



**Randwick City  
Council**  
a sense of community

**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING  
SUPPLEMENTARY BUSINESS PAPER  
MAYORAL MINUTE**

**WEDNESDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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**EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING**

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Council Meeting of the Council of the City of Randwick will be held in the Council Chamber, First Floor Town Hall building, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick on Wednesday, 26 September 2018 at 7:00pm

**Mayoral Minute**

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## Mayoral Minute No. MM67/18

**Subject:** End of Term Report

**Folder No:** F2005/00751

**Author:** The Mayor, Cr Lindsay Shurey



MM67/18

### Introduction

Serving as Mayor of Randwick City for the past 12 months has been an incredible honour and privilege. I have been a resident of this community since the early 90s and an elected representative for six years, and this year has been an absolute highlight for me. I am particularly pleased to have served as part of Council's first ever all-female leadership team, and as Randwick's second female Mayor. I hope that I have paved the way for many more women who feel drawn to this life of service.

This year, I've made it my priority that Council continues to be financially strong and forward facing, able to meet the challenges of the future. I've also made sure we create an inclusive community that is aware of and caters to the needs of a diverse range of our residents. I've championed sustainability and encouraged many artistic and creative endeavours with Randwick City, and worked with the cycling community to create safer spaces for them.

I will take many proud memories with me as I look back at the people I've worked alongside, the achievements we've celebrated and the advancements that we've made. I would like to thank my Deputy Mayor Alexandra Luxford for supporting the role of Mayor throughout the year and representing the people of Randwick City.

I'd also like to acknowledge the dedicated work and unwavering passion of my fellow Councillors, of all political persuasions. Together we have faced some imposing challenges but we've found a way to ensure that the outcomes have been for the benefit and betterment of the community.

All of this is made possible by the incredible management and staff of Randwick City Council. Not only are they passionate and dedicated workers, but they are leaders in their field. They continue to deliver and exceed the expectations of our community every day under the guidance of the General Manager, Ray Brownlee. Our residents are better off because of the contributions of our staff, and they are our most important asset.

It would be remiss of me to not mention my incredibly supportive husband, John Gunnell, without whose love and support I would not have been able to devote so much time and energy to this wonderful community.

### Issues

As Mayor I have been able to listen to and liaise with the community in a much more active way, and as a result help to guide and shape the decisions that Council has made. These have been the topics that have defined the past twelve months of Council and that have built a Randwick City that I am proud of.

### Our Community Our Future

In May, the Independent Pricing & Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) approved our submission for a special rate variation to deliver a number of significant community projects over the next three years after a majority of local residents and ratepayers backed our proposal.

An independent telephone survey and a ratepayer survey of almost 6,000 respondents found majority support for a cumulative rate increase of 19.85% over three years and borrowing \$27M to fast track projects.

This will see a number of significant projects delivered in the next seven years including:

- Addressing domestic violence;
- Undergrounding powerlines to increase street tree planting;
- Increasing access to our local arts and culture;
- Upgrading the La Perouse Museum and Randwick Literary Institute;
- Implementing anti-terrorism measures to increase public safety; and
- Building a new indoor sports centre and gymnastics centre at Heffron Park in Maroubra.

Increasing rates was not a decision we took lightly. I know that household costs and living expenses are rising, but I believe the community will receive incredible benefits and much needed services as a result of this rate change.

### **Changes to company title dual occupancy**

Late in 2017 I was approached by many property owners of dual occupancies expressing concern that buying and selling company title premises was becoming increasingly difficult due to banks tightening their lending practices.

We committed to review our planning controls for existing property owners and consulted thoroughly with the community. I then met with the Minister for Planning Anthony Roberts along with the Member for Maroubra Michael Daley in April 2018. Minister Roberts fast-tracked amendments to our LEP, allowing owners of company title dual occupancy premises in Randwick City to subdivide their properties into strata or torrens title.

### **Light rail support**

In August I met with Transport and Infrastructure Minister Andrew Constance to discuss ongoing plans for the construction of the South East Light Rail project and the support packages that could be offered to residents and businesses affected by ongoing construction.

The respite packages will include accommodation arrangements for residents impacted by night works. Residents can arrange for their own accommodation, up to a maximum of \$200 per room per night, or request for Transport for NSW to arrange accommodation directly, avoiding the need for reimbursement.

Small businesses will be offered ex-gratia payments to assist with rent as part of the small business assistance program. This will be available to those on or in close proximity to the construction zone.

Doncaster Avenue residents suffering from additional noise and light pollution as a result of construction will be offered practical solutions to ease the pressures placed on them.

### **Permanent alcohol ban**

Council decided at its meeting on 28 November 2017 to tighten alcohol restrictions in response to a request from NSW Police to reduce the potential for alcohol-fuelled antisocial behaviour in known hotspots. As a result, alcohol was prohibited at Maroubra, Malabar, Clovelly and La Perouse beachside parks, in addition to beaches, on Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day and Australia Day.

The move followed the permanent ban of alcohol at all Coogee beach and beachside parks following an out of control Christmas Day party in 2016, after which, 15 tonnes of garbage were left strewn across Dunningham and Goldstein Reserves at Coogee Beach by thousands of revellers.

