



**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY, 25 MARCH 2025 AT 6:22PM**

Present:

The Mayor, Councillor D Parker (Central Ward)

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| Central Ward | - | Councillors D Gordon & D Rosenfeld |
| East Ward | - | Councillors M Asgari, C Martin & M Wilson (Deputy Mayor) |
| North Ward | - | Councillors C Hamilton, A Magner & C Willington |
| South Ward | - | Councillors B Burst, N D'Souza & D Said |
| West Ward | - | Councillors A Hay, A Luxford & P Veitch |

Officers Present:

General Manager	Mr R Brownlee
Director City Planning	Ms M Bishop
Director City Services	Mr T Clarke
Director Community & Culture	Ms K Anderson
Director Corporate Services	Mr J Frangoples
Manager Customer & Compliance	Mr D Kelly
Communications Manager	Mr J Hay
Manager Technical Services	Mr J Ingegneri

Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous People & Prayer

The Acknowledgement of Local Indigenous People was read by Cr Hamilton. The Council Prayer was read by Cr D'Souza.

Apologies/Granting of Leave of Absences

Nil.

Requests to Attend Meeting by Audio-Visual Link

Nil.

Declarations of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Nil.

Address of Council by Members of the Public

Prior to consideration of the Agenda by the Council, deputations were received in respect of the following matters:

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

For Barry Tozer

For Rob Aird, representing the Quail Street Residents Group

Motions Pursuant to Notice

NM19/25 Motion Pursuant to Notice - 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 (F2007/00188)

MOTION:(Willington/Hamilton) 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) that Council:
 - i) formally postpone the removal of the Hill's Weeping Fig Tree at 6/52 Beach Street, Coogee until further notice;
 - ii) direct the General Manager to seek written clarification from Council's insurers regarding future liability considerations within 21 days;
 - iii) require that the independent structural engineer's report commissioned by residents be formally reviewed by Council staff and included in a comprehensive assessment report; and
 - iv) return this matter to Council for reconsideration at the April 2025 Ordinary Council Meeting, with a complete assessment of all alternative options to tree removal. **LOST.**

The **DIVISION** was taken and the names of the Councillors voting FOR and AGAINST were as follows:

FOR	AGAINST
Councillor Hamilton	Councillor Hay
Councillor Willington	Councillor Luxford
Councillor Magner	Councillor Gordon
Councillor Veitch	Councillor Rosenfeld
Councillor Martin	Councillor Wilson
Councillor Asgari	Councillor Said
Councillor D'Souza	Councillor Burst
	Councillor Parker
Total (7)	Total (8)

Questions with Notice

QN2/25 Question with Notice - Question with Notice from Cr Magner - Update on Urban Forest Policy (F2005/00282)

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:

1. The Resilience Committee is a new Committee which will address matters previously considered by the former Greening Randwick Committee. The Committee will be administered by City Planning. Council is currently seeking expressions of interest from community members to be on the Committee. The first meeting is scheduled to be held on 30 April 2025.
2. A Councillor briefing on the Urban Forest Policy will be scheduled for May or June 2025 subject to availability in the current briefing agendas.
3. The draft Urban Forest Policy will be reported back to Council after the briefing to endorse placing it on public exhibition. This will be in May or June 2025 depending on the briefing and work arising from any recommendations by the Resilience Committee. Following public exhibition (min 4 weeks), a report will be presented to Council at its September 2025 meeting to endorse the draft Policy.
4. A brief for engagement of a consultant has been drafted for these procedures but has not been issued for a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process. Due to current resourcing, development of these procedures was deferred to allow the Review of Randwick's Development Control Plan (DCP) which includes a part on Preservation of Trees and

Vegetation. Please note that the tree preservation provisions (existing and reviewed) are contained in the DCP.

5. A brief for engagement of a consultant to develop a new Register of Significant Trees has been drafted for a Request for Quotation (RFQ) process. For the same reason as the procedures, this project will proceed after the DCP review work is completed.

There being no further business, His Worship the Mayor, Cr D Parker, declared the meeting closed at 7.15pm.

The minutes of this meeting were confirmed at the Ordinary Meeting of Randwick City Council held on Tuesday, 25 March 2025.

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CHAIRPERSON