

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Wherever you look across our community, there are countless examples of projects that have been delivered by Sutherland Shire Council which make a difference in the lives of local residents. And while the results of this hard work are there for all to see, the amazing Council staff members who drive the delivery of these projects don't often receive the praise and recognition they deserve.



Last week, I was delighted to attend the annual NSW Local Government Excellence Awards, accompanied by a host of Council staff members who had been nominated either for individual achievement or as part of a team that has driven some of the exceptional projects Council has delivered over the past year.

In a highly competitive field, featuring a record number of nominations from councils across NSW, Sutherland Shire Council achieved some stellar results on the evening, netting top honours in a number of categories.

With the two largest infrastructure projects Council completed last year up for awards – Seymour Shaw Skatepark and the Pavilion Performing Arts Centre – I was thrilled that the transformative work conducted to deliver the Pavilion received a highly commended citation.

While the redevelopment of our region's premier performing arts venue has been a

passion project I have been proud to champion throughout most of my time serving Council, it was the hard work of countless staff who have worked over many years that turned this project from a vision into a reality. Thank you to all our Infrastructure staff, past and present, who were instrumental in delivering this incredible community asset.

The highest honours our Council achieved on the night was for our innovative community safety campaign, 'Do your part and fires won't start'. This campaign, aimed at raising awareness among the community of the dangers of placing batteries, chemicals and other hazardous materials in their household waste, successfully netted the state's highest honours for Risk Management Projects.

The success of this campaign has since seen Council collaborate with the NSW Environmental Protection Authority to deliver this key safety message to communities across

the state, with other NSW councils having also used our campaign as a template to develop their own local safety initiatives.

Special mention must also be made of Strategic Projects Advisor Rachael Zhura who was honoured on the night by being named Dux of her class in completing one of the peak qualifications in Integrated Planning and Reporting – an incredible recognition of her commitment, hard work, and outstanding professional expertise.

I am incredibly proud of the results our staff achieved on the night, but even more so of the dedication, innovation and commitment staff invest into serving their roles every day as they strive to serve the best interests of our community.

Sutherland Shire Mayor Councillor Carmelo Pesce

Council Meeting - Monday 17 June 2024 at 6.30pm

Residents who are interested in attending ordinary Council Meetings as part of the Public Gallery can register their interest via Council's website. For more information regarding attendance, meeting dates, and to read Council Meeting minutes and business papers visit: sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings

