

NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

PUBLIC SUPPLEMENTARY

AGENDA - A

An Ordinary Meeting of City of Parramatta Council will be held via audio / visual means on Monday, 26 July 2021 at 6.30pm.

Note: Members of the public will not be able to attend the meeting in person but will be able to view the live stream video on Council's website.

Brett Newman
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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20.12	LATE REPORT FOR APPROVAL: Proposed Acquisition of 9 Wentworth Street Parramatta <i>This report is confidential in accordance with section 10A (2) (c) (d) of the Local Government Act 1993 as the report contains information that would, if disclosed, confer a commercial advantage on a person with whom the Council is conducting (or proposes to conduct) business; AND the report contains commercial information of a confidential nature that would, if disclosed (i) prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied it; or (ii) confer a commercial advantage on a competitor of the Council; or (iii) reveal a trade secret.</i>	

FAIR

ITEM NUMBER	12.4
SUBJECT	LATE REPORT FOR APPROVAL: Council's Response to COVID-19
REFERENCE	F2021/00521 - D08141382
REPORT OF	Acting Senior Project Officer

WORKSHOP/BRIEFING DATE: Nil

PURPOSE:

To:

- Provide an update on the progress of Council's COVID-19 Relief Packages.
- Provide an update on current business and community support from the State and Commonwealth Government.
- Approve reinstatement of a small number of COVID-19 related relief actions.

RECOMMENDATION

- (a) **That** Council note the progress to date of its COVID-19 Community Resilience and Economic relief Package initially adopted 7 April 2020 and revised on 9 June 2020, 13 July 2020, 12 October 2020, and 30 November 2020 (**Attachment A**).
- (b) **That** Council note the update on current business and community support from the State and Commonwealth Government (**Attachment B**).
- (c) **That** Council approve reinstatement of ten Action Items from the former Relief package, and one new action (xi.), to respond to the changing impacts of COVID-19 on the community and businesses for a period of three months (with a delegation to the Chief Executive Officer to modify if required until the new Council comes into effect), commencing from Saturday 26 June 2021, including:
- (F1) Waiver of interest on late rate payments - The Council will waive interest on late payments for Council rates, where ratepayers satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy).
 - (F2) Payment Plans for Late Rate Payments - The Council will put in place payment plans for late payments for Council Rates, where ratepayers are suffering financial hardship and satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy).
 - (F3) 7-day Payment of Goods – The Council will reintroduce 7-day payment processing periods for local small and medium suppliers of goods
 - (F5(a)) Waiver of License and Hire Fees - The Council will waive pre-paid and ongoing licence and hire fees for outdoor dining, food stalls, temporary premises, and non-commercial advertising.
 - (F5(b)) Waiver of License and Hire Fees – The Council will waive pre-paid and ongoing licence and hire fees for community halls, parks, and community venues.
 - (F5(c)) Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees - License and Approvals (Outside of Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) Corridor) – The Council will waive the licence and approval fees for outdoor dining licences outside the PLR corridor (with the exception of Parramatta Square).

- vii. (F6) On Street Parking – The Council will put in place a range of measures to provide grace periods and cautions for time-limited on street parking spaces; however, Council will continue to enforce illegal parking to ensure public safety and turnover for short stay parking to support local businesses. Council will also reduce and change time limits in a number of local on street parking locations to facilitate takeaway services and support local business until occupancy reaches 80% of 2019's vehicle volumes.
 - viii. (F7a) Waiver of Rents – The Council will waive all rents for Council owned assets which are occupied by community groups, essential services and not for profit organisations.
 - ix. (F7b) Waiver of Rents – Affordable Housing Dwellings - The Council will provide rent relief for tenants of City of Parramatta Council's Affordable Housing Dwellings, if tenants qualify for financial hardship and a request is made for rent reduction.
- (d) **That**, Council approve the reinstatement of the following action from the former Relief package, for a period of six months, commencing from Saturday 26 June 2021:
- x. (F5(d)) Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees - License and Approvals (Inside of Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) Corridor) – The Council will waive the licence and approval fees for outdoor dining licences inside the PLR corridor.
- (e) **Further, that** Council approve the following new proposed action, commencing from Monday 19 July 2021, until such time as the Commonwealth Government support of this measure ceases:
- xi. (F10) Waiver of Child Care Gap-Fees - The Council will waive the child care gap-fee for parents/carers on days they choose to keep their children at home due to stay-at-home orders.

BACKGROUND

1. On Monday 12 June 2021, Council resolved to:
That a report be presented to the 26 July Council Meeting outlining targeted options and measures for the City of Parramatta community in response to the current COVID-19 climate.
2. The impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic (COVID-19 or pandemic) has been felt across Australia since March 2020. As Australia's fifth largest economy, Parramatta will bear a substantial portion of these impacts.
3. Council approved its first COVID-19 Community Resilience and Economic Relief Package on 7 April 2020 valued at \$3 million, to respond and provide support for the local economy and community.
4. Further support packages, including creative economy support, were approved 9 June 2020, 13 July 2020, 12 October 2020, and 30 November 2020. Progress updates were also provided within these reports on these dates.
5. On 26 of June 2020, The State Government announced a stay-at-home order to be extended across all Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast and Wollongong until 9 July 2021. On 7 July the stay-at-home

orders were extended again to 16 July, and on 14 July it was announced that these restrictions would remain in place until at least 30 July 2021.

6. Restrictions have resulted in shut down of businesses, programs, services, and facilities, impacting on the community and economy. It is unclear when the lockdown will be lifted.

COVID-19 Community Resilience and Economic Relief Package – Progress Report

7. Council endorsed its COVID-19 Relief Package on 7 April 2020. This included 23 actions that focus on financial relief, jobs and investment, health and wellbeing, and support for vulnerable people, totaling \$3 million in support. A further 11 actions focusing on Creative Economy Support and rapid community and economy recovery were added at subsequent meetings on 9 June 2020, 13 July 2020, 12 October 2020, and 30 November 2020.
8. A status report of COVID-19 response package is attached for Council's information (**Attachment A**). This is not a complete final evaluation of the program; it is instead an update on progress. Council has not yet undertaken a comprehensive review of its relief package as the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and evolving and some programs have not been completed.
9. For the information of Council, a summary of progress and impacts of key programs is provided below.

Small Business COVID-19 Response Grants – Update

10. Council provided Business Grants of up to \$2,000, with a total program value of up to \$150,000, to support local businesses who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 (using the existing Economic Development Special Rate).
11. Council received 185 applications in total. A broad range of requests were received and included funding for online art programming, telehealth services, online fitness programming, digital learning platforms and development of online retail and restaurant platforms. Eighty-three (83) applicants were successful in their request and were granted funding.
12. The grants were effective in their specific purpose to enable businesses to pivot their service offering because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19 Community Resilience Grants – Update

13. Council provided Community Resilience Grants of a maximum amount of \$20,000, with a total program value of up to \$381,000, to support not-for-profits and social enterprises who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19.
14. Council received 89 applications in total. A broad range of requests were received and included resource development, building internal capacity,

development of a project that will build resilient, vibrant, and healthy communities, and capital purchases towards a project.

15. Thirty-six (36) applicants were granted funding and to date 26 have submitted acquittals.

COVID-19 Creative Economy Grants - Update

16. The Creative Economy Grants application and assessment process has been completed, projects commenced late last year and early this year and the program is expected to be completed by November.
17. The Creative Economy Grants provided funding of between \$2,500 and \$19,000, with a total program value of up to \$150,000, to support local cultural and creative organisations who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 (using existing Cultural Fund).
18. Council received 29 applications in total and 12 were successful for funding.
19. Projects cover a diverse range of creative industries, including music, dance, performing arts, visual arts, film, cultural development, and literacy/writing and will deliver events, digital content, capacity building workshops and enterprise and business opportunities.
20. Most of the recipients have either significantly commenced or completed their project however staff are undertaking discussions to assess whether this lockdown will impact their ability to progress and successfully acquit these grants.

Current community and business support from the State and Commonwealth Government

21. As a result of the New South Wales (NSW) recent lockdown, the Commonwealth and State Government together have upgraded its national response to COVID-19 outbreaks with increased weekly payments for households and boosting business cash flow to get them through extended lockdowns.
22. These arrangements have been developed between the Commonwealth and NSW governments to ensure additional support is targeted and rolls out as quickly as possible under a new cost sharing agreement. Details of these measures are included in Attachment B.

Community Engagement and Surveys during COVID-19

23. Council has collected some information to understand how the pandemic is impacting our residents, and to use this information to ensure that Council's services, programs, and policies continue to meet the needs of the community.

