

Current Legal Cases – Status and Costs – May 2024

Advice on Costs and Status of Council's Court Proceedings

Executive Summary

- 1. Council's Court proceedings for the period 1 May 2024 to 31 May 2024 is contained within this report.
- 2. Total legal costs to date for the 2023/24 financial year are \$1,972,464.
- 3. Total legal costs recovered to date for the 2023/24 financial year are \$834,149.
- 4. Total costs incurred to date by Council in legal proceedings are \$1,703,401.
- 5. Net legal costs to date are \$1,138,315.

Background

6. Current court proceedings for the reporting period are broken down as follows:

Land and Environment Court

- 28 x Class 1 (DA/Order Appeals)
- 1 x Class 2 (Tree Disputes and Miscellaneous Appeals)
- 2 x Class 3 (Land Tenure, Valuation and Compensation Matters)
- 1 x Class 5 (Prosecution Proceedings)
- 3 x Class 6 (Appeal against Local Court Decision)

Local Court

10 x Prosecutions

Costs Recoveries

15 x cost recoveries

New Matters

- 7. There were 2 new matters in this reporting period:
 - LEC Class 1 Appeals: Shorefront Corp Pty Limited
 - Local Court: Orsaris

Finalised matters

- 8. There were 7 matters that were finalised in this reporting period:
 - 2 x LEC Class 1 Appeals: Vortex Construction Pty Ltd and GTB Hurstville Pty Ltd;
 - 1 x LEC Class 2 Appeal: Watson;
 - 2 x Local Court Matters: Handmade Ramen (New Spring Pty Ltd) and Collis;
 - 2 x Costs Recoveries: Hurstville Community Centre Inc and El Khouri.

Current Table

9. Court proceedings for the current reporting period are set out below. The external costs include both external legal and expert consultants' (Court witnesses') fees.

No	Property Address Applicant Proceedings Number	Description of Matter	Status / Critical Dates
Lan	d and Environment	Court Proceedings – Class 1 Appeals	s
1	348 – 352 Railway Parade & 2 – 2A Garfield Street, Carlton Vortex Construction Pty Limited Proceedings No.	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2022/0431 for demolition of existing structures and construction of a multi-storey shop top housing development comprising of one commercial tenancy and 39 residential apartments and three level basement parking.	Matter listed for hearing 12 & 13 February 2024. Consent granted subject to amended plans. S8.15 costs of \$8,500 paid.
	2022/383670		
2	12 Ogilvy Street, Peakhurst Shady Eskander Proceedings No: 2023/91345	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2022/0387 seeking consent for the demolition and construction of a detached two storey dual occupancy development with two levels of basement, in-ground swimming pool, landscaping and fencing.	The Court upheld the appeal and granted development consent including a deferred commencement condition requiring an easement over Council land.S56A Appeal filed 5 February 2024. Hearing 21 May 2024. Judgment reserved.
3	152 Stoney Creek Road, Beverly Hills Outdoor Systems Pty Ltd Proceedings No: 2023/00152711	Appeal against deemed refusal of MOD2023/0026 for modification of an existing static advertising sign to a digital sign and removal of the existing sign.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 10 November 2023 however terminated. Matter listed for hearing on 9 to 11 July 2024.

4	9 Gloucester Road, Hurstville NSW 2220 GTB Hurstville Pty Ltd Proceedings No: 2023/18099	Appeal against the deemed refusal of DA2022/0061 for demolition and construction of a part 6 part 18 storey mixed used development across 4 buildings containing 349 residential apartments, retail, and office floor space above 3 basement levels containing 455 parking spaces and tree removal.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 22 March 2024. A S34 Agreement entered into following amended plans. S8.15 costs of \$35,000 paid.
5	28 Carlton Crescent, Beverley Park Mona Kayrouz	Appeal against the Interim Heritage Order that was resolved by Council on 22 June 2023 and gazetted on 26 May 2023.	Matter listed for hearing on 3 to 5 July 2024.
	Proceedings No: 2023/20030		
6	28 Carlton Crescent, Beverley Park	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0025 for subdivision, demolition works and construction of new dwellings, outbuildings, and	Matter listed for hearing on 3 to 5 July 2024.
	Mona Kayrouz Proceedings No: 2023/19988	ancillary works at 28 Carlton Crescent, Kogarah Bay.	
7	55 Halstead Street, South Hurstville	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0089 for demolition of an existing industrial premises to construct 29 industrial units, a food	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 8 February 2024 however terminated. Matter listed for hearing on 6
	ZML Family Trust and JVM Family Trust	and drink premises, lobby area and outdoor recreation, vehicular parking and circulation areas for a total of 67 parking spaces, loading areas,	to 8 August 2024.
	Proceedings No: 2023/22056	perimeter deep soil landscaping and onsite planting including new trees.	
8	31-33 Bailey Parade, Peakhurst	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2021/0192 for demolition and construction of a two-storey 56 place childcare centre with basement	Matter listed for S34 Conciliation for 13 March 2024 however terminated.
	Hassan Kabalan	parking.	Matter listed for hearing on 26 and 27 September 2024.
	Proceedings No: 2023/27914		
9	10-14 Vaughan Street, Blakehurst	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0074 for demolition and construction of a residential flat	Listed for conciliation on 14 March 2024 and terminated. Matter now listed for hearing
	Mehanna Holdings Pty Ltd	building consisting of 39 apartments over basement parking.	on 29 and 30 October 2024.
	Proceedings No: 2023/279149		

