

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S076031 **DATE:** 21 August 2026

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 6.6 – External Memberships

For noting

This memo is for the information of the Lord Mayor and Councillors.

Purpose

To provide additional information on the City's memberships of Business Sydney and the Property Council.

Background

At the meeting of the Corporate, Finance, Properties and Tenders Committee on 17 August 2026, further information was sought on the following:

Business Sydney advocacy positions and consultation process

The Chief Executive Officer wrote to Business Sydney (Business NSW) on 18 August 2026 requesting clarification on Business Sydney Executive Director Paul Nicolaou's comments on the new square at Sydney Town Hall, the consultation process when Business Sydney takes advocacy positions and Business Sydney's position on development in the city further to the concerns raised about assumed disruption from the Town Hall square project, refer Attachment A.

Business Sydney provided a response on 20 August 2026, refer Attachment B.

Property Council membership

The Chief Executive Officer also spoke to the NSW head of the Property Council.

The Property Council membership adds value and is utilised by City staff in the following ways:

- by providing invitations to industry briefings and the release of research commissioned by them
- by providing opportunities to brief their members on planning changes proposed by the City (this was essential for the Central Sydney Planning Strategy in 2016 to 2020)
- occasional opportunity to review draft submissions
- participation in discussion panels – such as the annual commercial floor space report
- occasionally presenting at an annual event
- the City has achieved general support for some initiatives – including the Central Sydney Planning Strategy, and the amended Affordable Housing Program
- the research (especially the Office Market Report) is utilised by the Strategy team
- they have been represented and valuable contributors to the Business and Economic Advisory Panel and the Housing For All Advisory Panel
- participating in training programs thorough the Property Council Academy on topics including commercial leasing, development feasibility, valuation, planning for non-planners and asset management
- representing Council and the local government sector on Property Council committees to inform strategic policy development and information sharing (specifically our Academy: Property Asset Management Committee)

Memo from Monica Barone PSM, Chief Executive Officer

Prepared by: Erin Cashman, Manager OCEO

Attachments

Attachment A. Letter from City of Sydney to Business Sydney dated 18 August 2026

Attachment B. Response from Business Sydney dated 20 August 2026

Approved

P.M. Barone

MONICA BARONE PSM

Chief Executive Officer