day will recognise the 200,000+ volunteers who help to keep the community and beaches safe each year, also making them the world's largest volunteer organisation. The Red and Yellow Day will focus on the iconic red and yellow associated with beach safety flags and Surf Life Saving volunteer uniforms.

Surf Life Saving Australia has engaged with Waverley Council to seek our support in showcasing the inaugural Red and Yellow Day as the 'home of Surf Life Saving Australia.' Surf Life Saving Australia are also seeking Council's support for a proposal to paint the pedestrian crossing on Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi Beach, adjacent to Bondi Beach Park, in alternating red and yellow to represent the iconic colours of Surf Life Saving. This site activation at Bondi Beach would provide great support and promotion to acknowledge and celebrate Australia's Surf Life Saving volunteers.

To support and recognise the inaugural Surf Life Saving Australia Red and Yellow Day, we request that Council writes to Surf Life Saving Australia to confirm Waverley Council's support for Red and Yellow Day. Council also acknowledges all Surf Life Saving volunteers for their contribution to the community, including their bravery displayed in response to the Bondi Beach terror attack on 14

December 2025. It is also recommended that officers work with Surf Life Saving Australia to temporarily paint the pedestrian crossing on Queen Elizabeth Drive in red and yellow to represent the iconic colours of Surf Life Saving in Australia and celebrate Red and Yellow Day.

FC/4.4/26.02 Virgil Lane, Bronte (A03/0863)**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Nemesh
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Officers prepare a report by April 2026 on the role and function of Virgil Lane, Bronte, including its use for waste collection, servicing, deliveries, pedestrian access and general traffic movements.
2. Assesses any operational, safety or amenity risks associated with the lane, particularly given its interface with nearby residential and commercial properties.
3. Provides advice on feasible improvements, where warranted, to enhance safety, amenity and operational efficiency, noting any constraints arising from existing servicing requirements and development approvals.
4. Clarifies Council's regulatory role, including the distinction between matters governed by development consents and those more appropriately addressed through traffic management, infrastructure or operational controls.
5. Identifies any short-, medium- or long-term actions, including potential costs, risks and implementation considerations.

Background

Development application DA-409/2025 was approved by the Waverley Local Planning Panel on 26 November 2025 for the use and fit-out of the ground floor commercial tenancy as a restaurant within the approved shop-top housing development at 118 Macpherson Street. The application was assessed against the relevant matters under section 4.15(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and approved subject to conditions of consent. Only the applicant has the power to seek an amendment to the determination.

The proposal maintains the building configuration established under the associated parent consent and does not alter the approved commercial function of the ground floor, with the development considered acceptable subject to appropriate conditions.

Waste storage and servicing arrangements for the building were previously considered and approved under the parent consent, with the restaurant approval relying on these established arrangements and applying additional operational conditions to regulate ongoing waste management.

The approved bin storage areas are located at the rear of the site adjoining Virgil Lane. While the development consents prescribe collection frequency and permissible hours, they do not explicitly nominate the collection point or vehicle types.

Officers advise that Virgil Lane currently accommodates existing waste collection services for multiple households and businesses, and that introducing measures such as weight restrictions

could adversely affect these services.

Although a Waste Management Plan must be submitted and approved by Council's delegated officer prior to the issue of an occupation certificate, the development application has been determined. Therefore, any Plan of Management must operate within, and not be inconsistent with, the development consent.

Accordingly, this motion seeks a report back on the role and function of Virgil Lane and operational considerations regarding waste collection and whether it is feasible or not to mitigate resident concerns about amenity and operational impacts of the restaurant.

FC/4.5/26.02 Australia Day 2026 Honours (A26/0113)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Nemesh
Seconder: Cr Spooner

That Council:

1. Congratulates Mr George Newhouse AM who was a recipient in the Australia Day honours for 2026.
2. Writes to Mr Newhouse congratulating him on his achievement and expressing Council's appreciation for the significant contributions he has made to the Waverley community and to the community more broadly.

Background

George Newhouse AM was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia, on Australia Day 2026. This was in recognition 'For significant service to the law, to the legal profession, and to the community.'

As many here tonight are aware, George was a former Councillor and Mayor of Waverley. His term on Council spanned a 13-year period and included:

- Mayor, 2006–2007.
- Deputy Mayor, 2004–2006.
- Councillor, Hunter Ward, 1995–2008.

His contribution to Council and to the Waverley community during this time was significant and is to be commended.

As a member of the legal profession, George's service spans several roles. He is the principal solicitor of the National Justice Project and an Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Technology and Macquarie University. He is well known for his extensive work in fighting for justice for people living with disabilities, the LGBTQI+ community, immigrants, prisoners, asylum seekers, youth detainees, and First Nations people. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Deadly Connections and is a Committee Member of the Climate Justice Program.

In addition to his expertise in social justice law, George specialises in defamation, privacy, negligence, property, finance and planning law. He is an Adjunct Professor at Macquarie University where he teaches law to the next generation of social justice advocates in the National Justice Project Social Justice Clinic. Further details of his work and appointments are listed below.

George's tireless work and dedication have been influential, positively impacting the lives of many people. It is wonderful to see his work and contribution recognised at the national level.

