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# CAMPBELLTOWN CITY COUNCIL

## Minutes Summary

**Ordinary Council Meeting held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, 10 October 2023.**

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**Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Campbelltown City Council held on 10 October 2023**

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**Present**           The Mayor, Councillor G Greiss  
                  Councillor G Brticevic  
                  Councillor J Chew  
                  Councillor M Chivers  
                  Councillor M Chowdhury  
                  Councillor J Cotter  
                  Councillor M George  
                  Councillor K Hunt  
                  Councillor M Khalil  
                  Councillor D Lound  
                  Councillor W Morrison  
                  Councillor R Munro  
                  Councillor M Oates  
                  Councillor M Stellino

**1.     ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF LAND**

An Acknowledgement of Land was presented by the Chairperson Councillor Greiss.

**Council Prayer**

The Council Prayer was presented by the General Manager.

**2.     APOLOGIES/LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

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It was **Moved** Councillor Lound, **Seconded** Councillor Chowdhury:

That the apology from Councillor Rey Manoto be accepted.

**238/2023**     The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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**3.     CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES****3.1    Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held 12 September 2023**

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It was **Moved** Councillor Chew, **Seconded** Councillor Morrison:

That the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held 12 September 2023, copies of which have been circulated to each Councillor, be taken as read and confirmed.

**239/2023**     The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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#### 4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Interest were made in respect of the following items:

##### **Pecuniary Interests**

Nil

##### **Non Pecuniary – Significant Interests**

Item 11.3 – PhD Scholarship

Dr Greiss advised he is Adjunct Professor at Western Sydney University will leave the Chamber.

##### **Non Pecuniary – Less than Significant Interests**

Nil

##### **Other Disclosures**

Nil

#### 5. MAYORAL MINUTE

##### 5.1 NSW Government Challenges

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It was **Moved** Councillor Greiss:

That the information be noted.

**240/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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#### 6. PETITIONS

#### 7. CORRESPONDENCE

##### 7.1 Correspondence regarding NSW Illegal Dumping Strategy

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Oates:

That the letters be received and the information be noted.

**241/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 7.2 Correspondence regarding Glenfield Parklands

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Morrison:

That the letter be received and the information be noted.

**242/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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It was **Moved** Councillor Brticevic, **Seconded** Councillor Munro:

That Item 8.4 be brought forward to be considered in conjunction with Item 7.3.

**243/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 7.3 Correspondence regarding Billabong Operational Plan

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It was **Moved** Councillor Brticevic, **Seconded** Councillor Chivers:

1. That the letter be received and the information be noted.
2. That Council note the two additional items of correspondence received today and tabled at this meeting from Dr Mike Freeland MP, Member for Macarthur, and the Hon. Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields.

**244/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8. REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### 8.1 Proposed Amendments to Campbelltown Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2018

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It was **Moved** Councillor Brticevic, **Seconded** Councillor Morrison:

1. That Council endorse the public exhibition of the proposed amendments to the Campbelltown Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2018 for a period of at least 28 days.
2. That Council note that the Campbelltown Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan 2018 (Amendment 1) will, if adopted, repeal the Section 94 Development Contributions Plan – Glenfield Urban Release Area May 2007
3. That following the public exhibition either:
  - a) Where objection(s) are received to the draft Plan a further report be presented to Council on those objection(s), or
  - b) Where no objection(s) are received during the exhibition period, the draft Plan be adopted as exhibited and a public notice placed on the Council website within 28 days of the completion of the exhibition, with the date of the public notice being the effective date in which the Plan will come in force.

**245/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

A Division was recorded in regard to the Resolution for Item 8.1 with those voting for the Motion being Councillors G Greiss, D Lound, K Hunt, M Chowdhury, M Oates, W Morrison, M Khalil, M Stellino, J Cotter, G Brticevic, M Chivers, M George, J Chew and R Munro.

Voting against the Resolution were Nil.

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### 8.2 Urban Development Institute of Australia - National Congress Melbourne 2024

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It was **Moved** Councillor Morrison, **Seconded** Councillor Munro:

That interested Councillors be authorised to attend the 2024 Urban Development Institute of Australia National Congress in Melbourne, in accordance with the provisions of the Payment of Expenses and Provision of Facilities to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors.

**246/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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### 8.3 Significant Development Applications

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It was **Moved** Councillor Morrison, **Seconded** Councillor Khalil:

That the information be noted.

Carried

**247/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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Meeting Note: A procedural motion was moved to consider Item 7.3 in conjunction with Item 8.4.

