



MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF BURWOOD held in the Conference Room, Level 1, 2 Conder Street, Burwood on Tuesday 19 May 2026 commencing at 6:06 PM.

Attendance Councillor John Faker (Mayor)
Councillor Sukirti Bhatta
Councillor Pascale Esber (attending via audio-visual link)
Councillor David Hull
Councillor De Yi Wu-Coshott (attending via audio-visual link)
Councillor Alex Yang

Opening of Meeting by the Mayor

The Mayor opened the meeting with a prayer and Acknowledgement of Country.

Public Forum

The following people addressed Council at the Public Forum held prior to the meeting regarding items on the agenda for the meeting:

No:	Speaker's Name, Suburb	Agenda Item No. & Title	For/Against
1	Dr Paul Burgis, The Presbyterian Ladies College	32/26 - Proposed Burwood LGA Boundary Adjustment	For

Attendance by audio-visual link

47/26 RESOLVED

That requests from Councillors Esber and Cr Wu-Coshott to attend the meeting via audio-visual link due to unforeseen carer responsibilities be granted.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang
Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Sukirti Bhatta/Seconded Councillor David Hull)

48/26 RESOLVED

That Council note Councillor Mannah's apology and leave be granted.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang
Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor David Hull/Seconded Councillor Sukirti Bhatta)

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests by Councillors.

Declarations of Political Donations

There were no declarations of political interests by Councillors.

Confirmation of Minutes

49/26 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the ordinary meeting of the Council Meeting held on Tuesday 28 April 2026, as circulated, be confirmed and signed as a true record of the proceedings of the meeting.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang

Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Sukirti Bhatta/Seconded Councillor David Hull)

Reports to Council

(Item 32/26) Proposed Burwood LGA Boundary Adjustment

File No: 26/5751

Summary

Since 2007, the Presbyterian Ladies' College (PLC) has consistently advocated to both Burwood Council and Inner West Council (including the former Ashfield Council) for a realignment of the Local Government Area (LGA) boundaries bordering the eastern portion of the Croydon campus, to enable the majority of the school's facilities to fall within the Burwood LGA.

At the Council meetings held on 26 March 2024 and 25 March 2025, Mayoral Minutes were adopted to support and initiate the process of facilitating an LGA boundary adjustment in consultation with Inner West Council.

This report seeks Council approval to endorse an updated boundary change option (Option 1 as referenced later in this report) to amend the Burwood LGA boundary with Inner West Council, following the assessment and considerations outlined in this report, and to commence targeted community engagement and consultation with the broader community, as well as directly affected residents and property owners.

Operational Plan Objective

C.3 – Creating an urban environment that maintains and enhances our sense of identity and place.

50/26 RESOLVED

That:

- a) Council confirms it continues to have no in-principle objection to the proposed adjustment to the Local Government Area (LGA) boundary between Burwood and Inner West LGAs, as detailed in this report.
- b) Council endorses the updated Option 2 as the preferred LGA boundary adjustment to be progressed with the Minister for Local Government and the NSW Office of Local Government.
- c) The General Manager continues the LGA boundary adjustment process in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1993* to amend the boundary between the Burwood and Inner West LGAs, as per Option 2 detailed in this report.

- d) Council notes and endorses the commencement of the community engagement and consultation program identified in this report.
- e) The General Manager provides regular updates on this matter as Council progresses through the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
- f) The Mayor of Burwood writes to the Mayor of Inner West, notifying them of Burwood Council's decision.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang

Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Sukirti Bhatta/Seconded Councillor Alex Yang)

(Item 33/26) Integrated Planning and Reporting Documents – Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2), Operational Plan and Budget (2026-2027), Statement of Revenue Policy, Draft Fees and Charges and Updated Resourcing Strategy – Endorsement for Public Exhibition

File No: 26/20143

Summary

This report seeks Council's endorsement to publicly exhibit the suite of documents prepared following the annual review of the Delivery Program and the development of the 2026–2027 Operational Plan, including the draft Budget, Statement of Revenue Policy, Draft Fees and Charges, and updated Resourcing Strategy.

