



CUMBERLAND CITY COUNCIL

Council Meeting

*Wednesday, 27 August 2025 at
6:00PM*

Cumberland City Council Chambers

Merrylands Service Centre, 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands

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Statement of Ethical Obligations

Oath or Affirmation of Office

In taking the Oath or Affirmation of Office, each Councillor has made a commitment to undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Cumberland and Cumberland City Council and that they will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in them under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of their ability and judgment.

Conflicts of Interest

A councillor who has a conflict of interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council when the matter is being considered, must disclose the interest and the nature of the interest to the meeting as soon as practicable. Both the disclosure and the nature of the interest must be recorded in the minutes of the Council meeting where the conflict of interest arises. Councillors should ensure that they are familiar with Parts 4 and 5 of the Code of Conduct in relation to their obligations to declare and manage conflicts of interests.

For information on Council services and facilities please visit www.cumberland.nsw.gov.au

LATE REPORTS

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Item No: MM08/25-29

MAYORAL MINUTE - IMPACT OF HEAVY RAINFALL ON LOCAL SPORTING GROUPS AND THE COMMUNITY

Author: Mayor Ola Hamed

SUMMARY

I am aware of the significant impacts that the recent heavy rainfall has had on our community, especially on our young people. As a parent whose son plays grassroots soccer, I've personally witnessed the disappointment and disruption caused by the prolonged closure of our sporting fields. Like many families, we've felt the sting of cancelled games, missed training sessions, and the loss of connection that sport so often provides.

These closures, while necessary to protect player safety and preserve our grounds, have had a real and lasting effect on the wellbeing of our children, and on our local sporting clubs. The frustration felt by youth, parents, coaches, and volunteers has been considerable and I want to acknowledge that.

I also want to recognise the tireless work of Council staff, who have responded swiftly and thoughtfully to deteriorating field conditions. Their close collaboration with local sporting clubs has helped ensure that, where possible, activities could proceed safely and that our grounds are protected for future use.

A few years ago, we faced similarly disruptive weather and it was clear to me then that this wasn't a one-off, it was a sign of what would lay ahead. That's why I moved for Council to begin developing a synthetic field strategy: not just to respond to the moment, but to prepare for the future.

We've seen neighbouring councils take that step, investing in synthetic surfaces that allow their children to keep playing, even when the skies open. Their kids rarely miss a game. Ours shouldn't have to either.

This isn't about keeping up. It's about catching up and leading. Our community deserves the same access, the same resilience, and the same opportunities to thrive through rain or shine.

Council is already progressing all-weather synthetic surface projects to help reduce disruption from wet weather in the future. I acknowledge the environmental considerations these projects raise, and I want to emphasise that synthetic surfaces are just one part of a broader strategy to ensure sport can continue during adverse conditions, this includes field irrigation works.

Recognising the significant disruption this winter has caused for seasonal sporting groups, I am recommending that Council support our community sporting organisations through a one-off financial adjustment for our seasonal hirers. The General Manager has advised that the minor forward revenue impacts associated with this Mayoral Minute can be managed within the existing operational budget.

This initiative is about more than numbers, it's about recognising the resilience of our community sporting organisations and ensuring they have the support they need to remain viable and vibrant. These clubs are the heart of our neighbourhoods, and they deserve our backing.

Therefore Councillors, tonight I move:

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Note the Mayoral Minute;**
- 2. Provide a one off adjustment to seasonal hirer sporting groups to assist with the impacts experienced from wet weather field closures throughout the winter 2025 season; and**
- 3. Note the minor impact to Council's forward operational revenue will be offset within councils operational budget.**

ATTACHMENTS

Nil