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### 8.4 Billabong Operational Report

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It was **Moved** Councillor Brticevic, **Seconded** Councillor Chivers:

1. That Council determine option 1, which is free entry for the years FY23/24 and FY 24/25, with fees subject to review after that time (in line with operational plan).
2. That Council endorses the operating hours as per the report.
3. That Council receives and notes the correspondence in Item 7.3 from Mr Greg Warren MP, Member for Campbelltown, and the tabled correspondence from Dr Mike Freelander MP, Member for Macarthur, and the Hon. Anoulack Chanthivong MP, Member for Macquarie Fields.
4. That Council is presented with a quarterly report detailing the operational costs and utilisation of the facility.

**248/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED** Unanimously.

A Division was recorded in regard to the Resolution for Item 8.4 with those voting for the Motion being Councillors G Greiss, D Lound, K Hunt, M Chowdhury, M Oates, W Morrison, M Khalil, M Stellino, J Cotter, G Brticevic, M Chivers, M George, J Chew and R Munro.

Voting against the Resolution were Nil.

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## 8.5 Library Policies

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It was **Moved** Councillor Chivers, **Seconded** Councillor Munro:

That the Library Regulations Policy and Library Fees and Charges Policy be rescinded.

**249/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.6 Minutes of the Campbelltown Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee Report

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It was **Moved** Councillor Khalil, **Seconded** Councillor Cotter:

That the minutes of the Campbelltown Multicultural Communities Advisory Committee held 20 June 2023 be noted.

**250/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.7 Investments and Revenue Report - August 2023

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Brticevic:

That the information be noted.

**251/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.8 Determination of Councillor Numbers

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It was **Moved** Councillor George, **Seconded** Councillor Chew:

That Council determine the number of its Councillors for the following term of office as fifteen.

**252/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.9 Disclosure of Interest Returns 2022-23

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Brticevic:

That the information be noted.

**253/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.10 Reports and Letters Requested

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It was **Moved** Councillor Morrison, **Seconded** Councillor Khalil:

That the comments and updates to the reports and letters requested be noted.

**254/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.11 T23/04 Campbelltown Arts Centre Audio Visual Upgrade

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It was **Moved** Councillor Oates, **Seconded** Councillor Chivers:

That Council:

1. In accordance with section 178 of the *Local Government (General) Regulation 2021* Council declines to accept any of the tenders received for the arts centre audio visual upgrade as all tender submissions received exceed Councils budget.
2. Enter into negotiations with organisations that submitted a tender and achieved a satisfactory score for the company experience evaluation criteria, and include the organisation who attempted to submit a late tender as contained in the body of the report.
3. Endorse the General Manager to finalise negotiations and enter into a contract for Campbelltown Arts Centre audio visual upgrade by way of delegated authority under section 377 of the *Local Government Act 1993*.
4. That the Tenderers be notified of the results of the tender process.

**255/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.12 Transitioning our operations towards Net Zero

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It was **Moved** Councillor Chew, **Seconded** Councillor Stellino:

That Council endorse the draft Transitioning towards Net Zero Strategy.

**256/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 8.13 Arts and Culture Submission to the NSW Government

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It was **Moved** Councillor Oates, **Seconded** Councillor Khalil:

That the information contained within the report be noted.

**257/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 9. QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE

Nil

## 10. RESCISSION MOTION

Nil

## 11. NOTICE OF MOTION

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### 11.1 Campbelltown Ambassadorship Program

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It was **Moved** Councillor Morrison, **Seconded** Councillor Cotter:

1. That a report be presented to Council investigating the opportunity for development of a Campbelltown Ambassadorship Program that acknowledges significant contributions of individuals to our city, and leverages their profile to promote Campbelltown.

**258/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## 11.2 New National Park

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It was **Moved** Councillor Stellino, **Seconded** Councillor Munro:

1. That Council write to the Minister for Environment and Heritage, the Hon. Penny Sharpe MLC, thanking the NSW Government for the commitment of \$48 million in the 2023-24 NSW Budget to help establish a new National Park along the Georges River between Long Point and Appin, eventually covering up to 1830 hectares, with an aim to delivering long-lasting conservation benefits for Sydney's largest and healthiest koala populations.
2. That Council write to the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage requesting details of the program for delivery of the new National Park and invite the department to present a briefing for councillors and any appropriate staff which includes the Department's position as to their plans to lock-out land previously accessible by the public.
3. That Council explores the prospect of collaborating with the NSW Department of Environment and Heritage to establish a light recreation trail between Glenfield and Wedderburn through the new National Park for our community to enjoy and observe the natural flora and fauna.

**259/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Brticevic:

That Councillor Stellino assume the Chair, as the Mayor, Dr Greiss has declared an interest in Item 11.3 and the Deputy Mayor has submitted the Notice of Motion Item 11.3.

**260/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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**Meeting Note:** Having declared an interest in Item 11.3 The Mayor, Councillor Dr Greiss left the Chamber at 8.33 pm and did not take part in the discussion or vote on the matter.