I believe that beachside parks are there for everyone to enjoy without fear of intimidation or harassment. The importance of this stance was made clear the following Christmas Day after a crowd of up to 3,000 backpackers descended on Little Bay beach drinking and partying on the alcohol-free beach. Given this incident, I believe it was the right call for Council to act so decisively on this issue of alcohol consumption at beaches over the holiday period.

### **Dockless Rental Bikes**

For close to a year our LGA, as well as many others within the greater Sydney region, was temporarily over-run with dockless share bikes. This put us in an interesting position in which we needed to balance the environmental benefits of a community that had easy access to bikes as a means of alternative transport, with the environmental damage that resulted when these same bikes become a major source of litter.

Randwick Council, along with Inner West, City of Sydney, Waverley, Woollahra and Canada Bay councils, met with the dockless bike hire companies to develop some guidelines for use following community outcry at the number of bikes left dumped or vandalised.

A uniform set of rules were agreed to in a bid to improve public safety and ensure that bike usage continued to increase. However, in the subsequent months, three of the bike share companies withdrew from Australia. This has left residents and visitors to our beaches with fewer alternative modes of transport, but it is my hope that a more effective business model may emerge from this experience.

### **Malabar Headland Western Walking Track**

In February we were able to provide 7-day-a-week public access to Malabar Headland, courtesy of our Western Walking Track. It was an absolute pleasure to open this walking track and a true highlight of my year serving as Mayor.

The 1.15km track creates a circular loop by linking with the coastal National Parks and Wildlife Service Boora Point Walking Track and forms part of Sydney's famous Coastal Walkway. People now have the option to complete a 3km coastal walk, 1.5km inland walk or do both for a 4.5km loop around Malabar Headland. I have no doubt they'll really enjoy it.

### **Kingsford to Centennial Park Cycling Route**

The proposed 2.6km separated cycleway connecting Kingsford to Centennial Park is one step closer after the community provided its comments and support for the project. The proposal has now been submitted to Roads and Maritime Services for funding.

The improvements are part of the Council's cycle strategy to increase the rate of cycling, provide better cycling infrastructure and to better connect with the Kingsford light rail terminus and the existing cycleway around Centennial Park. Additional pedestrian crossings and streetscape upgrades will further enhance the local street environment.

The project includes safer pedestrian crossings, new trees and plants, enhanced streetscapes, improved lighting, traffic calming and a cycleway separated from moving traffic. This will create a safer and more convenient transport option for local residents, parents and kids, students and commuters for a range of local activities.

**Single use plastics ban**

Single use plastics such as plastic bags, drink bottles and drinking straws were banned from all Randwick City Council operations and events starting in July. This is in keeping with a world-wide movement to decrease plastic usage in order to reduce plastics pollution and micro plastics entering the food stream.

It was a unanimous Council decision and I could not be more proud. We are leading by example and making a statement that we all need to reduce our reliance on single use plastics. A total of 3.5 million tonnes of plastics were consumed in Australia last financial year and only 12 per cent was recycled meaning most ends up in landfill or worse in our oceans and natural environment. I have no doubt our decision is a small step in the right direction and will lead to further change.

**Support for Yes vote**

Randwick City Council threw its support behind marriage equality by formally backing the yes vote and flying rainbow banners on Randwick Town Hall. This was a proud moment for me and for Council. This was, at its heart, a vote for equality. I'm proud our Council formally put its support behind marriage equality and backed our LGBTI community.

**Digital and Smart City Strategies**

Randwick Council has always been a leader when it comes to technology, we are an award-winning Council and were among the first in the country to develop a resident-focused app and social media sites. This year we've looked to the future to anticipate the changes that lie ahead and how we can best adapt to them. As a result we have developed a digital strategy what will help deliver improved and user-focused services for the community.

Digital technology is changing the way we work, live and learn, and we are seeing an increasing trend towards innovative and creative solutions to make Council services more efficient and to help us better serve the community. We are already on the front foot, actively engaged with the digital revolution. Now, our digital strategy provides a framework for the delivery of next level, improved and user-centric services and ensure that we are a smart city leader, leveraging new technology to drive growth innovation, sustainability and liveability.

Our Smart City Strategy will ensure our city is connected, competitive and creative. Above all, this will be a Strategy for the community, focusing on how technology can improve living and opportunity in Randwick.

**La Perouse Museum**

The La Perouse Museum is one of our key cultural venues and has the capacity to become a major tourist attraction. I believe the new program of exhibitions and events planned for the Museum will ensure this happens. There are plans to expand the current collection and develop new opportunities for public and school workshops as well as events.

By maintaining a focus on the Indigenous history of the area, the connection to France and amplifying the Museum's own scientific and communications history, there will be many opportunities for visitors to learn something new and perhaps come away from the experience with a different perspective.

**Affordable housing for people exiting domestic violence**

I've had many discussions with support service providers for domestic violence and one of the challenges they face is turning women and children away from refuges because they don't have the space. In what I believe is a first for NSW local government, Council has allocated some of our affordable housing homes to help local women and children break the cycle of domestic violence.