24. Council conducted two surveys between August and December 2020 to capture local resident data, views and perspective on the impact and experience of COVID-19.
25. One survey focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the community's health and fitness, and the scope of the other survey was broader, seeking to understand residents' experiences of COVID-19 and its impacts on employment, finance, housing, health, and lifestyle. Both surveys were administered online and received over 600 responses each.
26. Opportunities for Council identified as a result of these responses include services that are proactively made available online, maintenance of local parks and measures to support active transport and continued seamless service delivery such as garbage collection and COVID-safe library book collection.

Previously revised COVID-19 Relief Package actions, now proposed for reintroduction

27. The nature and experience of COVID-19 in our community has changed yet again, with stay at home, physical distancing and mask wearing requirements now being reinforced. Businesses, programs, services, and facilities have closed again.
28. Council staff have reviewed the previous measures from the endorsed COVID-19 Relief Packages and recommend that Council consider the reinstatement of nine previously approved actions for a period of three months
29. One of the previous relief package actions is proposed for a period of six months (Recommendation (d)x. or Action (F5(d))).
30. One new action is proposed (Recommendation (e)xi. or Action (F10)) aligned with the Commonwealth Government's Childcare Gap-Fee Waiver Scheme.
31. These actions are recommended as they are easy to implement, of a low risk of failure, and will contribute effectively to addressing social wellbeing and economic impact.
32. A review of these measures will occur at the end of the three month period or if there is a significant change in COVID-19 related circumstances:

Action Number	Title	Description
F1	Waiver of interest on late rate payments	The Council will waive interest on late payments for Council Rates, where ratepayers satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy).

F2	Payment Plans for financial difficulties	The Council will put in place payment plans for late payments for Council Rates, where ratepayers are suffering financial hardship and satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy).
F3	7 Day Payment of Goods	The Council will reintroduce 7-day payment processing periods for local small and medium suppliers of goods.
F5(a)	Waiver of License and Hire Fees -Outdoor dining, food stalls, temporary premises, and non- commercial advertising	The Council will waive pre-paid and ongoing licence and hire fees for outdoor dining licenses, food stalls, temporary premises, and advertising.
F5(b)	Waiver of License and Hire Fees – Community halls, parks, and community venues	The Council will waive pre-paid and ongoing licence and hire fees for community halls, parks, and community venues.
F5(c)	Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees- Licence and Approvals (Outside Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) Corridor)	The Council will waive the licence and approval fees for outdoor dining licences outside of the PLR corridor (with the exception of Parramatta Square).
F6	On Street Parking	<p>The Council will put in place a range of measures to provide grace periods and cautions for time-limited on street parking spaces; however, Council will continue to enforce illegal parking to ensure public safety and turnover for short stay parking to support local businesses. Council will also reduce and change time limits in a number of local on street parking locations to facilitate takeaway services and support local business.</p> <p>The revised COVID-19 Timed Parking Strategy (Extended Grace Period from 10 minutes to 1 hour and 2 cautions prior to a PIN issued on the 3rd occasion) will be implemented. Normal Parking monitoring and enforcement will return once the parking occupancy rate reaches 80%. This will be monitored and compared against 2019's Mark Mode Vehicle volumes in Timed Parking Zones in the Parramatta CBD.</p>
F7(a)	Waiver of Rents	The Council will waive all rents for Council owned assets which are occupied by community groups, essential services and not for profit organisations.
F7(b)	Waiver of Rents – Affordable Housing Dwellings	The Council will provide rent relief for tenants of City of Parramatta Council's Affordable Housing Dwellings, if tenants qualify for financial hardship and a request is made for rent reduction.

Proposed with different conditions and timeframes.		
Action Number	Title	Description
F5(d)	Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees – License and Approvals (Inside of Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) Corridor)	The Council will waive pre-paid and ongoing licence and hire fees for outdoor dining licenses, food stalls, temporary premises, and advertising inside of the PLR Corridor.
F10	Waiver of Child Care Gap-Fee	The Council will waive the child care gap-fee for parents/carers on days they choose to keep their children at home due to stay-at-home orders, as aligned with the Commonwealth Government's Childcare Gap-Fee Waiver Scheme.

CONSULTATION & TIMING

Stakeholder Consultation

33. Council has and will continue to provide frequent and up to date information to the community about Council services and programs impacted by COVID-19. Messaging has been communicated by using a range of both digital and non-digital channels including media, web, e-newsletters and social media.
34. Council has also been working closely in partnership with NSW Health, Western Sydney Local Health District and Multicultural NSW to share up to date COVID-19 information with the community including information in a range of languages
35. The following internal stakeholder consultation has been undertaken in relation to this matter:

Date	Stakeholder	Stakeholder Comment	Council Officer Response	Responsibility
May – June 2020	Council Staff	All actions were developed with staff and management input.	Council's Covid-19 related actions reflect staff and management input, both via individual consultation and the Crisis Management Team	City Strategy Unit
August – September 2020	Council Staff	All COVID-19 actions were developed with staff and management input	Council's COVID-19 related actions reflect staff and management input, both via individual consultation and	City Strategy Unit

			the Crisis Management Team	
September 2020	Council Staff	All Live Music Pilot Program actions were developed with staff and management input	Live Music Pilot Program related actions reflect staff and management input, both via individual consultation and the Crisis Management Team	City Strategy Unit
September 2020	Adjoining Business Owners to Phillip Lane Activation Project	Financial relief through COVID-19	-In line with Project Scope -Supports initiative	Bruce Mills
October 2020	Place Services	In line with other Council & State Government initiatives	-Cohesive Government to Government approach -Supports initiative	Bruce Mills
October 2020	Property Security and Assets	In line with other Council & State Government initiatives	-Cohesive Government to Government approach -Supports initiative - Reduction of budgeted income noted	Bindy Begg, Michael Leckey and Bryan Hynes
October – November 2020	Council Staff	All COVID-19 actions were developed with staff and management input	Council's COVID-19 related actions reflect staff and management input, both via individual consultation and the Crisis Management Team	City Strategy Unit
July 2021	Council Staff	Updates on progress of the 2020 relief package as well as costing estimates for proposed actions to reinstate developed with staff and management input.	Council's COVID-19 related actions reflect staff and management input	City Strategy Unit

36. The following Councillor consultation has been undertaken in relation to this matter:

Date	Councillor	Councillor Comment	Council Officer Response	Responsibility
13 July 2020	All Councillors	Councillors endorsed a report to be provided to the September Council meeting to further consider fee waivers	In addition to October 2020 Council Report, fee waivers also presented as part of this November Council Report	City Strategy
August 2020	All Councillors	Briefing Note provided to Councillors for their information on progress made related to Council's COVID-19 package throughout August	Briefing note provided to Councillors for information	City Strategy
September 2020	Lord Mayor	Executive Director City Planning and Development provided briefing to Lord Mayor on action R2 – Supporting Development	Lord Mayor briefed on action R2 – Supporting Development	City Planning
September 2020	All Councillors	Executive Director City Planning and Development provided briefing to all Councillors on action R2- Supporting Development at the planning matter briefing prior to the Council meeting	Councillors briefed on action R2- Supporting Development at the planning matter briefing	City Planning
February 2021	All Councillors	Briefing Note provided to Councillors for their information on progress	Briefing Note provided to Councillors for information	City Strategy

		made related to Council's COVID-19 package since August 2020.		
12 July 2021	All Councillors	Council meeting	Notice of Motion	Council

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL

37. There are no legal implications for Council associated with this report.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS FOR COUNCIL

38. The financial implications resulting from the proposed revisions to previously endorsed COVID-19 Relief Package actions and one new action (F10), for the period of 26 June 2021 to 26 September 2021, unless otherwise stated, and assuming 100% waiver rates, are estimated to be as follows:

Item number	Action	Financial implications (three-month estimate)
i.	(F1) Waiver of interest on late rate payments – The Council will continue to waive the interest on late payments for Council rates, where ratepayers satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy). To date no interest has been generated.	\$125,000 loss on budgeted income
ii.	(F2) Payment Plans for Late Rate Payments – The Council will put in place payment plans for late payments of Council rates, where ratepayers are suffering financial hardship and satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy).	No impact to operating budget. Will have a cashflow impact.
iii.	(F3) 7-day Payment of Goods – The Council will reintroduce 7-day payment processing periods for local small and medium suppliers of goods.	No impact to operating budget. Will have a cashflow impact.
iv.	(F5(a)) Waiver of License and Hire Fees – The Council will waive pre-paid and ongoing licence and hire fees for outdoor dining, food stalls, temporary premises, and non-commercial advertising	\$60,000 loss in income.
v.	(F5(b)) Waiver of License and Hire Fees – The Council will wave pre-paid and ongoing licence and hire fees for community halls, parks, and community venues. Due to the closure	\$228,000 loss in income.

