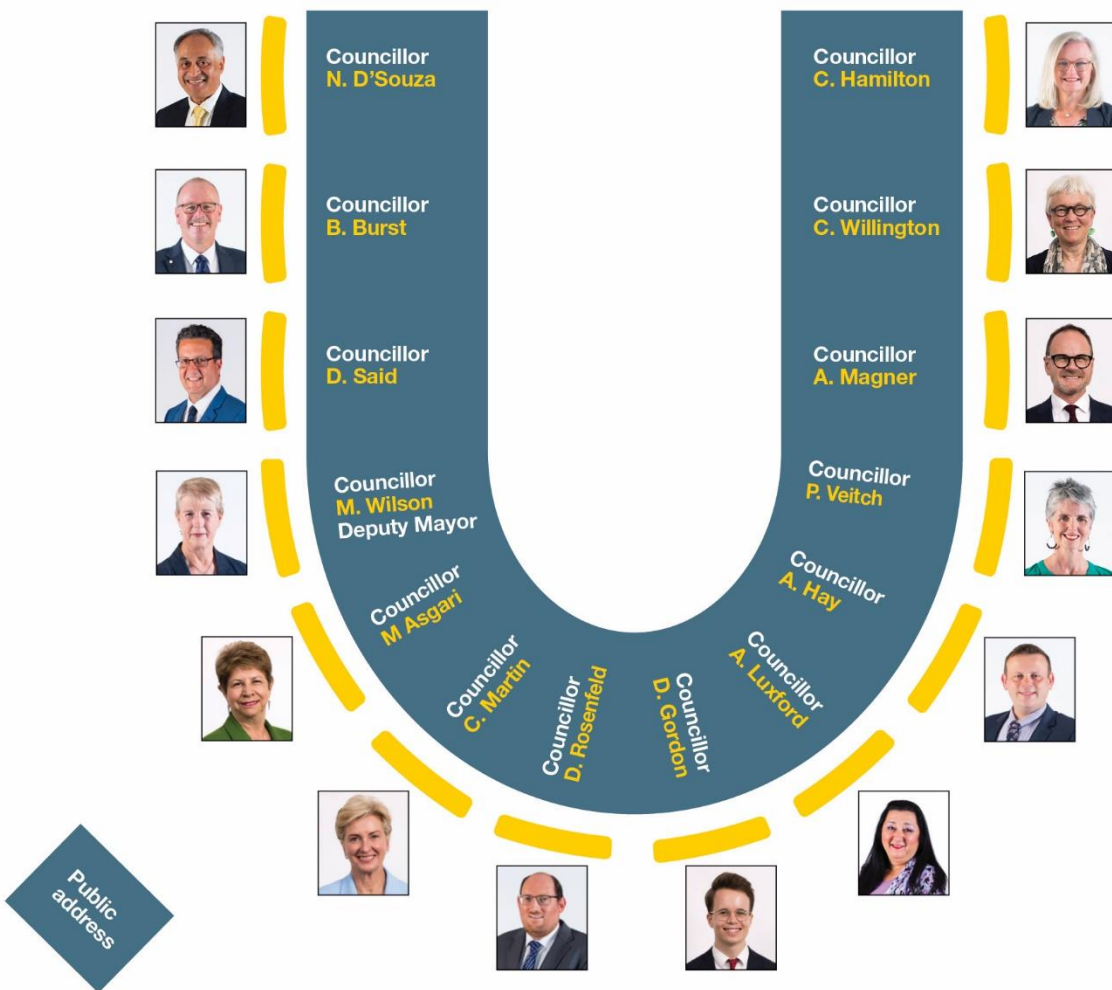


Extraordinary Council Meeting

Tuesday 25 March 2025

Seating plan for Council meetings



Statement of ethical obligations

Obligations	
Oath [Affirmation] of Office by Councillors	I swear [solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm] that I will undertake the duties of the office of councillor in the best interests of the people of Randwick City and the Randwick City Council and that I will faithfully and impartially carry out the functions, powers, authorities and discretions vested in me under the Local Government Act 1993 or any other Act to the best of my ability and judgment.
Code of Conduct conflict of interests	
Pecuniary interests	<p>A Councillor who has a pecuniary interest in any matter with which the council is concerned, and who is present at a meeting of the council at which the matter is being considered, must disclose the nature of the interest to the meeting.</p> <p>The Councillor must not be present at, or in sight of, the meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">at any time during which the matter is being considered or discussed, orat any time during which the council is voting on any question in relation to the matter.
Non-pecuniary conflict of interests	A Councillor who has a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter, must disclose the relevant private interest in relation to the matter fully and on each occasion on which the non-pecuniary conflict of interest arises in relation to the matter.
Significant non-pecuniary interests	A Councillor who has a significant non-pecuniary conflict of interest in relation to a matter under consideration at a council meeting, must manage the conflict of interest as if they had a pecuniary interest in the matter.
Non-significant non-pecuniary interests	A Councillor who determines that they have a non-pecuniary conflict of interest in a matter that is not significant and does not require further action, when disclosing the interest must also explain why conflict of interest is not significant and does not require further action in the circumstances.



Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary Council meeting of Randwick City Council will be held in the Council Chamber, 1st floor Town Hall building, 90 Avoca Street, Randwick on Tuesday, 25 March 2025 at **6:15pm**

Acknowledgement of Country

“I would like to acknowledge that we are meeting on the land of the Bidjigal and the Gadigal peoples who occupied the Sydney Coast, being the traditional owners. On behalf of Randwick City Council, I acknowledge and pay my respects to the Elders past and present, and to Aboriginal people in attendance today.”