10	300 Princes Highway, Carss Park Beaini Developments Pty Ltd Proceedings No: 2023/305736	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0278 for demolition and construction of four (4) dwellings in the form of two semi-detached dwelling houses with associated landscaping.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 15 March 2024 and adjourned to 15 April 2024. A S34 Agreement was entered into. S8.15 costs currently being negotiated.
11	6-8 Vaughan Street, Blakehurst Princeton Capstack Pty Ltd ATF Princeton Blakehurst Equity Trust Proceedings No: 2023/307194	Appeal against deemed refusal of MOD023/0009 to modify DA2018/0237 as approved by Council on 20 August 2019, for amendments to approved plans, including changes to address water table, design development and necessary services and details.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 20 May 2024. A S34 Agreement was entered into. Awaiting judgment.
12	62 Blackshaw Street, Mortdale TN Mortdale Pty Ltd Proceedings No: 2023/327295	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0345 seeking consent for construction of a dual industrial building at Lot 6 DP505378, and development and operation of a warehouse and storage building including other necessary works	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 29 May 2024. A S34 Agreement entered into. S8.15 costs of \$8,000 to be paid.
13	18 Beach Street, Blakehurst Mohammad Chahine Proceedings No: 2023/346558	Appeal against deemed refusal seeking consent for demolition of existing structures and installation of an in-ground swimming pool, fire pit, covered area, filing and retaining wall.	Matter listed for s34AA Conciliation Conference on 27 and 28 May 2024. Matter adjourned to 18 June 2024.
14	8 Gooroa Street, Carss Park Jamie Grounds Proceedings No: 2023/364013	Appeal against actual refusal of DA2022/0160 for demolition works, construction of an attached two-storey dual occupancy, a swimming pool for each dwelling, landscaping and site works.	Matter listed for s34AA Conciliation Conference on 19 and 20 June 2024.

15	319 Rocky Point Road, Sans Souci Arquero Architects Proceedings No: 2023/452959	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0492 for demolition works, construction of a two-storey 95 place centre based child care facility with 23 basement parking and associated landscaping and site works and lot consolidation.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 13 June 2024.
16	8 Gover Street, Peakhurst Stephanie Kirovski Proceedings No: 2023/452834	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0468 for demolition, construction of a five-storey child care centre with basement parking and associated landscaping and site works and lot consolidation.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 14 June 2024.
17	37 Princes Highway, Kogarah Fuse Architecture Pty Ltd Proceedings No: 2023/451344	Appeal against actual refusal of DA2021/0424 for demolition works, construction of a ten (10) storey shop top development over three levels of basement parking.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 7 June 2024.
18	336 Stoney Creek Road, Kingsgrove Sarkis Lea Charlie Khoury Proceedings No: 2023/463032	Appeal against Council's Development Control order issued on 13 December 2023	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 19 July 2024.
19	12 Broughton Street, Mortdale Van Janevski Proceedings No: 2023/463812	Appeal against actual refusal of DA2022/0186 seeking consent for the demolition of the existing dwelling and construction of two x two storey attached dwellings, landscaping and site works	Matter listed for S34AA Conciliation Conference on 24 and 25 June 2024.
20	78 Bonds Road Peakhurst Michael Azer Proceedings No: 2024/56948	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0512 the demolition and construction of an early education and care facility at 78 Bonds Rd Peakhurst.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 26 August 2024.