Operational Plan Objective

C.11.1 – Conduct Council business with transparency, accountability, compliance and probity that ensures community in confidence in decision making

P.43 – Plan, monitor and report on the delivery of services and initiatives in accordance with the Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework under the Local Government Act

A.101 – Undertake corporate planning and reporting

51/26 RESOLVED

1. That Council endorse the updated Delivery Program 2025-2029 (Year 2), the Draft Operational Plan 2026-2027, Draft Budget 2026-2027, Draft Statement of Revenue Policy 2026-2027 and updated Long-Term Financial Plan (included in Council's Resourcing Strategy) and place the documents on public exhibition for 28 days until 16 June 2026.
2. That Council endorse the Draft Schedule of Fees and Charges 2026-2027, and place the document on public exhibition.
3. That a notice of the public exhibition be published on Council's website and social media platforms inviting public submissions, and copies of the draft documents be made available on Council's website.
4. That following the public exhibition period, a report, including a summary of submissions received, be prepared for Council's consideration and adoption.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang

Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Pascale Esber/Seconded Councillor Alex Yang)

(Item 34/26) Fees and Charges Addition - New Standard 240 Litre Bin Allocation for Single Unit Dwellings

File No: 25/33003

Summary

At the Council meeting of 23 June 2025 it was resolved that:

1. Residential properties be permitted to apply for increased waste bin capacity in the form of a single 240 Litre bin, rather than having to request a second 120 Litre waste bin.
2. Staff review the Fees and Charges for increased waste bin capacity provided to residential properties compared with residential flat buildings

This report outlines a modification to the proposed Fees and Charges relating to additional waste bins and provides single unit dwellings with the option to request additional waste bin capacity in the form of a 240 litre bin.

Operational Plan Objective

A.70 – Deliver scheduled domestic and business kerbside waste and recycling collection service.

52/26 RESOLVED

That Council receive and note the report.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang
Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Sukirti Bhatta/Seconded Councillor David Hull)

(Item 35/26) Community Grants Program 2025/2026

File No: 26/19096

Summary

This report provides recommendations for the allocation of funding under Council's Community Grants Program 2025/2026 for consideration and approval by Council. Funding recommendations are outlined under Attachment 1 of this report.

A brief outcomes summary report outlining the community impact of the Community Grants Program 2024/2025 is also included under Attachment 3.

Operational Plan Objective

A.3 Deliver capacity building and funding initiatives to support the community sector, including the annual Community Grants, ClubGRANTS and the Councillor's Donation Programs.

53/26 RESOLVED

That Council:

1. Approves the 20 applications recommended for funding as outlined under Attachment 1 and allocates \$80,000 from the Community Grants Program budget 2025/26.
2. Advises all applicants of the outcome of their application and provides feedback and support to applicants that were unsuccessful.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang

Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Sukirti Bhatta/Seconded Councillor Alex Yang)

(Item 36/26) Exhibition of NSW Government Draft Statewide Community Consultation Plan

File No: 26/20532

Summary

The NSW Government has placed a Draft Statewide Community Participation Plan (CPP) on public exhibition (**Attachment 1**).

The draft Plan proposes a single, standardised framework for community participation in planning matters across NSW and would replace Burwood Council's current Community Participation Plan (**Attachment 2**) for planning matters.

The reform looks to shift community participation earlier in the planning process, introduces consistent exhibition and notification timeframes across councils, and removes notification for complying development certificates and many development application land use types that fully comply with planning controls.

This report seeks Council's endorsement to prepare and lodge a submission to the NSW Government on the draft statewide CPP noting that the proposed changes will have impacts on the manner in which Council undertakes engagement and seeks feedback for planning and development matters.

Operational Plan Objective

- C.10 A well-informed community active in civic life, local planning and decision making
- C.11.1 Conduct Council business with transparency, accountability, compliance and probity that ensures community confidence in decision making

54/26 RESOLVED

That:

1. Council notes the contents of this report.
2. Council endorses the preparation and lodgement of a submission on the Draft Statewide Community Participation Plan.
3. Council officers implement targeted community communication to raise awareness of the NSW Government's proposed changes to community engagement and participation in planning and development during the exhibition period.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang
Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Alex Yang/Seconded Councillor Sukirti Bhatta)

(Item 37/26) Budget Review for Quarter Ending 31 March 2026

File No: 26/19899

Summary

The 2025-2026 Budget was adopted at the Council Meeting held on 24 June 2025 with a surplus of \$29,002,000, with the operating result before capital grants and contributions forecast to be a surplus of \$37,000.

The following Statement of Budget Income and Expenditure identifies a forecast surplus of \$28,097,000 as at 31 March 2026, with the operating result before capital grants and contributions forecast to be a deficit of \$2,592,000.

