

Item 5

Matters for Tabling

5.1 Disclosures of Interest

Disclosure of Interest returns that have been lodged in accordance with the City of Sydney Code of Conduct will be tabled.

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Disclosures of Interest returns be received and noted.

5.2 Petitions

(a) Glebe Foreshore Trees

Councillor Maxwell gives notice that, at the meeting of Council on Tuesday, 28 April 2026, he will table and speak to a petition (with 120 signatures) with the following terms:

To the City of Sydney Council,

We, the undersigned members and visitors of the Glebe and Inner Sydney community, call on the City of Sydney Council to protect and conserve the Melaleuca and other trees scheduled for removal along the Glebe Foreshore Walk.

We acknowledge and appreciate Council's decision to pause removal works while community concerns are formally considered. This pause creates an important opportunity to properly assess the ecological value of these trees and to engage meaningfully with the community before any irreversible decisions are made.

These Melaleuca trees play a vital role in the health and liveability of the Glebe foreshore. They provide habitat for native birds and insects, offer shade and urban cooling, help stabilise soil and waterways, store water, and form a much-loved part of the local landscape. For many residents and visitors, these trees are central to how we experience and care for this place.

Key benefits of these trees:

- Supports pollinators such as native bees, flies and butterflies; Melaleuca flowers are nectar-rich and bloom at times when other food sources are scarce.
- Understory refuge for small reptiles and invertebrates, contributing to a layered and resilient urban ecosystem.
- Roots assist in filtering run off before it enters Glebe Bay, improving water quality by trapping sediments and pollutants.
- Provides shade and cooling, reducing heat stress for people and wildlife along the foreshore walk.

- Contributes to urban heat island mitigation, which is especially valuable in bayside, paved, and built-up areas.
- Melaleucas are salt-tolerant and wind-resistant, making them well suited to coastal and estuarine environments like Glebe Bay.
- Mature trees provide far greater ecological value than newly planted replacements, which can take decades to offer comparable benefits.
- We understand that Council operates within legal and historical frameworks, including existing covenants. However, we believe the proposed removal of these trees deserves further consideration given the potential long-term environmental and social impacts, and the strong community interest in their retention.

We respectfully ask the City of Sydney Council to:

- Maintain the current pause on tree removal while this matter is under review.
- Maintain, preserve and conserve the trees scheduled for removal on Gadigal Country.
- Undertake and publish a comprehensive ecological assessment of the affected trees and surrounding foreshore.
- Provide transparent access to relevant documentation, including ecological reports and covenant details and constraints.
- Actively explore alternatives that would allow the existing trees to be retained while meeting legal obligations.
- Engage openly and meaningfully with the local community before any final decisions are made.
- Actively engage the community in further ecological decision making and actions to increase awareness and education of our local ecology and our shared custodianship of country.

Our local environment is under increasing pressure from pollution, habitat loss, and environmental degradation, and established native trees play an important role in keeping it healthy. Removing them primarily to improve harbour views is out of step with the environmental challenges we face today. The covenant guiding this decision was made in 2004, before many of these issues were widely recognised, and we believe decisions being made now should reflect current environmental realities and community values.

We believe that careful, consultative decision-making will best serve both Council's responsibilities and the long-term environmental wellbeing of the Glebe foreshore.

Recommendation

It is resolved that the Petition be received and noted.