	of facilities (as a result of lockdown) there is currently no revenue from hiring of facilities and the level of hire activity is not easy to predict at this stage.	
vi.	(F5(c)) Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees – License and approvals (outside PLR) - The Council will waive the licence and approval fees for outdoor dining licences outside of the PLR corridor (with the exception of Parramatta Square).	\$35,000 loss in income.
vii.	(F6) On Street Parking – The Council will put in place a range of measures to provide grace periods and cautions for time-limited on street parking spaces; however, Council will continue to enforce illegal parking to ensure public safety and turnover for short stay parking to support local businesses. Council will also reduce and change time limits in a number of local on street parking locations to facilitate takeaway services and support local business until occupancy reaches 80% of 2019's vehicle volumes.	\$1.7M loss in income.
viii.	(F7a) Waiver of Rents – The Council will waive all rents for Council owned assets which are occupied by community groups, essential services and not for profit organisations.	\$102,000 loss in income.
ix.	(F7b) Waiver of Rents – Affordable Housing Dwellings - The Council will provide rent relief for tenants of City of Parramatta Council's Affordable Housing Dwellings if tenants qualify for financial hardship and a request is made for rent reduction. No known rent relief has been requested to date by affordable housing tenants.	\$34,000 loss in income.
x.	F5(d)) Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees – License and approvals (inside PLR) - The Council will waive pre-paid and ongoing licence fees and hire fees for outdoor dining licenses, food stalls, temporary premises, and advertising inside of the PLR Corridor.	Would not produce a financial impact (despite the six-month proposed timeframe to 1 January 2022).
xi.	(F10) Waiver of Child Care Gap-Fees – The Council will waive the child care gap-fee for parents/carers on days	\$576,000 loss in income (assuming three months however

	they choose to keep their children at home due to stay-at-home orders.	this is subject to Commonwealth Government Support).
Total		\$2.86M maximum loss in income.

Caitlin Carpenter
Acting Senior Project Officer

Geoff King
Group Manager City Strategy

Michael Tzimoulas
Executive Director Corporate Services

Brett Newman
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <p>1 <u>↓</u> Attachment A - Councillor COVID-19 Action Tracker July 21</p> <p>2 <u>↓</u> Attachment B - Commonwealth and State Government COVID-19 Response</p> | <p>3
Pages</p> <p>3
Pages</p> |
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REFERENCE MATERIAL

COVID-19 Action Tracker

Code	Theme Alignment	Initiative	Description	Division	Status
F1	Financial Relief	Rates Hardship Policy – Interest Waiver*	The Council will waive interest on late payments for Council Rates, where ratepayers satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy)	Corporate Services	Completed
F2	Financial Relief	Rates Hardship Policy – Payment Plans for financial difficulties*	The Council will put in place payment plans for late payments for Council Rates, where ratepayers are suffering financial hardship and satisfy the hardship criteria (as set out in the Rates Hardship Policy)	Corporate Services	Completed
F3	Financial Relief	7 Day Payment of Goods	The Council will seek to pay all local small and medium suppliers of goods within 7 days	Finance	Completed
F4	Financial Relief	Support restaurants/takeaway businesses	Non-enforcement of takeaway conditions to allow restaurants to undertake a take away service	City Assets & Operations	Completed
F5A	Financial Relief	Waiver of License and Hire Fees - Outdoor dining, food stalls, temporary premises and advertising	Council will provide a staged reintroduction of license fees relating to food stalls, temporary premises and non-commercial advertising. The waiver of license fees will apply as follows: - between 13 October 2020 to 31 December 2020: 50% reduction - between 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021: 25% reduction - between 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021: 0% reduction, return to normal A review of further need will occur at the end of this period, or if COVID-19 related circumstances significantly change.	Property & Place	Completed
F5B	Financial Relief	Waiver for License and Hire Fees - Community halls, parks and community venues	Council will provide a staged reintroduction of license and hire fees for Community halls, parks and community venues. The waiver of fees will apply as follows: - a 50% waiver for summer seasonal hire for the full summer season; - A 50% waiver for annual hirers for a further 3 months; - The continuation of standard fees and charges and available subsidies for all casual hire of community facilities, parks and sportsgrounds A review of further need will occur at the end of this period, or if COVID-19 related circumstances significantly change.	Social and Community Services	Completed
F5c)	Financial Relief	c) Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees – License and Approvals (Outside Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) Corridor)	Council will provide a staged reintroduction of license and Approval fees for outdoor dining licenses outside the PLR Corridor. The waiver of Fees will apply as follows: - between 13 October 2020 to 31 December 2020: 50% reduction - between 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021: 25% reduction - between 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021: 0% reduction, return to normal A review of further need will occur at the end of this period, or if COVID-19 related circumstances significantly change	Property & Place	Completed
F5(d)	Financial Relief	(d) Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees – License and Approvals (Inside of Parramatta Light Rail (PLR) Corridor)	Waiver of Outdoor Dining Fees inside the PLR Corridor will continue until 31 January 2021 and in accordance with Council Resolution of 28 October 2019.	Property & Place	Completed
F6	Financial Relief	On Street Parking	The Council will put in place a range of measures to provide grace periods and cautions for time-limited on street parking spaces; however, Council will continue to enforce illegal parking to ensure public safety and turnover for short stay parking to support local businesses. Council will also reduce and change time limits in a number of local on street parking locations to facilitate takeaway services and support local business. The revised COVID19 Timed Parking Strategy (Extended Grace Period from 10 minutes to 1 hour and 2 cautions prior to a PIN issued on the 3rd occasion) continues. Normal Parking monitoring and enforcement will return once the parking occupancy rate reaches 80%. This will be monitored and compared against last year's Mark Mode Vehicle volumes in the same period.	City Assets & Operations	Completed
F7A	Financial Relief	Waiver of Rents - Rent relief to all valid community groups, essential services and not for profit organisations	F7(a) Council will extend the rent waiver currently in place for Council owned assets which are occupied by community groups, essential services and not for profit organisations. The rent waiver will apply: - between 13 October 2020 to 31 December 2020: 50% reduction - between 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021: 25% reduction - between 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021: 0% reduction, return to normal A review of further need will occur at the end of this period, or if COVID-19 related circumstances (including legislation) significantly change.	Property & Place	Completed
F7B	Financial Relief	Waiver of Rents - Rent relief to all valid community groups, essential services and not for profit organisations	F7(b) In addition, Council will provide rent relief for tenants of City of Parramatta Council's Affordable Housing Dwellings, if tenants qualify for financial hardship and a request is made for rent reduction, on the following basis: - between 13 October 2020 to 31 December 2020: 50% reduction - between 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021: 25% reduction - between 1 April 2021 to 30 June 2021: 0% reduction, return to normal A review of further need will occur at the end of this period, or if COVID-19 related circumstances (including legislation) significantly change.	Property & Place	Completed

