
Minutes of the Council Meeting 25 February 2026

Present:

Councillors

Ola Hamed (Mayor)	Councillor
Nadima Kafrouni-Saba (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor
Steve Christou	Councillor
Dr Diane Colman	Councillor
Glenn Elmore	Councillor
Paul Garrard	Councillor
Helen Hughes	Councillor
Ahmed Ouf	Councillor (Exited 10:52pm)
Joseph Rahme	Councillor
Suman Saha	Councillor
Eddy Sarkis	Councillor
Sujan Selventhiran	Councillor
Steve Yang	Councillor
Enver Yasar	Councillor
Michael Zaiter	Councillor

Officers

Peter Fitzgerald	General Manager
Melissa Attia	Director Corporate Performance (Deputy General Manager)
Daniel Cavallo	Director Environment & Planning
Brendan Govers	Director City Services
Nicole Byrn	Director Community & Culture
Charlie Ayoub	Director Governance & Risk
Colin McFadzean	General Counsel
Bianca Mourched	Acting Manager Governance
Paulette Maroon	Governance Officer

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed declared the meeting open at 6:31pm.

National Anthem

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed asked all of those in attendance to stand for the playing of the Australian National Anthem.

Acknowledgement of Country

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed read the following Acknowledgement of Country:

"I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of this land – the Darug People, and pay my respects to their elders past, present and emerging."

Min.1071 Apologies / Requests for Leave of Absence/ Requests for Attendance by Audio-Visual Link

Nil.

Notice of Live Streaming of Council Meeting

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed advised that the Council meeting was being streamed live on Council's website and all in attendance must ensure their speech to the Council is respectful and use appropriate language.

Confirmation of Minutes

Min.1072 C02/26-1 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council - 19 November 2025

_Motion (Elmore/Sarkis)

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 19 November 2025.

Amendment (Christou/Garrard)

I had called dissent on 10-12 occasions, and they were not acknowledged.

The Amendment moved by Councillor Christou and seconded by Councillor Garrard on being Put was declared **LOST**.

Councillor(s) For the Amendment: Christou, Garrard.

Councillor(s) Against the Amendment: Colman, Elmore, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Colman, Elmore, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Ouf, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou and Garrard.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 6:38pm and returned to the Meeting at 6:39pm during the consideration of this item.

Declarations of Pecuniary & Non Pecuniary Conflicts of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Min.1073 Mayoral Minute - Vigil in Merrylands

Motion (Hamed)

That Council:

1. Expresses solidarity and send our sincerest condolences to the family of Mr Amamuddin Sadar for his passing, the victims and family;
2. Expresses its thanks to NSW Police, NSW Fire & Rescue and NSW Ambulance for its support and response to this incident;
3. Donate \$5,000 from the emergency relief fund to the family of Mr Sadar to assist in covering funeral costs and support for his immediate family;
4. Organise a community vigil to honour the life of Mr Sadar and;
5. Observe a minute's silence to honour the life of Mr Sadar.
6. Thank the General Manager for his swift action to lockdown the Merrylands Administration precinct to ensure the safety of the staff.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1074 Mayoral Minute - Condolences - Bondi Beach Attack

Motion (Hamed)

That Council:

1. Note with sadness the 15 lives that were lost, those injured, and the shock and trauma this tragedy has caused to those present at the time and the community more broadly;
2. Donate \$15,000 from the emergency relief fund to the NSW Government & Rotary NSW - Unite for Bondi – Bondi Terror Attack Appeal; and
3. Observe a minute's silence to honour the 15 lives that have been tragically lost.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1075 Mayoral Minute - Australia Day Honours - Juliana (Kathy) Garancsi

Motion (Hamed)

That Council:

1. Congratulate Chief Inspector Kathy Garancsi on being awarded the Emergency Services Medal (ESM) in the 2026 Australia Day Honours List; and;
2. Provide a copy of this Mayoral Minute to Ms Garancsi.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1076 Mayoral Minute - Congratulating Council Staff

Note: The Mayor Councillor Hamed reminded the Chamber that Council was operating under a new *Code of Meeting Practice* at this time, and that Councillors and staff must stand when addressing the Chamber.