21	1 Moons Avenue Lugarno Philip Geoffrey Sims Proceedings No: 2024/57633	Appeal against actual refusal of DA2023/0026 the demolition and construction of a two-storey attached dual occupancy with a swimming pool for each dwelling and landscaping	Matter listed for S34AA Conciliation Conference on 22 and 23 August 2024.
22	20 Cedar Street, Lugarno Franco & Poppy Saia Proceedings No: 2024/90338	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0430 for demolition, construction of new dwelling and swimming pool	Matter listed for S34AA Conciliation Conference on 9 and 10 September 2024.
23	70 Kyle Parade, Kyle Bay Archispectrum Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2024/99588	Appeal against actual refusal of DA 2023/0361 for Torrens Title subdivision of an existing allotment into two lots.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 3 September 2024.
24	4 The Esplanade, South Hurstville Gary Finn Proceedings No: 2024/87513	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0553 for demolition of existing structures and construction of a 52 place child care centre.	
25	79 Queens Road, Connells Point Chris Kotsis & Tony Nehme Proceedings No: 2024/133536	Appeal against actual refusal of DA2023/0439 for demolition of existing structures and construction of detached dual occupancy, swimming pools and associated works.	Matter listed for S34AA Conciliation on 10 and 11 October 2024.
26	36 Beach Street, Blakehurst Construction by Design Proceedings No: 2024/142088	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0612 for demolition of existing dwelling and ancillary structures and construction of a 2 storey dwelling, swimming pool and landscape works.	Conciliation Conference on 3

27	294 Princes Highway, Carss Park Khouri Petroleum Ltd & Ors Proceedings No:	Appeal against actual refusal of DA2023/0177 for alterations and additions to a service station and installation of business identification signage.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 23 September 2024.
28	2024/154732 45 Kuroki Street, Penshurst Shorefront Corp Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2024/179773	Appeal against actual refusal of DA2022/0614 for construction of a detached secondary dwelling.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 26 August 2024.
Clas	ss 2 Proceedings		
1	115A Kyle Parade, Kyle Bay Suzanne Cristine Watson	Appeal against a S23 direction by local authority under S26(1)(d) of the Swimming Pools Act 1992.	Matter listed for first directions hearing on 14 May 2024. A S34 Agreement entered into. Matter finalised.
	Proceedings No: 2024/139478		
Clas	ss 3 Proceedings		
1	12 Ogilvy Street, Peakhurst Shady Eskander Proceedings No: 2023/304230	Applicant seeks an order that the Court impose an easement over land pursuant to s 40 regarding DA2022/0387 seeking consent for the demolition and construction of a detached two storey dual occupancy development with two levels of basement, in-ground swimming pool, landscaping and fencing.	
2	247 Princes Highway, Carlton Rosina Perry & Ors Proceedings No: 2024/16977	Appeal against compensation notice dated 18 October 2023 in respect of a caveator's interest in the freehold acquisition of land at 247 Princes Highway, Carlton,	Matter listed for conciliation on 28 May 2024. Conciliation was terminated and referred back to the Registrar for further directions.

Clas	ss 5 Proceedings		
1	34 Beach Street, Blakehurst Ahmad El Saadi t/a RNA Building Solutions Pty Ltd)	Proceedings in relation to unauthorised works.	Matter listed for sentencing hearing on 9 September 2024.
Clas	s 6 Proceedings		
1	8 Marine Drive, Oatley Rube Rabih Sayed Proceedings 2024/131266	Appeal against Local Court Decision in relation to the fine imposed at sentencing.	Matter listed for first directions 7 June 2024.
2	8 Marine Drive, Oatley Rube Rabih Sayed Proceedings 2024/345439	Appeal against Local Court Decision in relation to the fine imposed at sentencing.	Matter listed for first directions 7 June 2024.
3	8 Marine Drive, Oatley Rube Rabih Sayed Proceedings 2024/131198	Appeal against Local Court Decision in relation to the fine imposed at sentencing.	Matter listed for first directions 7 June 2024.
Loc	al Court Proceedin	gs	
1	1 Ellen Subway, Mortdale Marritt Projects Pty Ltd	Construction work and road closure without a valid permit at 1 Ellen Subway, Mortdale on 11 March 2023 PIN: 3246230020	Hearing listed for 30 January 2024. Judgment listed for 9 May 2024 however dismissed by Court and listed on 18 June 2024 for costs application.
2	1 Ellen Subway Mortdale Marritt Projects Pty Ltd	Construction work that was in breach of development consent for DA2017/0570 on 29 March 2023 PIN: 3246228307	Hearing listed for 30 January 2024. Judgment listed for 9 May 2024 however dismissed by Court and listed on 18 June 2024 for costs application.