F8	Financial Relief	Community Grants	The Council will suspend the annual round of the Community Grants program and redirect all unallocated funds to support local services and community groups impacted by the COVID-19 crisis	Community Services	Completed
F9B	Financial Relief	Community Grants	Establish a category of funding, enabling grants of up to \$50,000 to be made to standard eligible organisations for the purpose of addressing digital inclusion, social inclusion, cultural production and service accessibility in the light of COVID-19	Community Services	Completed
J1	Jobs & Investment	Council staff	Council will continue to pay casual staff for up to 4 weeks after the relevant services or facilities have been shut down. Seek to reallocate casual staff to other services to continue to provide employment and put in place systems and procedures to allow remote working capability	HR	Completed
J3	Jobs & Investment	Promote local businesses	The Council will use its existing websites and its new Parramatta Brand to support measures for local businesses including promotion opportunities	City Strategy	Completed
J4	Jobs & Investment	Buy Local	The Council will amend its tender policy to support the purchase of local goods and services, where possible	Finance City Assets & Operations City Engagement & Experience	Completed
J5	Jobs & Investment	Cleaning	The Council will increase its cleaning services in high traffic public spaces including more regular cleaning and disinfectant of public water stations, bins and amenities	City Assets & Operations	Completed
J6	Jobs & Investment	Business Grants	The Council will provide grants of up to \$2,000, with a total value of up to \$150,000, to support local businesses who have been adversely impacted by COVID-19 (using existing Economic Development Special Rate)	City Strategy & Development	Completed
J7	Jobs & Investment	Online Services	Accelerate the Council transition to online services to improve remote community access	City Strategy	Progressing - On Track
J8	Jobs & Investment	Investment in Technology	Council will invest in hardware, software and audio visual technology to enable remote Council Meetings, remote Councillor, staff and stakeholder meetings and remote working capability	Corporate Services	Progressing - On Track
J10	Jobs & Investment	Change on street parking in other centres	Change parking limits at centres with restaurants that can offer take-away e.g. Carmen Drive Paring will be changed to 1/2hr	City Strategy & Development City Assets & Operations City Engagement & Experience	Completed
J11	Jobs & Investment	Local Business Finder: Promote 15 minute parking	Promote 15 minute parking and localised information on critical services (e.g. Chemists)	City Strategy & Development	Completed
S1	Support for our vulnerable community members	Financial Fitness Campaign Social Media	Social media campaign to connect residents to a self-assessment tool on financial stress	Community Services	Completed
H1	Health & Wellbeing	Digital Storybox	Council will accelerate the launch of its digital storytelling public art project designed for the Parramatta Square public domain through a digital platform sharing the rich stories of Parramatta past and present	City Strategy & Development	Completed
H2	Health & Wellbeing	Community Services	Council will continue to adjust its services to maintain support to the most vulnerable in our community and connect residents with the social and financial services	Social & Community Services	Completed
R1	Recovery	Shovel Ready and Acceleration Projects	Note the identified, accelerated projects to support jobs and investment in our City with a proactive approach to advocacy and funding opportunities. Projects identified include: • City-shaping projects • Civic and cultural projects • Local infrastructure projects • Non-activated development applications in the CBD These shovel-ready projects will generate 21,400 short-term jobs, 5,970 long-term jobs and >\$24.64b economic value. (*Note - this was endorsed except for Epping Town Centre and Carlingford Town Centre)	City Strategy	Completed
R2	Recovery	Supporting Development	a) Review DAs and Planning Proposals being assessed by Council to prioritise economic stimulus opportunities, and make submissions to DPIE on State lead acceleration. b) Department of Planning, Industry and Environment Council Accelerated Assessment Program – Council has accepted an invitation to join this program that gives access to resources, guidance and support for accelerated assessment processes including a One Stop Shop service for State Government referrals and concurrences. c) Council is now accepting electronic lodgment of all development applications via NSW Planning Portal.	City Planning and Design	Completed
R6	Recovery	Utilisation of Council assets to support local emergency responses and essential service delivery	Provide Council assets for use, free of charge, for local emergency or essential services. This may include providing support for increased COVID-19 testing locations in key locations throughout the LGA, or alternative allied-health service delivery locations. This may also include the provision of special clinics established to enable suspected or confirmed cases to be directed away from Emergency Departments to reduce possible exposure to virus.	Community Services	Completed
R4a	Recovery	Creative Economy Relief Program	Creative Economy Resilience Grants	Community Services	Progressing - On Track
R4b	Recovery	Creative Economy Relief Program	HOME AT PARRAMATTA - Online Platform	Community Services	Completed
R4c	Recovery	Creative Economy Relief Program	HOME AT PARRAMATTA - Digital Content - Culture	Community Services	Completed
R4d	Recovery	Creative Economy Relief Program	Riverside Theatres Digital - Studio Riverside and Your Riverside Online	Community Services	Completed

R4e	Recovery	Creative Economy Relief Program	Sound West Conference and Festival	Community Services	Progressing - On Track
R6	Recovery	Utilisation of Council assets to support local emergency responses and essential service delivery	Provide Council assets for use, free of charge, for local emergency or essential services. This may include providing support for increased COVID-19 testing locations in key locations throughout the LGA, or alternative allied-health service delivery locations. This may also include the provision of special clinics established to enable suspected or confirmed cases to be directed away from Emergency Departments to reduce possible exposure to virus.	Social and Community Services	Completed
R7	Recovery	Ensure transport and parking options to support people's return to the CBD	Develop strategies to manage the movement of people in, out and around the Parramatta CBD (for both public and private transport modes) as the City and its workplaces move into recovery and re-opening stages. This will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approaches to managing peak hour movements, • developing and managing temporary and longer-term road and car park facilities use, • working with stakeholders to encourage flexible working, and cycling and walking infrastructure 	City Strategy	Progressing - On Track
R15	Recovery	International Education	The Vice Chancellor has written to the CEO highlighting the contribution of international students to Parramatta's economy (over \$100M per annum). The University requested the City publicly support international education – in partnership with the University – to cement Parramatta as one of NSW's strongest international education destinations	City Strategy	Completed
R21	Recovery	Live Music Pilot Program	Implement a live music pilot program to support delivery of the City's summer season of events between 1 November 2020 to 31 March 2021	City Strategy	Completed
R22	Recovery	Pop Up Cycleway	Council noted updated information regarding popup cycleways proposals on Thomas St and Wigram St and endorse the proposal for delivery by Transport for New South Wales.	City Strategy	Progressing - On Track
Sub-total completed					32
Sub-total Progressing - On					6
Total					39

ATTACHMENT B – CURRENT BUSINESS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT FROM THE STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

NSW STATE GOVERNMENT	
Support announced 8 July 2021	
Area	Description
Pandemic leave disaster plan	<p>The Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment is available for those who can't work and either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a state or territory health official has told them to isolate or quarantine because they are a close contact of a confirmed case or have COVID-19 ○ they are caring for someone with COVID-19. <p>This payment is not available if the individual is already receiving an income support payment.</p>
COVID-19 disaster payment	<p>The COVID-19 Disaster Payment is available if an individual:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lives, works from or has visited a Commonwealth-declared COVID-19 hotspot ○ lives, works from or has visited a location subject to a state or territory restricted movement order ○ has paid employment and because they were in COVID-19 hotspot or are subject to restricted movement, can't attend work on or after day 8 ○ does not have any appropriate paid leave entitlements ○ is not getting an income support payment, Pandemic Leave Disaster Payment, or a state based pandemic payment.
Protection against eviction	A tenancy moratorium to restrict when landlords can evict tenants due to rental arrears is in place until 11 September 2021.
Financial support for landlords	Residential landlords who decrease rent for impacted tenants can apply for a grant or land tax reductions depending on their circumstances.
Severe financial hardship	<p>For those eligible for a payment from Service NSW and are in severe financial hardship, they may be able to get either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Crisis Payment, if experiencing an extreme circumstance ○ Crisis Payment for National Health Emergency (COVID-19), if the individual has to self-isolate or quarantine or is caring for someone in isolation.

Caring for a child	For those caring for a child, they may also be able to claim Family Tax Benefit .
If ineligible for any other income support payment	A Special Benefit is available pending eligibility criteria and can't get other income support payments from Service NSW.
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT	
Support announced 14 July 2021	
Area	Description
COVID-19 Disaster payment	<p>The Commonwealth will enhance and expand the support available to NSW and other states that experience an extended lockdown.</p> <p>Specifically, the Commonwealth will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From week four of a lockdown because of a Commonwealth declared hotspot, the COVID-19 Disaster Payment will increase from \$500 to \$600 each week if a person has lost 20 hours or more of work a week or \$325 to \$375 each week if a person has lost between 8 and 20 hours of work. Make the COVID-19 Disaster Payment a recurring payment for approved recipients for as long as the Commonwealth declared hotspot and lockdown restrictions remain in place. This will remove the need for recipients to re-claim for each seven-day period of a lockdown. Amend the COVID-19 Disaster Payment so that a person would be eligible for the payment, including where they are still working, provided they have lost more than 8 hours or a full day of work.
Small and medium business support payments	<p>From week four of the lockdown, the Commonwealth will fund 50 per cent of the cost of a new small and medium business support payment to be implemented and administered by Service NSW.</p> <p>Eligible entities will receive 40 per cent of their NSW payroll payments, at a minimum of \$1500 and a maximum of \$10,000 per week.</p> <p>Entities will be eligible if their turnover is 30 per cent lower than an equivalent two week period in 2019.</p> <p>The new small to medium business support payment will be available to non-employing and employing entities in NSW, including not for profits, with an annual turnover between \$75,000 and \$50 million.</p>