Motion (Hamed)

That Council congratulate all Council staff for their unwavering dedication to delivering for the Cumberland Community over the December to January period.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1077 Mayoral Minute - Condolences - The Late Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir AD CVO FTSE

Motion (Hamed)

That Council:

1. Observe a minute's silence in honour of Dame Marie Bashir, recognising her distinguished service and contribution to the community;
2. Provide a copy of this Mayoral Minute to the Bashir family; and
3. Establish a permanent memorial at a suitable location within the city in memory of her service to both Cumberland and the people of NSW.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Note: Council observed a minute of silence in honour of Mr Amamuddin Sadar, the victims of the Bondi Beach Terror Attack and the Late Dame Marie Roslyn Bashir following the consideration of this item.

Min.1078 Items Resolved by Exception

Motion (Saha/Kafrouni-Saba)

That Council adopt items C02/26-2, C02/26-3, C02/26-4, C02/26-7, C02/26-9, C02/26-10, C02/26-11, C02/26-18, C02/26-19, C02/26-20 and C02/26-21 on the Council Agenda as per the recommendations in the report.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Ouf left the Meeting at 7:25pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:26pm during the consideration of this item.

C02/26-2 Legal report

Resolved by Exception

That the report be received.

C02/26-3 Investment Report - January 2026

Resolved by Exception

That Council receive the January 2026 Investment Report.

C02/26-4 Quarter 2 2025/26 Budget Review Statement

Resolved by Exception

That Council approve the revised estimates of income and expenditure for 2025/26 contained in the Quarterly Budget Review Statement.

C02/26-7 Adoption of Sister City and Friendship City Policy - Post Exhibition

Resolved by Exception

That Council adopt the *Sister City and Friendship City Policy* as attached to this report.

C02/26-9 Cumberland Local Transport Forum - Meeting of 4 February 2026

Resolved by Exception

That Council:

1. Receive and note the minutes of the Cumberland Local Transport Forum held on 4 February 2026, as provided in Attachment 1.
2. Note the items considered under delegated authority by Cumberland Local Transport Forum at the 4 February 2026 meeting, as provided in Attachment 2.
3. Endorse the recommendations for items considered by the Cumberland Local Transport Forum at the 4 February 2026 meeting, as provided in Attachment 3.

C02/26-10 Audit, Risk & Improvement Committee - Minutes of Meeting held on 17 November 2025

Resolved by Exception

That Council receive the Minutes of the Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee held on 17 November 2025.

C02/26-11 Quarterly Progress Report on Council's Section 355 Committee and Community Advisory Committees

Resolved by Exception

That Council receive the report noting the Draft Minutes of Council's Section 355 and Community Advisory Committees recently convened and determine the recommendations requesting Council adoption.

C02/26-18 Tender Evaluation Report - Scheduled Plumbing Maintenance (RFx1251)

Resolved by Exception

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract to Smart Flow Solutions Pty Ltd (ABN 93 664 504 312) in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, for \$1,364,450.00 (excluding GST).
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

C02/26-19 Tender Evaluation Report - Chadwick Reserve, Lidcombe - Park Upgrade (RFx1416)

Resolved by Exception

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract to Growth Civil Landscapes Pty Ltd (ABN 35 601 437 003) in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, for \$495,289.25 (excluding GST).

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2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

C02/26-20 Tender Evaluation Report - Lytton Street Park Upgrade (RFx1109)

Resolved by Exception

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract for Lytton Street Park Stage 1 to Growth Civil Landscapes Pty Ltd (ABN:35 601 437 003) in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, for \$2,882,437.04 (excluding GST).
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

C02/26-21 Tender Evaluation Report - Regents Park Library Precinct Upgrade (RFx1438)

Resolved by Exception

That Council:

1. Accept the Tender Evaluation Panel's recommendation to award the contract for the Regents Park Library Precinct Upgrade to Regal Innovations Pty Ltd (ABN 79 002 411 814) in accordance with Clause 178(1)(a) of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021*, for \$1,896,983.53 (excluding GST).
2. Delegate to the General Manager the authority to execute the contract and any associated documents.