Prayer

*“Almighty God,
We humbly beseech you to bestow your blessings upon this Council and to direct and prosper our deliberations to the advancement of your glory and the true welfare of the people of Randwick and Australia.
Amen”*

Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

Requests to attend meeting by audio-visual link

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Address of Council by Members of the Public

*Privacy warning;
In respect to Privacy & Personal Information Protection Act, members of the public are advised that the proceedings of this meeting will be recorded for the purposes of clause 5.20-5.23 of Council’s Code of Meeting Practice.*

*Audio/video recording of meetings prohibited without permission;
A person may be expelled from a meeting for using, or having used, an audio/video recorder without the express authority of the Council.*

Motions Pursuant to Notice

NM19/25 Notice of Motion from Councillors Hamilton, Magner and Willington - 6/52 Beach Street, Coogee - Hill’s Weeping Fig Tree - request for postponed removal of tree and reconsideration of the decision to remove the tree in light of new expert opinion..... 1

Questions with Notice

QN2/25 Question with Notice from Cr Magner - Update on Urban Forest Policy 3

Ray Brownlee, PSM
GENERAL MANAGER

Motion Pursuant to Notice No. NM19/25

Subject: Notice of Motion from Councillors Hamilton, Magner and Willington - 6/52 Beach Street, Coogee - Hill's Weeping Fig Tree - request for postponed removal of tree and reconsideration of the decision to remove the tree in light of new expert opinion

NM19/25

Motion:

That Council:

- a) note the many expressions of protest received from the residents living in proximity to the Hill's Weeping Fig Tree on the Quail Street side of 6/52 Beach Street;
- b) note that the business papers for the ordinary meeting of Council held on 25 February 2025 include a Scope of Works prepared by Structability Consulting Engineers for the repair of the damaged concrete slab/driveway, masonry fence and asphalt path at 52 Beach Street Coogee, and that the document is not a structural engineer's report which addresses issues of causation, liability or possible alternative remedial works;
- c) note the strong concern expressed by the Quail Street residents' group that the Scope of Works alone is not a sufficient document on which to make a decision to remove the tree;
- d) note that The Quail Street residents' group has commissioned a structural report, prepared by an engineer to provide an independent assessment of the causation and extent of damage considering all contributing factors—not just the tree—and exploring alternative solutions;
- e) note the strong view of the Quail Street residents' group that alternative tree management measures are available, and that the removal of the tree is unnecessary in this circumstance;
- f) note the residents' concern that a dangerous precedent could lead to the removal of all fig trees on Quail Street, placing residents and wildlife at risk from loss of canopy and heat stress; and
- g) seek further clarification from the insurers regarding the future liability of the tree at 6/52 Beach Street Coogee and bring the matter back to Council at a future meeting.

Background:

At the meeting of Council on Tuesday 25 February 2025, Councillors considered the report and recommendation No. CS4/25 from Director of City Services: Subject: 6/52 Beach Street, Coogee Hills Weeping Fig Removal. Councillors were provided with the Scope of Works document prepared for Council's insurer by Structability Consulting Engineers issue date: 18 October 2024. A majority of councillors voted to support the recommendation to remove the Council owned *Ficus Var macrocarpa* (Hill's Weeping Fig) growing on the Quail Street side of the property at 52, Beach Street; one in a line of five Hill's Weeping Figs that provide significant amenity to the street and habitat for wildlife.

Following Council's resolution to support the recommendation, Council Officers placed a notice on the trunk of the tree (on the Quail Street side of the property) and sent letters to surrounding residents telling them that the tree would be removed on Thursday 6 March 2025. This resulted in at least 20 emails and many phone calls to Councillors, the Mayor, the Acting General Manager, the Director City Services and the Manager Technical Services. All the residents who wrote emails and made calls are concerned about the accuracy and sufficiency of the information provided to Councillors in the Scope of Works document and expressed concern about the lack of

a Structural Engineer's Report. They all expressed their deeply held wish to retain the tree until such time as Council can reassess the claim against the tree.

The Acting General Manager of Council responded to the residents by holding a site meeting to which everyone who had contacted Council and the North Ward Councillors were invited. The date for removal of the tree was postponed by a week to allow for further dialogue with the community. The meeting was held at 8am on Thursday 6 March. At least 20 residents, 3 North Ward Councillors and one East Ward Councillor attended. The Acting General Manager and Director City Services explained the basis of Council's view that all options had been exhausted and that the tree, posing an uninsurable risk, should now be removed. The residents spoke strongly in favour of retaining the tree. Residents voiced particular concern that the information provided to Councillors in the Scope of Works document was insufficient and may have resulted in an ill-informed decision by Council.

Attachment/s:

Nil

Submitted by: Councillor Hamilton, North Ward; Councillor Magner, North Ward;
Councillor Willington, North Ward

File Reference: F2007/00188

Question with Notice No. QN2/25

Subject: Question with Notice from Cr Magner - Update on Urban Forest Policy

Question:

Could the relevant officer please provide an update on the progress of the draft Urban Forest Policy 2024 following Resolution 300/24 of the October 2024 Council meeting, specifically:

1. When is it expected that the Resilience Committee will meet to consider the updated draft Urban Forest Policy as directed by Council?
2. When might Council reasonably expect a Councillor briefing to be scheduled or conducted to discuss the Resilience Committee's recommendations as specified in the resolution?
3. What is the proposed timeline for reporting the draft Urban Forest Policy back to Council following these consultative processes?
4. Have the two supporting procedures that were identified for development (Procedures for Investigating Tree Vandalism and Procedures for Assessing Tree Root Claims) progressed alongside the policy review?
5. Has preliminary work begun on updating the Register of Significant Trees, and has funding been allocated in the upcoming budget for this purpose?

Response from Director City Services

To be distributed in a supplementary business paper.

Submitted by: Councillor Magner, North Ward

File Reference: F2005/00282