	<p>To receive the payment, entities will be required to maintain their full time, part time and long term casual staffing level as of 13 July 2021.</p> <p>For non-employing businesses, such as sole traders, the payment will be set at \$1,000 per week.</p> <p>Businesses can register their interest from 14 July 2021 at Service NSW</p> <p>The assistance will cease when current lockdown restrictions are eased or when the Commonwealth hotspot declaration is removed.</p>
Commonwealth business tax relief	<p>The Commonwealth will also provide additional support through the tax system, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making NSW small business grants, including the new small business payments, tax exempt. • Providing administrative relief to NSW taxpayers facing hardship, including reduced payment plans, no interest charged on late payments and varying instalments on request.
Mental health support	<p>The Commonwealth and NSW governments will deliver a \$17.35 million mental health support package for NSW including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A boost for crisis and mental health services including for Lifeline, free 24 hour support via Sonder and counselling for perinatal depression and anxiety • Funding for mental health support for vulnerable and culturally and linguistically diverse communities • Assistance for young people through headspace, Kids Helpline and the Butterfly Foundation <p>The increase in support for states and territories experiencing extended lockdowns is part of the Government's plan to secure Australia's recovery from the COVID-19 recession.</p> <p>The support comes in addition to existing Commonwealth programs such as HomeBuilder, the expanded instant asset write off, additional support for retaining and training apprentices as well as record support for mental health and women's safety announced in the Budget.</p>

NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM NUMBER	18.1
SUBJECT	NOTICE OF MOTION: Smart Progressive Divestment from Fossil Fuel Investing Financial Institutions
REFERENCE	F2021/00521 - D08143514
FROM	Councillor Bradley

MOTION

- (a) **That** Council amend its investment policy if necessary, to enable progressive divestment of its term investment portfolio from fossil fuel investing financial institutions.
- (b) **That** as Council's current term investments expire with fossil fuel investing financial institutions, that these funds are re-invested only with non-fossil fuel investing financial institutions with the following conditions if possible:
 - (i) the investment is compliant with Council's investment policy,
 - (ii) the investment rate of interest is comparable or better than those offered by fossil fuel investing financial institutions.
- (c) **Further, that** six-monthly reports be provided to Council on this divestment progress, including the percentage of term deposits still exposed to fossil fuel investing institutions, assisted by the marketforces.org.au evaluation of banks.

BACKGROUND

1. In delivering the fifth intergenerational report (IGR) in June 2021, Treasurer Josh Frydenberg noted that several industries would likely see reduced demand for commodity exports as the world moved away from using fossil fuels. The IGR identified the broad ranging impacts of climate change as a major concern for Australia's economic future. "Notwithstanding global efforts to reduce emissions, responding to the impacts of climate change will be required and is a shared responsibility across all levels of government, community and businesses," the IGR report stated.
2. This responsibility will be acted on by passing the proposed Notice of Motion, which will contribute to improved investment returns and to the reduction in greenhouse gases as a result of less investment in fossil-fuel companies.
3. Implementing this motion is unlikely to involve additional staff time, as seeking new investments when existing ones mature would normally occur. Checking the MarketForces website could take a small amount of additional time.
4. This motion is consistent with the City of Parramatta Council Community Strategic Plan's Green strategies 3.5 and 3.6 regarding promotion of reduced emissions and renewable energy. It is also consistent with Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy.
5. Insurers are known for their hard heads, not soft hearts. So, when an insurance expert urges business and consumers to take climate change seriously, it pays to listen. Geoff Summerhayes is executive board member of the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA), chair of the UN Sustainable Insurance

Forum and ex-CEO of Suncorp Life. In a recent speech he acknowledged that climate science and how to manage it are complex, but his message was simple. Buy now or pay later. “There is no avoiding the costs of adjusting to a low-carbon future. Taking strong effective action now to promote an early economic transition is essential to minimising those costs and optimising the benefits.”

6. “Those unwilling to buy into the need to do so will find they pay a far greater price in the long run,” he said. APRA has pointed out that some climate risks are financial and that many of those risks are foreseeable, material and actionable now. This view was endorsed publicly by the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).
7. The Asset Owners Disclosure Project headed by former Liberal Leader John Hewson warned about the real risk of stranded fossil fuel assets. Already five years ago AODP reported that a fifth (97) of the world’s 500 biggest investors with \$US9.4 trillion in funds were taking tangible action to mitigate climate change risk and that there was a big rise in support for shareholder resolutions for low carbon investment, according to the fourth Global Climate 500 Index. Another 157 worth \$14 trillion are taking the first steps. This trend has continued since then.
8. Only this month, Justice Mordecai Bromberg of the Federal Court of Australia, in the Sharma versus Vickery Coal Mine case formalised into law that Australia’s Environment Minister has a duty of care to “avoid causing personal injury or death” not just to Sharma and her friends but to all Australians under 18 “arising from emissions of carbon dioxide into the Earth’s atmosphere”. Justice Bromberg added “ The world as we know it will be gone... It will largely be inflicted by the inaction of this generation of adults in what might fairly be described as the greatest inter-generational injustice ever inflicted by one generation of humans upon the next.”
9. The 2019 Local Government NSW Annual Conference passed a motion, which stated “That LGNSW, in recognition of the urgent need for climate action calls upon the NSW Government to:
 - a. Join over 900 governments worldwide, including the United Kingdom, the Australian Capital Territory and over 30 Australian councils, in declaring a climate emergency;
 - b. In a bipartisan manner, make clear, effective and unambiguous steps to avert a climate crisis in NSW.
10. Such climate action should include divestment of council investments from financial institutions that support the fossil-fuel industry.
11. On 28 November 2017, the City of Ryde passed a motion to divest from fossil fuel aligned investments in its Council portfolio and as a result portfolio invested in non-fossil fuel aligned financial institutions were at 27% as at 31 Oct 2020 of its total portfolio. The increase in investment in non-fossil aligned financial institutions coincided with a strong performance for Council’s investment portfolio, with returns well above the benchmark.

12. On 28 May 2019, the City of Ryde passed a resolution acknowledging that we are in a state of climate emergency that requires urgent action by all levels of government; that human induced climate change represents one of the greatest threats to humanity, civilisation and other species; and that it is still possible to prevent the most catastrophic outcomes if societies, including local councils, take emergency action.

Phil Bradley

Councillor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES RESPONSE

13. Council's current investment portfolio of term deposits and other investments is approximately 84% exposed to fossil fuels. It is important to note which institutions are identified as exposed to fossil fuels:

Counterparty	Credit Rating	Funding Fossil Fuel
BoQ Covered	AAA	Yes
Suncorp Covered	AAA	No
T-CorpIM Cash Fund^^	AA+	Yes
ANZ	AA-	Yes
CBA (BankWest)	AA-	Yes
HSBC	AA-	Yes
NAB	AA-	Yes
Northern Territory	AA-	Yes
Westpac	AA-	Yes
Citibank NA	A+	Yes
Credit Suisse	A+	No
Macquarie	A+	Yes
Suncorp	A+	No
UBS AG	A+	No
Bank China Aus.	A	No
CFS Global Credit^^	A	Yes
ICBC	A	No
ING Bank	A	Yes
Societe Generale	A	No
Bank of Communications	A-	No
Aus Military Bank	BBB+	No
BOQ	BBB+	Yes
Bendigo-Adelaide	BBB+	No
QT Mutual Bank	BBB+	No
AMP Bank	BBB	Yes
Auswide Bank	BBB	No
Bank Australia	BBB	No
CUA	BBB	No
ME Bank	BBB	No
MyState Bank	BBB	No
Newcastle PBS	BBB	No
P&N Bank	BBB	No
Teachers Mutual	BBB	No
QBANK	BBB-	No
Bank of Us	Unrated	No
BNK Bank	Unrated	No
Community First	Unrated	No
Judo Bank	Unrated	No
Warwick CU	Unrated	No
T-CorpIM LTG Fund^^	Unrated	Yes

^^The underlying exposure in these managed funds includes the domestic major banks.

Source: <https://www.marketforces.org.au/info/compare-bank-table/>

14. Council's investment advisers, via the June 2021 Investment report, have provided a synopsis of the impact that moving to a 100% non-fossil fuel portfolio may have.

What would be implications on our portfolio credit rating?

By adopting a free fossil fuel policy or an active divestment strategy, this would eliminate the major banks rated "AA-" as well as some other "A" rated banks (AMP, Citigroup and ING). Council would be left with a smaller sub-sector of banks to choose to invest with.

What would be risks and implications on Council's portfolio performance?

Some implications include:

- High concentration risk – limiting Council to a selected number of banks;
- Increased credit/counterparty risk;
- May lead to a reduction in performance (most of the senior FRN issues are with the higher rated ADIs) which could result in a significant loss of income generated – could be in excess of hundreds of thousands of dollars per annum;
- Underperformance compared to other Councils.