Under the initiative, a proportion of the Council's affordable rental housing portfolio will be made available specifically for women and children exiting emergency refuges and into more stable medium-term accommodation.

Many refuges are full with women and children who have experienced domestic violence staying for an extended period of time because of the difficulties in securing medium term housing in the private rental market. This support from Council will facilitate the transition from crisis to more long term housing.

#### **Financial assistance for domestic violence support agency**

In Randwick City, between 2016 and 2017, there were 373 reports made to police of women or children suffering at the hands of another person. Currently, residents who experience domestic violence need to travel outside our area in order to access services that will be of most benefit to them. This is unreasonable.

Council will now provide financial assistance to a local domestic violence support agency for the next five years to enable the agency to increase outreach services to three days a week within the Randwick City area. Women escaping violence need assistance to engage with various services to help rebuild their lives, and this funding will allow that to happen.

#### **New Family & Domestic Violence Policy**

It's imperative that Council's support for those dealing with domestic violence extends also to our staff. Randwick Council staff members experiencing family and domestic violence have access to extra leave, additional support and flexible work options as part of a new Family & Domestic Violence Policy.

This new policy offers support at times of crisis and helps staff to retain their job and income. It is the right thing to do as a responsible employer and sets an example for the community and other employers as well.

#### **White Ribbon**

Council was once more a driving force behind the annual White Ribbon Walk that sees huge swathes of the community walk from High Cross Park, down Coogee Bay Road to the beach in a stand against domestic violence. This is the seventh year that Council has worked with the NSW Police to create a mass event that drives home a vital message.

Each year we walk because violence towards women and children is not tolerated. We walk to remind all members of our community of this fact. We walk because our visible, collective presence on the streets is a show of support for the vulnerable. We walk as an outward promise that we will stand up and speak out when we see acts of abuse.

#### **Support for disadvantaged schools**

In February this year Chifley Public School requested assistance to landscape part of their school grounds which were in dire need of remediation work. We provided the school with plants, resources and expertise, which has resulted in an increase of green space for the school children to enjoy, new gardens beneath the canopy of older, established trees as well as an improved street frontage that has beautified the campus with plants from the Council nursery.

That same month I arranged a meeting between the Principal of La Perouse Public School and the Director of Music, Art and Culture at UNSW and to facilitate an arrangement in which the Australia Ensemble were able to use space at La Perouse Public School for their rehearsals. Previously the school hall was vastly underused,

now the school is involved in a trial program that brings classical music to school children.

**30 Seconds to Randwick**

I was honoured this year to be one of three judges in the Inaugural 30 Seconds to Randwick short film competition, held by Randwick City Council. The aim of the competition was to create a 30-second ad that could screen at the Ritz Cinema as part of the Sydney Film Festival, and promote all the wonderful things about living in this LGA.

The winners were a group of four University of New South Wales (UNSW) film students whose film was a joyful celebration of life in Randwick. I'm really keen to see Randwick develop a thriving creative and artistic community, so it seemed natural to hold a short film competition that would allow UNSW students the opportunity to have their work screened as part of the Sydney Film Festival.

The competition has resulted in a collaboration between Council and two UNSW faculties to include a student film festival to be screened at the bi-annual NOX Festival.

**TUI tubes**

Randwick City was the first council in Australia to install rescue tube units on several of its beaches. The Tube Unit Initiative (TUI) is a system designed to be used as a rescue device to prevent drownings during times a beach is not patrolled by Council Lifeguards.

The TUI consists of a rescue tube stationed close to the water's edge fitted with light, whistle and branded with instructions. When the tube is removed from its housing station on the beach, an alarm sounds, alerting those nearby to the situation, and sends an SMS Alert and GPS location to the local emergency services.

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Anzac Day Dawn Service 2018



Rainbow banners on Town Hall in support of the Yes vote Oct 2017



Opening the Randwick Community Centre Sustainability Hub April 2018



With Brigidine College students as part of Solar My School



With the Ngal Nanga Mai parent group



Koojay Corroboree June 2018



Opening the Spot Festival March 2018



With Chifley Primary School students to see their garden improvements September 2018

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Supporting the Rainbow Street Primary School fundraising cookbook



Unveiling John Sutton mural celebrating 300 games



Mardi Gras flag raising ceremony Oct 2017



Opening the Malabar Headland Western Walking Track Feb 2018



With a Maroubra Beach Lifeguard September 2017



Sydney Airport site visit April 2018



With Randwick City Council General Manager Ray Brownlee and USU General Secretary Graeme Kelly



First World War Centenary, April 2018



Randwick Mayor Lindsay Shurey in her office



With Transport for NSW Coordinator General Marg Prendergast for the replanting of fig trees at Heffron Park



Bali Commemoration Ceremony Oct 2017



World Spinal Cord Injury Awareness Day 2018

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Off to see the Rabbitohs play the Cronulla Sharks



Speaking at the White Ribbon Walk November 2017

**Recommendation**

That the report of the outgoing Mayor is received and noted.

**Attachment/s:**

Nil