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### 11.3 PhD Scholarship

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It was **Moved** Councillor Khalil, **Seconded** Councillor Morrison:

1. That a report be presented to Council investigating the establishment of a PhD Scholarship program with Western Sydney University or other universities that have interest in our area that focuses on undertaking research on the Campbelltown LGA.

**261/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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**Meeting Note:** At the conclusion of the discussion regarding Item 11.3 The Mayor, Councillor Dr Greiss, returned to the Chamber at 8.59 pm and resumed the Chair.

## 12. URGENT GENERAL BUSINESS

## 13. PRESENTATIONS BY COUNCILLORS

1. Councillor Masood Chowdhury on 12 October 2023 attended a meeting organised by Campbelltown City Police and Multicultural Forum at the Ron Moore Community Centre. This meeting was attended by multicultural forum leaders and community service providers where they discussed current issues of concern regarding the multicultural community and the Police. They identified the crimes that impacted the multicultural community and shared their opinions, views and experiences on domestic violence. The Police provided comments and advice to the community members.
2. Councillor Meg Oates congratulated the Campbelltown Koshigaya Sister City Association for their preparation and training of the outbound delegation to Koshigaya, the first in over 4 years. Councillor Oates is looking to hearing back from the delegation.
3. Councillor Warren Morrison on the 18 September 2023 attended the quarterly Macarthur Bush Fire Management Committee Meeting at West Leagues Club with staff from City Services and City Futures. On the Agenda, each Agency shared their Progress Reports and provided updates. RFS staff discussed the new generation Bush Fire Risk Management Plan for the Macarthur area which will go on public exhibition in October/November which involves a significant increase in resources required by Land Management Agencies. RFS staff discussed opportunities to increase grant funding opportunities for Land Management Agencies and a workshop has been organised by Campbelltown Council and RFS for October. RFS also discussed the seasonal outlook which is for a hotter and dryer summer with a higher than usual bushfire risk, particularly for Macarthur.

4. Councillor Marian George on 20 September 2023, attended the Mt Carmel Catholic College Year 12 Graduation Mass and 2024 SRC badging ceremony. It was a lovely mass and great send off for the year 12 students which included a fantastic cultural dance performance. Councillor George thanked the school Principal, Mr Lo Cascio, and the staff for the invitation to attend this special event and wishes all the best for the students of 2023 .

## 14. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

### Confidentiality Recommendation

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Brticevic:

1. That this Ordinary Meeting of Council be adjourned and reconvened as a meeting of the Confidential Committee for discussion of items 14.1 and 14.2 which are considered to be confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993*, as indicated below:

#### **Item 14.1 WestInvest Update**

Item 14.1 is confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2)(g) of the *Local Government Act 1993* as the report refers to advice concerning litigation, or advice as comprises a discussion of this matter, that would otherwise be privileged from production in legal proceedings on the ground of legal professional privilege.

#### **Item 14.2 General Manager's Performance and Appointment Review**

Item 14.2 is confidential in accordance with Section 10A(2)(a) of the *Local Government Act 1993* as the report refers to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than Councillors).

2. Council considers that discussion of the business in open meeting would be, on balance, contrary to the public interest.

**262/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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**The Ordinary Meeting of Council was adjourned at 9.08pm and reconvened as a meeting of the Confidential Committee at 9.09pm.**

### Recommendations of the Confidential Committee

#### 14.1 WestInvest Update

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Khalil:

That Council re-state its proposals under the WestInvest Program to the NSW Government's WestInvest Program Office to accommodate Council's risk tolerance, as detailed within the report.

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**263/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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## **14.2 General Manager's Performance and Appointment Review**

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It was **Moved** Councillor Oates, **Seconded** Councillor Chivers:

That Council:

1. Notes the General Manager's performance review for the 2022-2023 year is considered as highly satisfactory by the Council.
2. Approve the General Manager's request for a contract renewal, and
  - i) Approve the renewal of the contract as outlined in the conclusion of this report, and
  - ii) Delegate the authority to the Mayor to execute the new contract.

**264/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED** unanimously.

A Division was recorded in regard to the Resolution for Item 14.2 with those voting for the Motion being Councillors G Greiss, D Lound, K Hunt, M Chowdhury, M Oates, W Morrison, M Khalil, M Stellino, J Cotter, G Brticevic, M Chivers, M George, J Chew and R Munro.

Voting against the Resolution were Nil.

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It was **Moved** Councillor Brticevic, **Seconded** Councillor Munro:

That the Council in accordance with Section 10 of the Local Government Act 1993, move to re-open the meeting to the public.