Min.1079 C02/26-5 Performance and Progress Report July to December 2025

Motion (Colman/Saha)

That the report be received.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Christou left the Meeting at 7:27pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:31pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 7:29pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:33pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Selventhiran left the Meeting at 7:32pm and returned to the Meeting at 7:34pm during the consideration of this item.

ADJOURNMENT

7:37 pm The Mayor, Councillor Hamed called a short recess.

7:58 pm The Mayor, Councillor Hamed resumed the meeting.

Min.1080 C02/26-6 Response to Notice of Motion - Commitment to Gender Equity in Cumberland

Motion (Colman/Kafrouni-Saba)

That Council place the *Draft Gender Equity Strategy 2026 – 2030* on public exhibition for a period of 28 days, with a report to be provided back to Council following the conclusion of the exhibition period.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Selventhiran left the Meeting at 8:15pm and returned to the Meeting at 8:17pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1081 C02/26-8 Update to Council's Meeting Schedule & New Model Code of Meeting Practice Guidelines

Motion (Elmore/Colman)

That Council:

1. Adopt the revised Council Meeting Schedule for 2026 as outlined in the report.
2. Receive the Department of Housing, Planning and Infrastructure Guidelines (Office of Local Government) issued in January 2026, as attached; and

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3. Authorises the General Manager to execute Council's official participation in external engagements for 2026, as detailed in Attachment 5.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Colman, Elmore, Hamed, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou, Garrard, Hughes and Sarkis.

Min.1082 C02/26-12 Notice of Motion - Community Engagement

Motion (Garrard/Hughes)

That:

1. Council introduce a new concept referred to as a Community Engagement forum for a 12 month trial period.
2. Community Engagement would occur on a separate occasion to the scheduled Council Meeting, preferably on the first Monday of the Month lasting up to two hours.
3. Matters raised at the Community Engagement do not need to be associated with any Council Meeting Business Paper, be aligned with Council issues in its statutory role of delivering local services, and an awareness of any other Council related issues.
4. The Community Engagement sessions would be Chaired independently, and the General Manager make available Council staff to address community comments.
5. Councillors would be invited to be in attendance and minutes taken to record business.
6. The General Manager report to Council with an appropriate framework to allow for its operation.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Garrard, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Elmore, Hamed and Yang.

Councillor Ouf left the Meeting at 8:50pm and returned to the Meeting at 8:54pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Saha left the Meeting at 8:57pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:00pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Colman left the Meeting at 9:05pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:12pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1083 C02/26-13 Notice of Motion - Increased Timing and Responsibility of Ranger Activity

Motion (Hughes/Garrard)

That:

1. When considering the Management Plan for 2026-27, Council consider the widening of the scope of surveillance and responsibilities of Council's Rangers, to allow increased policing of community issues out of hours; and
2. In order for Council to consider an increase in its Ranger program and timeframes, that Council seek a report from the General Manager.

Amendment (Colman/Saha)

Remove point 1 and;

Replace point 2 with the following words; *'Council consider an extension of hours for monitoring of infringements and compliance issues within the responsibility of Council Rangers and receive a report from the General Manager'*.

