



# NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL

## MEDIA RELEASE

8 May 2023

### **North Sydney's Operational Plan & Budget out for comment**

Residents and ratepayers are encouraged to view Council's draft Operational Plan and Budget for 2023/24 and provide feedback on our priorities by Sunday 7 June.

Council is proposing to spend \$79.4m on capital works projects, of which \$43.5m will go to completing the redevelopment of the North Sydney Olympic Pool. Other capital works projects include:

- construction of a permanent plaza in Burton St, Kirribilli to replace the temporary pop-up
- the revamp of Willoughby Road
- works to make the Quarantine Boat Depot site accessible to the public, including opening the cottages for community use
- a lighting upgrade in St Leonards Park

Mayor Zoë Baker said the capital works program would provide new facilities across the local government area.

"The focus for our year will be completing the redevelopment of the North Sydney Olympic Pool which is expected to open in April 2024. Council has been thoughtful about the Operational Plan we are proposing to ensure we get the balance right between essential infrastructure and upgrades of parks and public domains.

"We've received great feedback about the upgrade of St Leonards Park over the past couple of years, especially for the new playground for older children and I am confident that the next stage will be equally valued by our community.

"I am particularly pleased that we have set aside funding to make the Quarantine Boat Depot accessible to the public. This is a wonderful site that opens more of the foreshore to the public and will become a community hub for the future."

A deficit of \$2m is forecast for the 2023/24 financial year. This is largely due to a one-off \$2.2 million contribution to an affordable housing project. If it weren't for this commitment, we would have been forecasting a small surplus. Rates will not increase above the rate peg of 3.7% set by the Independent Pricing and Regulation Tribunal.



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A few capital works projects, previously scheduled in the Delivery Program, have been deferred or their budgets trimmed to release additional funding for the Pool, including the reconfiguration of Primrose Park playing fields and lighting upgrades in village centres.

The draft Operational Plan and Budget are available on Council's website.

### **Ends**

For more information, contact Communications on 9936 8120.