Operational Plan Objective

2.3.1 Identify and maintain additional revenue sources to ensure financial sustainability

55/26

RESOLVED

1. That the Budget Review Statement of the 2025-26 Budget as at 31 March 2026, including the statement by the Responsible Accounting Officer, Finance Manager, be received and noted.
2. That in accordance with Clauses 203 and 211 of the Local Government (General) Regulation 2021, the revised estimates of income and expenditure for 2025-26 surplus of \$28,097,000, as shown in the report be approved.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang
Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Pascale Esber/Seconded Councillor Sukirti Bhatta)

(Item 38/26) Investment Report as at 30 April 2026

File No: 26/19877

Summary

In accordance with Clause 212 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2005*, this report details all money that Council has invested under Section 625 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

Operational Plan Objective

- A.103 Implement and monitor appropriate investment strategies and prepare monthly investment reports.

56/26 RESOLVED

1. That the investment report for 30 April 2026 be received and endorsed.
2. That the Certificate of the Responsible Accounting Officer be received and noted.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang

Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Alex Yang/Seconded Councillor Pascale Esber)

(Item 39/26) Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program – Quarterly Progress Report

File No: 26/19716

Summary

This report provides Council with a high-level progress update on the delivery of the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants Program currently underway and marks the fifth instalment in an ongoing series of quarterly reports.

57/26 RESOLVED

That Council notes the contents of this report, including updates on the progress of the Western Sydney Infrastructure Grants program.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang

Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Sukirti Bhatta/Seconded Councillor David Hull)

(Item 40/26) Draft Rates, Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy - Endorsement for Public Exhibition

File No: 26/20911

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for the public exhibition of the draft *Rates, Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy*, which is required to support Council's financial management obligations under the *Local Government Act 1993*. The policy is a review, update and consolidation of the *Debt Recovery Policy*, the *Rates and Charges Hardship Assistance Policy* and the *Hardship Resulting in Valuation Changes – Section 601 Policy*.

Operational Plan Objective

- A.103 Implement and monitor appropriate investment strategies and prepare monthly investment reports.
- C11.1 Conduct Council business with transparency, accountability, compliance and probity that ensures community confidence in decision making

58/26 RESOLVED

That Council:

1. Places the draft *Rates, Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy* contained in Attachment 1 to this report on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and invites submissions from the public.
2. If submissions are received, directs the General Manager to report on the outcome of public exhibition for that policy at the next ordinary meeting of Council following the last date for the lodgement of submissions.
3. If no submissions are received:
 - a) adopts the draft *Rates, Charges, Debt Recovery and Hardship Assistance Policy* without further amendment and authorises the General Manager to make any minor editorial or typographical corrections to the policy considered necessary before the document becomes effective
 - b) revokes the following policies:
 - i) *Debt Recovery Policy*, adopted 21 August 2018
 - ii) *Rates and Charges Hardship Assistance Policy*, adopted 27 November 2018
 - iii) *Hardship Resulting in Valuation Changes – Section 01 Policy*, adopted 25 September 2018

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang

Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor Sukirti Bhatta/Seconded Councillor Pascale Esber)

(Item 41/26) Tabling of First Time and Updated Disclosures of Interest

File No: 26/21104

Summary

The General Manager is required under the *Local Government Act 1993* to table written returns of interests for councillors and designated persons at a meeting of Council. The purpose of this report is to table first time and updated returns that have been received since the last batch of returns were tabled.

Operational Plan Objective

C.11.1 Conduct Council business with transparency, accountability, compliance and probity that ensures community confidence in decision making.

59/26 RESOLVED

That Council notes:

1. The tabling of disclosures of interest returns in accordance with Part 4 of the *Codes of Conduct* and the *Local Government Act 1993* for the Council officials listed in this report, and
2. That mandatory proactive release of the returns via publication on the Council website has been effected in accordance with clause 4.2 of the *Codes of Conduct* and the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*.

For: Cr Faker, Cr Esber, Cr Hull, Cr Bhatta, Cr Wu-Coshott, Cr Yang
Against: Nil

(Moved Councillor David Hull/Seconded Councillor Alex Yang)

This concluded the business of the meeting and Council rose at 6.16 pm.

The Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 19 May 2026 will be submitted for confirmation by Council at its next meeting on 30 June 2026.