It may actually be contrary to Council's primary objective to preserve capital as the investment portfolio's risk would increase (all things being equal). Council may not be maximising its returns – this is one of the primary objectives written in the Investment Policy.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15. Having regard to the advice provided by Council's investment advisers, it is recommended that Council not amend its Investment Policy. Therefore, there are no financial and resource implications associated with this NOM.

Phil Bradley
Councillor

Michael Tzimoulas
Executive Director Corporate Services

Brett Newman
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM NUMBER	18.2
SUBJECT	NOTICE OF MOTION: Tree Removal at 52 Essex Street, Epping
REFERENCE	F2021/00521 - D08143199
FROM	Councillor Davis

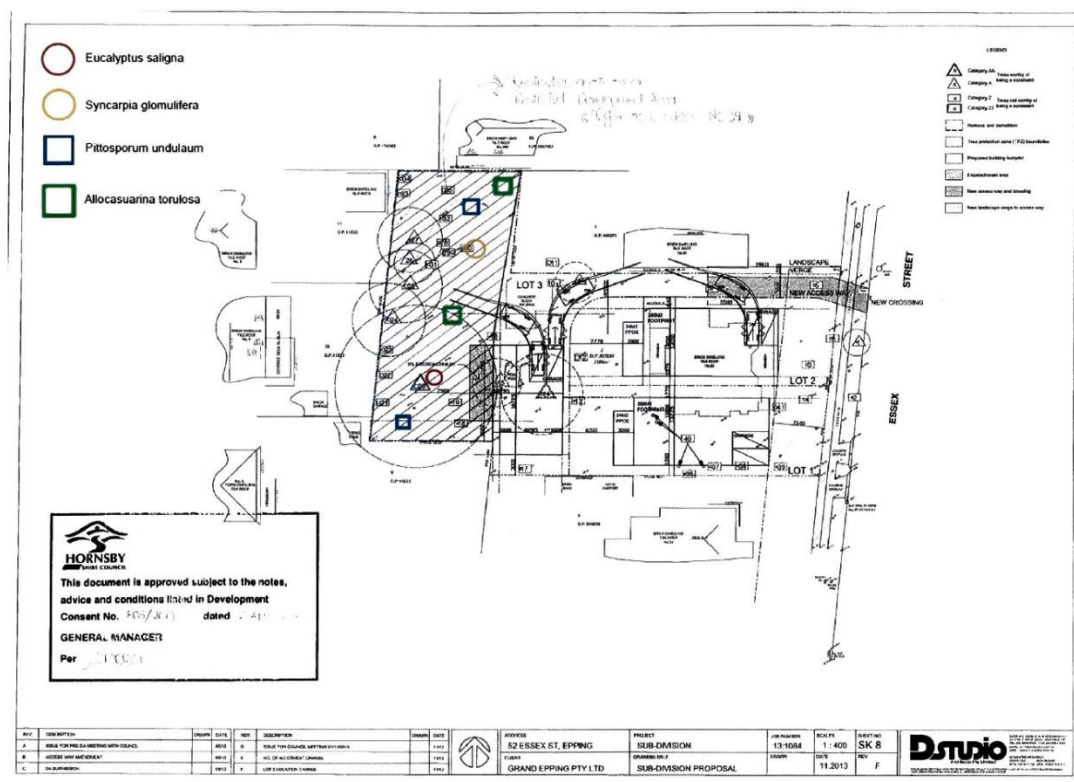
MOTION

- (a) **That** Council:
- acknowledges the advocacy of long time Epping resident Margaret McCartney who brought to the attention of Councillors and council officers the illegal removal of 22 trees and the carrying out of demolition and construction activities without tree protection structures in place on land at 52 Essex St, Epping,
 - welcomes the decisions in City of Parramatta Council v Grand Epping Pty Ltd [2020] NSWLEC 70 and the penalty imposed on the respondent,
 - welcomes the decisions in City of Parramatta Council v Sydney Trees Excavation and Demolition Pty Ltd [2021] NSWLEC 71 and the penalty imposed on the respondent,
 - allocates the \$155,000 received in fines towards planting public trees in streets within the East Epping Heritage Conservation Area that have not received trees in the recent street tree planting program as well as on any other suitable Council controlled land within the Epping Town Centre.
- (b) **That** the Council's efforts thus far to publicise the outcome of the NSW Land and Environment Court hearings be commended but that further publicity be conducted including, but not limited to, publication in the next edition of The Pulse, on the City of Parramatta website and on social media.
- (c) **Further, that** the Lord Mayor write to the Epping Civic Trust advising of the outcome of this motion.

BACKGROUND

- On 24 September 2018 Epping resident, Margaret McCartney (dec.), alerted Council to the illegal removal of trees at 52 Essex Street, Epping. This triggered a chain of events that resulted in the City of Parramatta pursuing the offenders in the NSW Land and Environment Court.
- Grand Epping Pty Ltd and Sydney Trees Excavation and Demolition Pty Ltd were imposed with monetary fines for offences relating to the illegal tree removal. In addition, pursuant to s 9.56(3) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, Grand Epping Pty Ltd is to:
 - plant one advanced size nursery Eucalyptus saligna within a minimum container size of 100 L in the location shown on annexure B;
 - one advanced size nursery Syncarpia glomulifera within a minimum container size of 100 L in the location shown on annexure B;
 - plant two Pittosporum undulatum tube stock seedlings in each of the locations shown on annexure B; and
 - plant two Allocasuarina torulosa tube stock seedlings in each of the locations shown on annexure B.

3. The replacement plantings identified in paragraph 1 above are to be nurtured to maturity and must be in a healthy condition.



Annexure E

4. On 10 July 2021 Janet McGarry, President, Epping Civic Trust wrote to the Lord Mayor, Ward Councillors and the CEO congratulating the City of Parramatta on their efforts in pursuing this matter through the courts. In her correspondence, Ms McGarry stated that *“Epping is subject to constant tree removal that is fundamentally changing the suburb and leading to a hotter and more stark environment for us to live in”*.
5. On behalf of the Epping Civic Trust, Ms McGarry requested that Council closely monitor the court mandated actions the developer needs to take - replanting and maintenance of mature trees on the block.
6. Secondly, use the fine for some good in Epping. *“Please use the entire fine for tree planting - don't just put it into consolidated revenue. Last year, you did a good tree planting program on some streets in Epping (though developers have already removed some of those trees - heart breaking). Now please do more. Essex Street and surrounding roads would be a good starting point.”*

Donna Davis
Councillor

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CITY ASSETS & OPERATIONS RESPONSE

7. Additional tree planting within the East Epping Heritage Conservation Area and Epping Town Centre to the value of \$155,000 is feasible and possible in the 2021/22 financial year.

8. Street tree planting will assist in strengthening the heritage nature of this Federation and Inter-war period garden suburb. There are numerous mature native and introduced, ornamental trees that line the streets within the heritage area, these trees together with the individual garden settings and plantings enhance the heritage context. The planting of street trees is supported by Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy that aims to increase canopy cover to a total of 40% by 2050. Planting of streets trees for shade also assists in the improved liveability of cooling the city and protecting people and the community from heat stress, this is also a stated aim in Council's Environment Strategy and Council's adopted Parramatta Ways Walking Strategy.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9. This project could be facilitated by the creation of a new capital tree planting project established under Council's Open Space and Natural Resource budget. Once endorsed a detailed project brief will be developed to identify priority planting sites, tree species selection and alignment with the heritage values of the area. The number of trees that could be planted with the \$155,000 budget will vary depending on the method of planting chosen. A simple street tree planting within the nature strip will cost approximately \$350 per tree while an in road planting or town centre planting can cost between \$16,000 - \$25,000 per tree. It is anticipated that a combination of planting types will be possible and would result in the planting of approximately 150 - 200 trees. The delivery of this project can be accommodated under existing resources.


