

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Each year I'm amazed at the volume of major projects our Council is able to deliver for our community. You don't have to look far around the Sutherland Shire to find sports infrastructure, recreational facilities, environmental projects and major capital works upgrades that have all been made possible through a shared commitment to collaboration.



I'm proud to lead a team of elected Councillors who have a deep appreciation of the importance of collaboration, of working constructively across party lines and differences in ideology to achieve real outcomes for the people we serve.

I've been particularly proud of the way our elected Councillors have worked over many successive terms in a collegial manner to deliver for our community. Some of the strongest bonds I have formed among the many elected Councillors I have worked with during my 12 years serving on Council have been with those drawn from the opposite side of the ideological divide. I've found there has always been a healthy appreciation among our Councillors that you don't need to always see eye-to-eye with one another to appreciate your motivations are the same – tackling the issues that matter for local residents.

Additionally, throughout my time on Council I have always sought to foster strong working relationships with our local state and Federal representatives to ensure that we can work constructively towards getting the best results for everyone who calls the Sutherland Shire home.

It's an approach which has consistently borne fruit – it's enabled us to secure considerable Federal and state government funding to help us complete projects like the \$42m transformation of the Pavilion Performing Arts Centre, the \$5.1m Seymour Shaw youth active sports precinct and environmental projects like the enhancement of local koala habitat as part of the Federal Government's Saving Koalas Fund.

Sometimes those conversations have been more robust than others, but they have always been conducted with a sound

understanding that both parties are purely motivated by the desire to achieve the best results possible for the community we serve.

Sadly, it's not always the way though, and people will seek to make political mileage rather than engaging in good faith to achieve a common interest. It's certainly disappointing when this happens, but in the rough and tumble of politics it's not unexpected. In my experience as an elected representative, these challenges rarely hold us back from achieving great results for our community, and only serve to make me more appreciative of the many genuine, civic minded local representatives I have had the pleasure of working with and serving alongside.

Sutherland Shire Mayor Councillor Carmelo Pesce

Council Meeting - Monday 18 March 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