**265/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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**At the conclusion of the meeting of the Confidential Committee the Open Council Meeting was reconvened at 9.46pm**

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It was **Moved** Councillor Munro, **Seconded** Councillor Stellino:

That the reports of the Confidential Committee and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

**266/2023** The Motion on being Put was **CARRIED**.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.48pm.

Confirmed by Council on <<enter date>>

..... General Manager ..... Chairperson

**TABLED CORRESPONDENCE FOR ITEMS 7.3 AND 8.4**26<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Cr George Greiss  
Mayor  
Campbelltown City Council  
PO Box 57  
CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560

Dear George,

Thank you for writing to me about further delays in the construction and opening of the area known as the 'Campbelltown Billabong Parklands' and inviting me to further outline my thoughts on this project to Council.

This project has worried me from the very beginning, and I remain concerned with the possibility of it being both delivered and maintained.

I believe that this project was poorly planned, it was poorly thought through, and it was poorly executed.

The cost and time overruns have been nothing short of massive with very little to no transparency to the wider community over how these cost blowouts, time delays and continued lack of community consultation have proceeded.

The ongoing maintenance costs will be huge but there has been no transparency about this at all.

Unfortunately, nothing that I have seen by Council has changed my view and I remain deeply concerned with the long-term success and feasibility of this project.

Further, I believe that the Campbelltown LGA would have benefitted far greater if funding was spent in other areas and I also believe that the Campbelltown community has lost out on more beneficial projects had this been thoroughly planned and thought through from the beginning.

Yours sincerely,

**Dr Mike Freeland MP**  
Federal Member for Macarthur







## Anoulack Chanthivong MP

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

**Cr Dr George Greiss**  
**Mayor**  
**Campbelltown City Council**  
**PO Box 57**  
**CAMPBELLTOWN NSW 2560**  
**Via email: [George.Greiss@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au](mailto:George.Greiss@campbelltown.nsw.gov.au)**

10 October 2023

Dear Mayor,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on Campbelltown City Council's Billabong project.

I make these comments both as a long-standing Member of NSW Parliament, representing the Macquarie Fields electorate and as a concerned Campbelltown City Council ratepayer.

I have previously outlined my concerns in written correspondence to Council regarding the Campbelltown Billabong project about the level of oversight and due diligence of this significant local project.

The Billabong project has been poorly managed from the start, and this is evidenced by significant budget blowouts, the absence of an initial business case, and consistent project delays.

I would like to acknowledge that you were not the Mayor of Campbelltown when this project commenced and note your decision to appoint an independent auditor to examine the project's financial and operational shortfalls.

I was not surprised by the audit's findings given my previous concerns. The audit, conducted by KPMG, revealed the true cost of the Billabong had blown out by \$16 million, from \$18.75 million to \$31 million. Adding the cost of drainage works brought forward using money from the stormwater levy takes the total cost of the Billabong to more than \$42 million – and rising.

This excludes the millions of dollars in operating costs to maintain and operate the facility at a safe and acceptable standard, which Council estimates to be approximately \$2m per year. Given Council's record of financial miscalculation of this entire project, little confidence can be attached to Council's \$2m operating cost estimate.

The Billabong project has been poorly managed from the start and has created an ongoing financial burden for Campbelltown ratepayers. No business case, no adequate due diligence or detailed scope was undertaken for the project, despite the initial cost exceeding \$10 million. By any measure, this is poor corporate governance processes, which has contributed to the significant and increasing financial burden for ratepayers.

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## Anoulack Chanthivong MP

MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE FIELDS

The poor financial outcomes raise the following questions:

- Will the Billabong's ongoing operational costs be at the expense of necessary infrastructure for the community such as footpaths, road upgrades, new parks or playground upgrades?
- Will Council's existing services be cut or constrained to free up money for the operation of the Billabong?
- Will Council raise rates or levies to fill the financial shortfall and budget blowout from this project?

Further, the Billabong project's location is in direct competition with the existing adjacent Gordon Fetterplace Swimming Centre competing for a similar revenue and patronage base.

I understand that Council is considering introducing an entry fee for Billabong patrons. This is contrary to Council's initial marketing that entry to the Billabong would be free as stated on Campbelltown Council's website under 'Campbelltown Billabong Parklands Project FAQs' that "Entry to the Billabong will be free."

Major projects such as the Campbelltown Billabong require good governance from the start and continuous oversight to ensure that ratepayers' money is managed responsibly. Sadly, this has not occurred.

It is imperative that Campbelltown Council demonstrate the upmost accountability and transparency for the remainder of the project. Senior Council officers and elected Councillors who were involved in leading and driving this failed project should be held accountable. This will help restore the public's trust in Council's processes and governance structures.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anoulack'.

**The Hon. Anoulack Chanthivong MP**

**Member for Macquarie Fields**

Minister for Better Regulation and Fair Trading | Minister for Industry and Trade

Minister for Innovation, Science and Technology

Minister for Building | Minister for Corrections