The proposed Amendment was accepted by the Mover and Seconder of the Motion, and was incorporated to become the substantive Motion as follows:

Motion (Hughes/Garrard)

Council consider an extension of hours for monitoring of infringements and compliance issues within the responsibility of Council Rangers and receive a report from the General Manager.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Zaiter left the Meeting at 9:18pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:21pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Christou left the Meeting at 9:18pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:21pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 9:18pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:21pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Sarkis left the Meeting at 9:20pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:24pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Yasar left the Meeting at 9:36pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:38pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 9:38pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:40pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Selventhiran left the Meeting at 9:49pm and returned to the Meeting at 9:51pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Sarkis left the Meeting at 9:51pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1084 Extension of Council Meeting

Motion (Rahme/Kafrouni-Saba)

That Council in accordance with clause 18.2 of the *Code of Meeting Practice*, extend the meeting by 1 hour to conclude at 11:00pm, or if an item being discussed is unfinished at 11:00pm, at the conclusion of that item.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Min.1085 C02/26-14 Notice of Motion - Indigenous Naming of Cumberland Council Wards

Motion (Ouf/Selventhiran)

That Council:

1. Investigate the renaming of the 5 Council wards of Cumberland Council with an Indigenous name for each ward; and
2. Refer to the matter to the Cumberland ATSIC for the provision of advice and a recommendation to Council for consideration and determination at a future Council meeting.

The Motion on being Put was declared **LOST**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Elmore, Hamed, Ouf, Saha, Selventhiran and Yasar.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou, Colman, Garrard, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Sarkis, Yang and Zaiter.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 9:58pm and returned to the Meeting at 10:01pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Sarkis returned to the Meeting at 9:59pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 10:22pm and returned to the Meeting at 10:23pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Zaiter left the Meeting at 10:22pm and returned to the Meeting at 10:23pm during the consideration of this item.

During consideration of this item, the Mayor called Councillor Yasar to order, asking him to refer to other Councillors by 'Councillor' followed by their surname.

During consideration of this item, the Mayor called Councillor Rahme to order, asking him to calm down as the matter of his concern had been addressed appropriately.

During consideration of this item, the Mayor called Councillor Christou to order, asking him to conduct his debate in an orderly manner.

Min.1086 C02/26-15 Notice of Motion - Recognising Council Event Staff Performance

Motion (Garrard/Hughes)

In acknowledging the importance of Council's event calendar to the wider community, that:

1. Council's Event Team be congratulated for its recent successful organisation and implementation of Council's Australia Day celebrations;
2. The Chamber recognises the continual improvement of community events delivered by Council's event team and acknowledging the community's expectations; and
3. For continuous improvement, it is suggested that a process be developed to enable community feedback for each event.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Christou, Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Ouf, Rahme, Saha, Sarkis, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Nil.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 10:33pm and returned to the Meeting at 10:39pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Christou left the Meeting at 10:34pm and returned to the Meeting at 10:36pm during the consideration of this item.

Min.1087 C02/26-16 Notice of Motion - Review of Social Media Policy

Motion (Zaiter/Rahme)

That Council:

1. Requests the General Manager undertake a review of Council's currently adopted *Social Media Policy*; and
2. Requests the General Manager prepare a report to Council that:
 - assesses the effectiveness of the existing policy;
 - identifies any gaps or challenges in enforcement; and
 - provides recommendations on options to strengthen compliance and enforcement of the policy.

The Motion on being Put was declared **CARRIED**.

Councillor(s) For the Motion: Colman, Elmore, Garrard, Hamed, Hughes, Kafrouni-Saba, Rahme, Saha, Selventhiran, Yang, Yasar and Zaiter.

Councillor(s) Against the Motion: Christou and Sarkis.

Councillor Rahme left the Meeting at 10:42pm and returned to the Meeting at 10:42pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Sarkis left the Meeting at 10:48pm and returned to the Meeting at 10:51pm during the consideration of this item.

Councillor Ouf left the Meeting at 10:52pm during the consideration of this item and did not return.

**Min.1088 C02/26-17 Notice of Motion - Tribute to Former NSW Governor
Dame Marie Bashir**

This item was withdrawn by the Mover and Seconder.

Note: Councillor Garrard tabled two petitions in relation to traffic matters in General Business. The Mayor, Councillor Hamed advised that the petitions would be handled by the General Manager in accordance with the *Petition Guidelines*.

The Mayor, Councillor Hamed closed the meeting at 11:07pm.

Chairperson_____