3	1 Ellen Subway Mortdale Marritt Projects Pty Ltd	No Consent for road closure or occupation of the road. Breach of Development Consent for DA2017/0570. PIN: 32462289316	2024. Judgment listed for 9
4	Boggywell Creek Lugarno George Helou	Charges for breaches of s16 of the Companion Animals Act 1998 relating to dog attack on 9 July 2023.	Matter set down for further mention on 18 June 2024.
5	368 Forest Road, Hurstville Handmade Ramen (New Spring Pty Ltd)	Court Attendance Notice relating to an offence against section 21(1) of the Food Act 2003.	Matter listed for hearing on 28 May 2024. Defendant fined a total of \$9,000.
6	120/1 Barratt Street, Hurstville Green Commodities Pty Ltd Carlos Zeidan	Court election of penalty notice issued to owner for unauthorised advertising trailer.	Matter set down for hearing on 2 August 2024.
7	120/1 Barratt Street, Hurstville Carlos Zeidan	Court election of penalty notice issued to owner for standing unregistered motor vehicle on road.	Matter set down for hearing on 2 August 2024.
8	74 Cronulla Street, Carlton Darren Collis	Court election of penalty notice issued to owner for dog attack.	Matter listed for first mention on 23 May 2024 however matter withdrawn.
9	8 Church Street, Blakehurst John Bakamis	Non-compliance with written direction in relation to a swimming pool.	Matter listed for first mention on 9 June 2024.
10	Pitt Street, Mortdale Georg Orsaris	Court election of penalty notice issued for stopping in bus zone.	Matter listed for first mention on 18 June 2024.
Cos	ts		
1	Lot 9, 29 Laycock Road, Penshurst Penshurst Laycock Pty Ltd as Trustee of Penshurst Laycock Unit	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2020/0160 for construction of a two-storey boarding house development containing 7 boarding rooms, excavation and construction of a basement containing two car parking spaces.	Matter listed for contested hearing on 29 to 31 March 2021. Appeal refused. Costs awarded as agreed or assessed on 30 June 2021. Applicant has failed to agree on an amount. Matter being

	Proceedings No. 20/208037		prepared for costs assessment.
2	Lot 10, 29 Laycock Road, Penshurst Penshurst Laycock Pty Ltd atf Trustee of Penshurst Laycock Unit Proceedings No. 20/208038	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2020/0160 for construction of a two-storey boarding house development containing 7 boarding rooms, excavation and construction of a basement containing two car parking spaces.	Matter listed for contested hearing on 29 to 31 March 2021. Appeal refused. Costs awarded as agreed or assessed on 30 June 2021. Applicant has failed to agree on an amount. Matter being prepared for costs assessment.
3	Lot 11, 29 Laycock Road, Penshurst Penshurst Laycock Pty Ltd atf Trustee of Penshurst Laycock Unit Proceedings No. 20/20803	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2020/0160 for construction of a two-storey boarding house development containing 7 boarding rooms, excavation and construction of a basement containing two car parking spaces.	Matter listed for contested hearing on 29 to 31 March 2021. Appeal refused. Costs awarded as agreed or assessed on 30 June 2021. Applicant has failed to agree on an amount. Matter being prepared for costs assessment.
4	2 – 4 Vaughan Street, Blakehurst Gianni Georges Proceedings No: 2019/282526	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2018/0517 for demolition of existing dwellings and improvements and the erection of a strata residential flat building development comprising 24 units being 4 x 1 bed, 18 x 2 bed and 2 x 3 bed apartments above basement parking for 38 cars.	Matter listed for contested hearing 9 to 11 December 2020. Judgment handed down on 18 January 2021. Appeal dismissed. Costs awarded as agreed or assessed on 18 January 2021. Applicant has failed to agree on an amount. Costs assessment filed with Supreme Court. Certificate of Determination received. Proceeding with external lawyers for recovery of costs from Defendant.

5	5 Maclaurin Street, Penshurst Emanuel Mifsud Proceedings No: 2019/323436	Proceedings commenced requiring Respondent to remove articles and items from the Premises (hoarding).	Listed for a contested hearing on 28 and 29 July 2020. Judgment issued on 30 October 2020. Orders made for Respondent to remove articles and items within 28 days, failing which Council can carry out the works. Contractors arranged to carry out the works on 1 December 2020. Council awarded costs as agreed or as assessed. Respondent has failed to agree on an amount. Bill of costs prepared. Mediation with Defendant failed to resolve the matter. Costs assessment determination received. Costs respondent lodged an application for review of the costs determination. Further Certificate of Determination received. Proceeding with external lawyers for recovery of costs from Defendant.
6	297 Rocky Point Road, Sans Souci Alan Frederick Goddard Proceedings No: 2018/366019	Proceedings commenced for accumulation of items resulting in premises being in an unsafe or unhealthy condition under the <i>Local Government</i> Act, 1993.	Court held that the premises
7	34 Milsop & 47 Jersey Avenue, Mortdale Robert Stojanovski &	Proceedings commenced for unauthorised erection of structures and slabs, including habitation of structure at the premises.	Respondent found to be in Contempt of Court Orders on 30 September 2019. Costs assessment process undertaken.