Donna Davis
Councillor

John Warburton
Executive Director, City Assets & Operations

Brett Newman
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1 [Field Report - 52 Essex Street, Epping](#) 3 Pages

		City of Parramatta Council Field Report		Date Printed 25 September 2018			
Request No:	302438	Date Received:	25 September 2018	Time Received:	12:39:27		
Actioning Officer:	Ryan Bollard			Due Date:	19 December 2018		
Request Owner:	Private Tree Management			Priority Level:	5		
Service Request Type:	Breach of Tree Preservation Order on Private Land			Status:	Request in Progress		
Customer Name & Address:	Margaret McCartney 5/12 Forest Gr EPPING NSW 2121			Contact Number:	H: 02 9868 5428 M: W:		
Incident Address:	52 Essex Street, EPPING NSW 2121						
Questions & Answers:	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Is the breach of the tree preservation order happening now?</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>					Is the breach of the tree preservation order happening now?	Yes
	Is the breach of the tree preservation order happening now?	Yes					
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Additional Information</td> <td>Trees have been removed from 52 Essex Street, Epping in a Heritage Conservation Area. It appears there is no tree permit. If there is a tree permit why has this been permitted in an HCA? The site includes a protected Sydney Blue Gum which has a metal stake in its root/lower trunk (see photo attached) and has died. Can you please investigate if this tree has been illegally killed. Hornsby DA/805/2013 for this site only approves removal of 1 tree but many more have been removed. I have photographic evidence of trees removed.</td> </tr> </table>					Additional Information	Trees have been removed from 52 Essex Street, Epping in a Heritage Conservation Area. It appears there is no tree permit. If there is a tree permit why has this been permitted in an HCA? The site includes a protected Sydney Blue Gum which has a metal stake in its root/lower trunk (see photo attached) and has died. Can you please investigate if this tree has been illegally killed. Hornsby DA/805/2013 for this site only approves removal of 1 tree but many more have been removed. I have photographic evidence of trees removed.	
Additional Information	Trees have been removed from 52 Essex Street, Epping in a Heritage Conservation Area. It appears there is no tree permit. If there is a tree permit why has this been permitted in an HCA? The site includes a protected Sydney Blue Gum which has a metal stake in its root/lower trunk (see photo attached) and has died. Can you please investigate if this tree has been illegally killed. Hornsby DA/805/2013 for this site only approves removal of 1 tree but many more have been removed. I have photographic evidence of trees removed.						
Notes	Name : Margaret McCartney Postal Address : 5/12 Forest Grove, Epping NSW 2121 E-Mail Address : margaret.mccartney@bigpond.com New Note 25-Sep-2018 12:39:27 ePathway Request -----						
	Questionnaire 1 - Is the breach of the tree preservation order happening now? Yes 2 - Additional Information Trees have been removed from 52 Essex Street, Epping in a Heritage Conservation Area. It appears there is no tree permit. If there is a tree permit why has this been permitted in an HCA? The site includes a protected Sydney Blue Gum which has a metal stake in its root/lower trunk (see photo attached) and has died. Can you please investigate if this tree has been illegally killed. Hornsby DA/805/2013 for this site only approves removal of 1 tree but many more have been removed. I have photographic evidence of trees removed.						

C:\Temp\ACR\01617481.doc

	New Note 25-Sep-2018 12:39:27 ePathway Request -----		
Additional Comments:			
Have you contacted the Customer?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	If No, please provide reason	
Completing Officer:		Date Completed:	



NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM NUMBER	18.3
SUBJECT	NOTICE OF MOTION: Protection of the Roxy Theatre
REFERENCE	F2021/00521 - D08143236
FROM	Councillor Davis

MOTION

- (a) **That** the Lord Mayor write to the Minister for Heritage, The Hon. Don Harwin MLC, and that the letter includes:
- i. a request that the Minister take steps within the provisions of the Heritage Act (1977) and other relevant state legislation and regulations, to prevent further deterioration of the internal and external fabric of the NSW State Heritage Listed Roxy Theatre,
 - ii. advice that on at least two separate occasions in the past twelve (12) months the City of Parramatta Council has contacted the owner of the Roxy regarding damage to the building (including a broken window and an unsecured entry at ground level),
 - iii. advice that there is evidence of trespassers entering the building and fears that the Roxy could be further vandalized or even be the target of arson if better protections and a plan to restore the building are not given the highest priority, and
 - iv. a link to the YouTube video posted by Adventures with Marley of urban explorers inside the Roxy in February 2021. The video clearly shows the current condition of the building's interior and evidence of squatters.
- (b) **Further, that** all Councillors and the CEO be furnished with a copy of the letter to the Minister and the response(s) from the Minister and/or a third party.

BACKGROUND

1. The Roxy at 65-69 George Street is a State Heritage listed item.
2. The NSW State Heritage Inventory listing states, "The Roxy Theatre has high cultural significance as a good and relatively intact representative example of the 'Picture Palaces' of the interwar period, its overall form and surviving original fitout and fabric displaying the major attributes of this building type. More particularly it is an excellent example of 'Interwar Spanish Mission' style, displaying features typical of this style but also with a notable individuality and quality of architectural design.
3. The theatre also provides evidence of the changing nature of film theatres and theatre going since the 1920s. Its architectural character and function have been influenced by both national and international developments in film technology and theatre visitation since the advent of the 'Talkies' - ranging from large single auditorium regularly seating nearly 2000 to the present multi-theatre configuration. The size and architectural character of the building also reflect American cultural influences in the interwar period and the profitability of 'Picture Palaces'.
4. The location and origins of the theatre are closely associated with the growth of Sydney's suburbs in the interwar years and Parramatta in particular. It is an

attractive and distinctive local landmark and particularly valued by the regular theatre-goers of its early years and those interested in movie and architectural history (its retention in the 1970s being in large measure due to intervention by such groups). (Somerville 1997)”

5. On 7 December 2020 Councillor Davis raised concerns with council officers about a broken window on the upper level of the Roxy. Council officers investigated this matter and contacted the owner of the building. The window was eventually repaired.
6. Members of the community raised concerns about an unsecured entry to the building. Council officers responded and contacted the owner of the building.
7. In February 2021, a video was uploaded to YouTube by urban explorers who had entered the Roxy. It is believed they accessed the building through a door that had been unsecured for some time. This door has since been secured.
8. The video can be seen at <https://youtu.be/dNhN9Of2OZY>.
9. In the video there is evidence of squatters in the building. It is understood that the owner has since confirmed this.
10. The video also serves to illustrate the significance of this site and highlights the importance of protecting it from vandalism, potential arson, and further decay of the internal and external building fabrics.
11. While it is appreciated that the Roxy is a privately owned property, there are examples of other state heritage listed buildings that were also at risk but due to community and government advocacy these buildings were better secured and subsequently restored. One good local example of this is Lennox House in Aird Street.
12. During this term of Council there has been unified support from all councillors for the protection of the State Heritage listed Roxy. This motion seeks to ensure those efforts continue at a time when the Roxy is at its most vulnerable from neglect and potential vandalism.

Donna Davis
Councillor

ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CITY PLANNING & DESIGN RESPONSE

13. Under the Heritage Act and the associated regulation the owner of a building on the State Heritage Register has a legal duty to maintain and repair the item to minimum standards of maintenance and repair. The Heritage Council can issue an owner with an order to maintain or repair a heritage item.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

14. There are no financial and resource implications should Council resolve in accordance with this Notice of Motion, other than writing correspondence which can be provided for within the existing operational budget.

Donna Davis
Councillor

John Warburton
Executive Director, City Assets & Operations

Brett Newman
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM NUMBER	18.4
SUBJECT	NOTICE OF MOTION: Lack of Mobile Service in Wentworth Point
REFERENCE	F2021/00521 - D08143173
FROM	Councillor Prociv

MOTION

That the Lord Mayor write to the Chief Executive Officers of Telstra Corporation, Singtel Optus and TPG Community, seeking updated information on their planned and existing Australian Mobile Network Base Stations, as listed on the RFNSA website, at Wentworth Point as follows:

- (i) Telstra Corporation Limited, seeking information on their current and future construction and activation plan for their Australian Mobile Network base station opposite 47 Hill Rd, RFNSA number 2127032, at Wentworth Point.
- (ii) TPG Community, seeking information on their current and future construction and activation plans for their Australian Mobile Network base stations, on the road reserves at 6 Baywater Drive and 19 Hill Rd, RFNSA numbers 2127051 and 2127055, at Wentworth Point.
- (iii) Singtel Optus, seeking information on any current and/or future plans to upgrade the 3G network at 45 Hill Rd, RFNSA site 2127034, Wentworth Point.

BACKGROUND

1. Wentworth Point is a black spot on the Australian Mobile Network
2. Residents and Businesses in Wentworth Point are experiencing difficulties accessing mobile networks, including receiving mobile signals and COVID QR code registration.
3. Advice received from the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications is they do not have a role in the deployment of telecommunications infrastructure, that deployment of telecommunications infrastructure is a commercial decision.
4. The Australian Communication and Media Authority website includes a document published by Communication Alliance that states that Industry code C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code is designed to:
 - provide greater transparency to local community and councils when a Carrier is planning, selecting sites for, installing and operating mobile phone radiocommunications infrastructure; and
 - allow the community and councils to have greater participation in the decision-making process of Carriers when deploying mobile phone base stations.
5. Carriers listed on the Radio Frequency National Site Archive (RFNSA) as having 4 Australian Mobile Network Base Stations in Wentworth Point are Telstra Corporation, Singtel Optus and TPG Community. Only 1 site is operational.