We congratulate George on this special and well-deserved honour and wish him every continued success.

Summary of work and appointments – George Newhouse AM, as distributed with the Award announcement

National Justice Project

- Chief Executive Officer and Co-Founder, since 2015.
- Co-Establisher, Social Justice Clinic, Macquarie University, since 2016.
- Co-Establisher, Social Justice Clinic, Monash University, since 2020.
- Principal Solicitor, since 2016.

Tech4Justice

- Co-Establisher, Tech4Justice Clinic, Macquarie University, since 2020.
- Co-Creator, 'Hear Me Out' AI Platform Initiative, current.

First Nations

- Director, The Stolen Generations Testimonies Foundation, since 2007.
- Member, Advisory Board, Deadly Connections, 2021–2023.
- Chapter Editor, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Civil Justice Issues, The Laws of Australia, Thomson Reuters, since 2011.
- Co-Founder and Director, Australian Indigenous Chamber of Commerce, 2008–2012.
- Participant, Indigenous Affairs, Australia 2020 Summit, 2008.
- Adjunct Professor, Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, University of Technology Sydney.

Macquarie University

- Adjunct Professor of Law, since 2016.
- Co-Establisher and Presenter, Social Justice Clinic, current.

Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research, University of Technology Sydney

- Adjunct Professor, since 2021.
- Designer and Contributor, 'Call It Out' A First Nations Racism Register, 2022.

Law

- Principal Solicitor, Centennial Lawyers, current.
- Special Counsel, Shine Lawyers Ltd, 2011–2016.
- Corporate Counsel, Surry Partners Lawyers, 2008–2011.
- Member and Mediator, NSW Workers Compensation Commission, 2001–2007.
- Member and Accredited Mediator, Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal, 1999–2007.
- In-house Legal Counsel, Marsim Corporation, 2000–2006.
- Partner, KNPW Lawyers (incorporating George Newhouse & Associates), 1993–1999.

- Lawyer, Swaab & Associates, 1990–1993.

Waverley Council

- Mayor, 2006–2007.
- Deputy Mayor, 2004–2006.
- Councillor, Hunter Ward, 1995–2008.

Community

- Committee Member, Climate Justice Programme, since 2017.
- Founding Member, The McKell Institute, since 2011.
- Advisor, Adrian Lam Foundation, 2009-2011.

Professional – Other

- Member, Advisory Board, The Alex Buzo Company, 2007–2010.
- Board Member, New South Wales Architects Registration Board, 2004–2007.
- Capital Markets Lawyer and Solicitor, Clifford Chance, 1989–1990.
- Manager, Treasury Planning and Development, JP Morgan, 1987–1988.

Awards and recognition include:

- Most Innovative Website, Australian Web Awards, 2025.
- Innovation in Legal IT, Lawtech Award, 2024.
- Impact 25 Award, Pro Bono Australia, 2021.
- Named one of the Most Influential Lawyers in Human Rights, Advocacy, and Criminal Law, Australasian Lawyers, 2021.
- Civil Justice Award, Australian Lawyers Alliance, 2019.
- Ron Castan Humanitarian Award, Stand Up: A Jewish Commitment to a Better World, 2017.

5. Reports

FC/5.1/26.02 Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee Meeting - 16 October 2025 -
Minutes (A25/0077)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood
Seconder: Cr Nemesh

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

FC/5.2/26.02 Australian Local Government Association - National General Assembly
2026 - Attendance and Motions (A13/0314)

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood
Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That Council;

1. Nominates Crs Nemesh, Westwood, Stephenson, Frazer, Spooner, Masselos and Fabiano 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 Nemesh as Council's voting delegate and Cr Westwood 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.

FC/5.3/26.02 Waverley Art Prize - Celebrating 40 Years in 2026 (A24/0018)**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Westwood

Seconder: Cr Nemesh

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

FC/5.4/26.02 Wairoa Community Centre, 2B Brighton Boulevard, North Bondi - Lease - Exhibition (A17/0117)**MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION**

Mover: Cr Westwood

Seconder: Cr Nemesh

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.

6. Urgent Business

There was no urgent business.

7. Closed Session

FC/7/26.02 Closed Session

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood

Seconder: Cr Nemesh

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/4.2/26.02 CONFIDENTIAL MAYORAL MINUTE - Bondi Junction Park - Acquisition

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

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

At 7.36 pm, Council moved into closed session.

FC/7.1/26.02 CONFIDENTIAL REPORT - Clementson Park, Newland Street, Bondi Junction - Part Lot 1 DP 120184 - Lease (A02/0237)

Council dealt with this item in open session.

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood

Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That Council:

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

8. Resuming in Open Session

FC/8/26.02 Resuming in Open Session

MOTION / UNANIMOUS DECISION

Mover: Cr Westwood

Seconder: Cr Nemesh

That Council resumes in open session.

At 7.39 pm, Council resumed in open session.

Resolutions from closed session made public

In accordance with clause 14.17 of the Waverley Code of Meeting Practice, when the meeting resumed in open session the chair announced the resolutions made by Council while the meeting was closed to members of the public and the media.

9. Meeting Closure

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 7.40 PM.

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SIGNED AND CONFIRMED
CHAIR
10 MARCH 2026