	Steven Stojanovski Proceedings No: 2018/99739		Bankruptcy proceedings commenced. Hearing of Creditor's Petition to take place on or about 11 November 2021. Further information from the Official Trustee in Bankruptcy is that there are insufficient funds to pay Council its amount owed.
8	4 The Esplanade, South Hurstville Ekon Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2019/296629	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2017/0659 for demolition of existing structures and construction of 68 place childcare centre at 4 The Esplanade, South Hurstville.	Matter listed for contested hearing on 24 and 25 May 2021. Appeal refused. Negotiations in relation to costs taking place with Applicant's solicitors.
9	88 – 92 Botany Street, Carlton Hurstville Community Centre Incorporated Proceedings No: 2021/360407	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2019/0644 for demolition works, alterations to existing building and change of use from nursing home to place of public workshop, community facilities and associated works.	Matter listed for consent order hearing on 17 August 2022 following amendment of application. Appeal upheld subject to conditions. Negotiations in relation to costs have failed to resolve the costs issue. Matter has been determined after costs assessment and has now been paid.
10	5 Maclaurin Street, Penshurst Emanuel Mifsud & Crystina Mifsud Proceedings No: 2019/323436	Proceedings commenced requiring Respondent to remove articles and items from the Premises (hoarding).	Final orders made on 2 December 2022. Orders made the First Respondent carry out works within 60 days and costs of \$4,093.00 to be paid. Proceeding with external lawyers for recovery of costs from Defendant.
11	49 Jersey Avenue, Mortdale Sharobem Holdings Pty Ltd Proceedings No. 2022/164067	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2020/0354 for demolition works and the construction of a child care centre.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 25 August 2022. Matter listed for hearing on 16 and 17 February 2023. A S34 Agreement was entered into following amended plans. Negotiations taking place in relation to costs.
12	26 Martin Place, Mortdale	Appeal against demolition of existing structures, removal of trees, erection	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 26 July 2022.

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	JAMG Holdings Pty Ltd as Trustee for the JAMG Property Trust Proceedings No: 2022/83335	of a 4-storey residential flat building containing 5 units, parking on grade.	S34 Conference terminated. Matter listed for hearing 29 November to 1 December 2022. Appeal upheld following amended plans. Applicant ordered to pay Council's costs currently being assessed. External lawyers preparing bill of costs for assessment.
13	117 Stuart Street Blakehurst Peter John El Khouri, Goumana Therese El Khouri and Effi Theodorakopoul os v Gemaveld Pty Ltd Proceedings 2022/197368	Supreme Court Summons (Judicial Review) of decision of Commissioner Horton of the Land and Environment Court on 7 April 2022 to grant development consent to DA2022/0247 for demolition works, construction of a multi-evel dwelling house, swimming pool, front fence, landscaping and site work.	Matter listed for hearing on 6 April 2023. Court of Appeal handed down judgment dismissing application. Negotiations taking place in relation to costs. Applicant has paid agreed amount of \$28,710.
14	6 - 10 Torrens Street, Blakehurst Lioncrest Capital Holdings Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2022/25659	Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2021/0478 which seeks consent for the demolition of existing dwellings and ancillary structures and construction of a five-storey residential flat building over basement parking.	Appeal upheld following amended plans. Applicant ordered to pay Council's costs of Appeal upheld following amended plans. Applicant ordered to pay Council's costs which are currently being paid by monthly instalments.
15	13-19 Hogben Street, Kogarah Adam Rennie Proceedings No: 2023/144342	Appeal against the refusal of DA2021/0405 for two storey addition to an existing mixed use building comprising of 5 residential units.	Matter listed for hearing 6 and 7 May 2024. Matter discontinued by Applicant. Costs currently being negotiated.

10. Costs to date are as follows:

Туре	Amount
Class 1 Appeals – Consultants for Court Proceedings	\$823,486
Class 1 Appeals – Planning External Lawyers	\$517,300
Class 2 Appeals	\$0
Class 3 Appeals	\$71,014

Class 4 Appeals	\$169,606
Class 5 Appeals	\$106,238
Local Court Prosecutions	\$12,878
Supreme Court Proceedings	\$2,879
Industrial Relations Commission (IRC)	\$0
NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)	\$0
Total	\$1,703,401