6. As a result of this information I have submitted the above motion.

Patricia Prociv
Councillor

GROUP MANAGER, CITY STRATEGY RESPONSE

7. Staff support Council writing to the listed organisations regarding clarifying their current, future and activation plans for mobile base stations at Wentworth Point.
8. It is also recommended that this correspondence be provided to the NSW Department of Planning Infrastructure & Environment team currently working on the development of the Greater Parramatta and Olympic Peninsula Smart Cities Plan for their consideration.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no financial and resource implications should Council resolve in accordance with this Notice of Motion, other than writing correspondence which can be provided for within the existing operational budget.

Patricia Prociv
Councillor

Geoff King
Group Manager City Strategy

Brett Newman
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no attachments for this report.

NOTICE OF MOTION

ITEM NUMBER 18.5
SUBJECT NOTICE OF MOTION: Parliamentary Petition requesting an increase in public transport services between the suburbs of Wentworth Point, Newington and Lidcombe
REFERENCE F2021/00521 - D08143192
FROM Councillor Prociv

MOTION

- (a) **That** Council supports the Parliamentary Petition asking for an increase in public transport services between the suburbs of Wentworth Point, Newington and Lidcombe with an immediate extension of Route 401 to include stops in Newington and Wentworth Point.
- (b) **Further, that** the Lord Mayor write to the Minister for Transport and Roads, The Hon. Andrew Constance, expressing Council's support for the Parliamentary Petition calling for the extension of the 401 bus route to increase public transport services between the suburbs of Wentworth Point, Newington and Lidcombe.

BACKGROUND

1. Since being elected in 2017 I have put 3 motions to Council calling for increased bus services in Wentworth Point.
2. One of those motions, in 2020, advocated for an extension of the 401 bus route from Lidcombe to Wentworth Point and Newington.
3. I feel it is now time for residents of Wentworth Point and Newington to decide if extending the 401 bus route would meet their needs, by giving them the opportunity to solicit the NSW Government in the form of a Parliamentary Petition.
4. The petition reads:

Extending 401 bus route to increase public transport services between the suburbs of Wentworth Point, Newington and Lidcombe

To the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, The Petition of residents of New South Wales brings to the attention of the House the need for improved public transport services servicing Wentworth Point and Newington.

The growing suburbs of Wentworth Point and Newington are currently heavily underserved for public transport, particularly transport links towards the central transport hub of Lidcombe.

The undersigned petitioners therefore ask the Legislative Assembly to increase public transport services between the suburbs of Wentworth Point, Newington and Lidcombe with an immediate extension of Route 401 to include stops in Newington and Wentworth Point.

Patricia Prociv
Councillor

GROUP MANAGER, CITY STRATEGY RESPONSE

5. In August 2020, Council wrote to the Minister for Transport advocating for additional public transport services from Wentworth Point and Newington to Lidcombe, specifically calling for consideration of extending the 401 bus service. A copy of the letter and the response is attached.
6. It is recommended that this correspondence be provided to the Minister for Transport and Roads in support of the extension to the 401 bus service.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS


7. There are no financial and resource implications should Council resolve in accordance with this Notice of Motion, other than writing correspondence which can be provided for within the existing operational budget.

Patricia Prociv
Councillor

Geoff King
Group Manager City Strategy

Brett Newman
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS:

- | | | |
|---|--|------------|
| 1  | Correspondence dated 6 August 2020 - Supporting the Extension of the 401 Bus Service | 2
Pages |
|---|--|------------|



Cr Bob Dwyer
Lord Mayor

Ref: LORDMAYOR/2020/00515

6 August 2020

The Hon Andrew Constance MP
Minister for Transport and Roads
52 Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

Advocate for Extension of 401 Bus Route

I am writing to you regarding the issue of increasing public transport services to Lidcombe for residents of Wentworth Point and Newington.

At the City of Parramatta Council's (Council) Meeting of 11 May 2020, Council resolved:

***That** in light of the NSW State Government announcement that Transport for NSW could reprioritise investment into the City's West, Council explore and advocate for the extension of the 401 bus route which currently operates from Carter Street to Lidcombe Station, to accommodate the public transport needs of the residents of Wentworth Point and Newington.*

This follows several resolutions of Council and subsequent communications with your office and Transport for NSW, concerning public transport services for residents of Newington and Wentworth Point. Most recently, Council wrote in August 2018 following a resolution dated 12 June 2018, which requested TfNSW to increase bus connectivity between these suburbs and Parramatta.

Council is aware of the increased services announced in 2019 on the 533 bus route - Sydney Olympic Park to Chatswood via Rhodes & North Ryde. These increased services provide much needed off-peak and weekend mobility for residents of Wentworth Point, but they do not meet the demonstrated needs of peak-hour commuters, Newington residents, and all of those heading to points west or south of Olympic Park.

Contact us:

lordmayor@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au | 02 9806 5050
PO Box 32, Parramatta, NSW 2124
ABN 49 907 174 773 | cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Council has heard from our community that transport connectivity is a key concern in these two communities. To understand these concerns better, Council undertook a survey of residents, visitors and workers in Wentworth Point and Newington in July and August 2019. Findings from the survey include:

- 44% of Newington residents cited a need for transport connectivity to Lidcombe, but there is low uptake of the Bridj on-demand service, which currently operates in those suburbs.
- The 526 service had the lowest level of satisfaction amongst all bus routes included in the survey - frequency, reliability and coordination with ferry services at the Sydney Olympic Park ferry wharf were standout issues.
- The 525 service was poorly rated by a considerable proportion of users - frequency, reliability were mentioned by many users.

This letter is to apprise you of the survey results and to stress the need for regular, timetabled bus services from Wentworth Point and Newington to Lidcombe. Will you please address this need, including consideration of extending the route of the 401 bus service as detailed above? I have attached an infographic summary of the survey. I have not attached the full survey report due to its length; but I would be happy to send it upon request.

It would be appreciated if you will kindly endeavour to address this need. The City of Parramatta is looking forward to working with Transport for NSW to improve bus services and generally to improve transport, connectivity and access for our residents, workers and visitors.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact my Chief of Staff, Justin Mulder – jmulder@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au

Yours sincerely



Cr Bob Dwyer
Lord Mayor
City of Parramatta

Attachments:

1. Newington and Wentworth Point Transport Survey Infographic Summary

QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

ITEM NUMBER	19.1
SUBJECT	QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE: Questions Taken on Notice from Council Meeting - 12 July 2021
REFERENCE	F2021/00521 - D08143028
FROM	Governance Manager

QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING OF 12 JULY 2021

Item	Subject	Councillor	Question
8.2	Lord Mayoral Minute – Development of a Flag Raising Ceremony Policy	Barrak	What is the per ceremony cost of flag raising ceremonies?

BACKGROUND

- Paragraph 9.23 of Council's Code of Meeting Practice states:

“Where a councillor or council employee to whom a question is put is unable to respond to the question at the meeting at which it is put, they may take it on notice and report the response to the next meeting of the Council.”

STAFF RESPONSE

- Staff responses to the questions taken on notice at the Council Meeting of 12 July 2021 are provided below:

Item	Subject	Councillor	Question	Response	Executive Director
8.2	Lord Mayoral Minute – Development of a Flag Raising Ceremony Policy	Barrak	What is the per ceremony cost of flag raising ceremonies?	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Historically, Council's Flag Raising ceremonies have cost between \$5,000 to \$8,000 per ceremony. This is for ceremonies where appropriate infrastructure is in place, including flag poles, such as ceremonies previously delivered in Centenary Square with the use of Parramatta Town Hall. The current requirement for COVID-safe management requires additional budget of approximately \$2,000 per ceremony to ensure compliance. Further, if additional event infrastructure is needed, in particular due to the lack of flag poles at the event location, this would 	Acting Executive Director, City Engagement & Experience

				<p>require further budget of approximately \$2,000 to \$3,000 per ceremony.</p> <p>4. At the Council meeting of 24 February 2020, Council endorsed the suspension of the Flag Raising Ceremony program as well as the re-allocation of the budget in full to the Ward Family Fun Days. This budget allocation totalled \$25,000 per year to deliver approximately four ceremonies per year.</p>	
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Patricia Krzeminski
Governance Manager

Tamara Hitchcock
Acting Executive Director, City Engagement and Experience

Brett Newman
Chief Executive Officer

ATTACHMENTS: