

# MAYOR'S MESSAGE

I have always been impressed at the ways in which our community readily embraces opportunities to honour and explore the culture of the Traditional Custodians of this Country, and to engage with the perspectives Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples offer on our shared history. It is in this spirit that I welcome everyone to join our upcoming Reconciliation Week event, providing our community with another valuable opportunity to build upon our shared cultural understanding.



Reconciliation Week is an important nationally observed occasion which calls upon us all to reflect on the legacy of the Stolen Generations and the profound impact this shameful chapter had on those taken from their families and on our country's history; and continues to have on the generations that followed them.

This year, the theme of Reconciliation Week in NSW is 'Charting a Path Forward: Empowering Communities Now More Than Ever'. It's a message of hope, and one which asks of us to reflect on how we can continue to work towards true reconciliation between all Australians.

In partnership with Sutherland Shire Reconciliation, Council is proud to support National Reconciliation Week this year with a picnic to be held at Parc Menai on Sunday 2 June. This event aims to provide our whole community the opportunity to engage and learn more about local Indigenous culture and heritage, with a focus on building positive

relationships that reach across all sections of our community.

A range of activities will be on offer, including traditional First Nations cultural dance performances, an insightful talk on cultural food and native plant medicines that can be gathered from the adjacent bushland, native tea making, a free BBQ and a host of fun and engaging traditional craft workshops and activities. We are lucky enough work closely in partnership with local Elders and knowledge holders lending their time and expertise and share their reflections on the importance of working together towards reconciliation.

For more details, please visit:  
[bit.ly/ReconciliationWeekPicnic](https://bit.ly/ReconciliationWeekPicnic)

Remember there's always plenty of great Council supported events and activities happening across the Sutherland Shire, and our website is a great place to find out how you can get involved.

Council is committed to communicating with our residents in a range of ways to ensure everyone can access the information they need. In the age of ever-changing digital communications and media, it can be challenging to ensure you are getting reliable and factual information. Misleading and incomplete information is circulated across many sources which undermines trust and informed decisions.

As Mayor, I understand how important it is to communicate clearly. I'd encourage community members to stay up to date with the latest information and lodge any requests via our website, sign up for our newsletters, follow us on social media, drop into our customer service centre or always feel free to reach out to your ward Councillor.

**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](https://sutherlandshire.nsw.gov.au/council-meetings)

