

ITEM 5.1 MAYORAL MINUTE - NSW LOCAL GOVERNMENT WEEK AWARDS**Attachments:** Nil

Submitted by: Councillor Michael Megna (Mayor)

MOTION

That Council receive and note the report

BACKGROUND

On August 1, Councils from across NSW were recognised at the Local Government Week Awards 2024 for their outstanding achievements over the past year.

The awards celebrate councils that demonstrate excellence across a range of categories, such as arts and culture, events, communications and planning.

I'm delighted to share with Council that at the Awards, the City of Canada Bay was recognised for one of the signature projects of this Council term, our Faster Local Approvals Grant (FLAG) program.

The FLAG program won the LGNSW Planning Award for Councils with populations between 30,000 - 100,000. Commencing in July 2022, the FLAG Project has seen a significant reduction in assessment times across all DAs, combined with a renewed focus on customer experience throughout the process.

The City of Canada Bay is committed to putting our residents at the centre of everything we do and the FLAG project has been a key example of this in action.

The project saw the City of Canada Bay introduce a new Clearing House process to better prioritise DAs, integrate with State Government portals, streamline its conditions of consent, and focus on customer service to reduce its assessment times.

Councils across Sydney are currently, and will continue to, face an unprecedented number of development applications following State planning reforms to promote housing growth across Sydney.

With more development applications to assess than ever before, we will continue to address the challenges and find time savings wherever possible, however it is encouraging to be recognised for our achievements in this space.

On behalf of Council, I would like to congratulate staff and leaders within our organisation for their hard work on the FLAG Project.

Michael Megna

MAYOR

