FairfieldCity
Celebrating diversity

LEARN ABOUT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Let's learn about the great things our local council does for our community.

Message from the Mayor

Hi there! My name is Frank Carbone and I am the Mayor of Fairfield City.

I know you have been learning lots about local government. This booklet if full of interesting information which may encourage you to be more involved in your local community and maybe even one day work for a council.

As Mayor of Fairfield City I have a very important job to ensure our City is the best it can be, but I need your help. I believe young people play a very important role in our community and I am very interested in hearing what you have to say.

So put on your thinking caps and come up with some great ideas for our City.

This could be a new sports field, park or entertainment facility, better services for young people or something else outside the box, so get creative!

Frank Carbone
Mayor of Fairfield City

My Great Idea...

_____

_____

Draw a picture of what your great idea would look like:

What is your great for our City?

Student's name: _____ Year: _____

School: _____

Send to: Mayor Frank Carbone   or Email: Mayor Frank Carbone
          PO Box 21, Fairfield NSW 2165   mail@fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au

Match the service with the correct level of government

- ☑ **airports and air safety**
- ☐ **bike paths**
- ☐ **child care centres**
- ☐ **currency and taxation**
- ☐ **education**
- ☐ **fire and emergency services**
- ☐ **foreign policy**
- ☐ **immigration**
- ☐ **leisure centres**
- ☐ **libraries**
- ☐ **local roads**
- ☐ **Medicare**
- ☐ **pet registration**
- ☐ **natural resources and the environment**
- ☐ **planning and building**
- ☐ **playgrounds**
- ☐ **police force**
- ☐ **post**
- ☐ **public housing**
- ☐ **public transport**
- ☐ **sportsfields**
- ☐ **telecommunications**
- ☐ **tourism**
- ☐ **trade and commerce**
- ☐ **water and power supply**
- ☐ **waste and recycling**

Federal Government
airports and air safety

STATE Government

NSW

LOCAL Government

Bike paths are a great way to explore Fairfield City!

Fairfield City Council

History of Fairfield City

Fairfield City Council acknowledges the original inhabitants of the Fairfield area, the Cabrogal of the Darug Nation.

For more than 30,000 years the land of this City has been home to Aboriginal people from the Cabrogal Clan of the Darug Peoples.

These 'first people of the land' hunted and gathered in the local rivers and creeks. In July 2000, Council signed a Local Government Commitment that both acknowledged and recognised Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as the first people of Australia.

Did you know? The first local councils were formed in our area more than 120 years ago. Two of the first councils forms in Fairfield City were the Municipality of Smithfield and Fairfield and the Municipality of Cabramatta and Canley Vale.

Municipality of Smithfield and Fairfield

In February 1889 members of the newly incorporated Municipality of Smithfield and Fairfield were elected.

Francis Atkin Kenyon was the first elected Mayor.
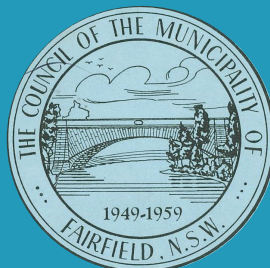
Municipality of Cabramatta and Canley Vale

In December 1892 Municipality of Cabra-Canley Vale Council was formed. Henry Willis was the first elected Mayor.

These two councils came together to form the Fairfield Municipal Council.

Fairfield Municipal Council

In 1949 the two councils came together to form one Council known as Fairfield Municipal Council. John Henry Henshaw was elected Mayor.

Fairfield became a City in May 1979.

The current Fairfield City Council logo.

Over the years the Fairfield local government area grew in population. It became a city in May 1979. It currently is home to over 200,000 people.

Did you know that our libraries have lots of information about the history of Fairfield City?

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What is a democracy?

Did you know that Australia is known throughout the world as a democracy?

The word "democracy" originates from the Greek words "demos" meaning people and "kratein" meaning rule. This means a democracy is "ruled by the people".

As part of a democracy we are able to vote for the Mayor and Councillors who best represent our views. When elected they make local government decisions on our behalf. The local government representatives are elected by people aged 18 years and over who live in the local government area.

Australia is a representative democracy and has the following defining values:

1.   freedom of election and being elected;

2.   freedom of assembly and political participation;

3.   freedom of speech, expression and religious belief;

4.   rule of law; and

5.   other basic human rights.

What is a representative democracy?

In a representative democracy, groups of people vote for individuals to represent them at government level. In this system, all eligible citizens can vote for a select number of people to carry out the business of government on their behalf. Unlike direct democracy, this means that not everyone has to attend meetings about laws and policies.

Use your voice to make a change

What is a change you'd like to see in your school or local community?

_____

_____

_____

Can you do anything about it? If not, who is responsible for the problem/issue?

_____

_____

Who can vote?

The Local Government Act 1993 makes voting in Local Government elections compulsory.

People are entitled to vote in Council elections if they are a resident of a Council ward or they own property in Fairfield City.

To vote you must:
- be 18 years old or over;
- be an Australian citizen;
- have lived in the area for at least three months;
- have your name on the electoral role.

The main duties for the Council are:
- to make decisions about the running of the community and the Council;
- to listen and respond to the issues and ideas of local people and make sure Council does what they need.

Voting is a privilege within a democratic society.

Who should you vote for?

Voting is important in a democratic government as it allows citizens to have their say in the way their local area is governed.

Discuss with your family members what the deciding factors are when they vote in the local elections. What do they feel makes a good local government leader? Write their answers below.
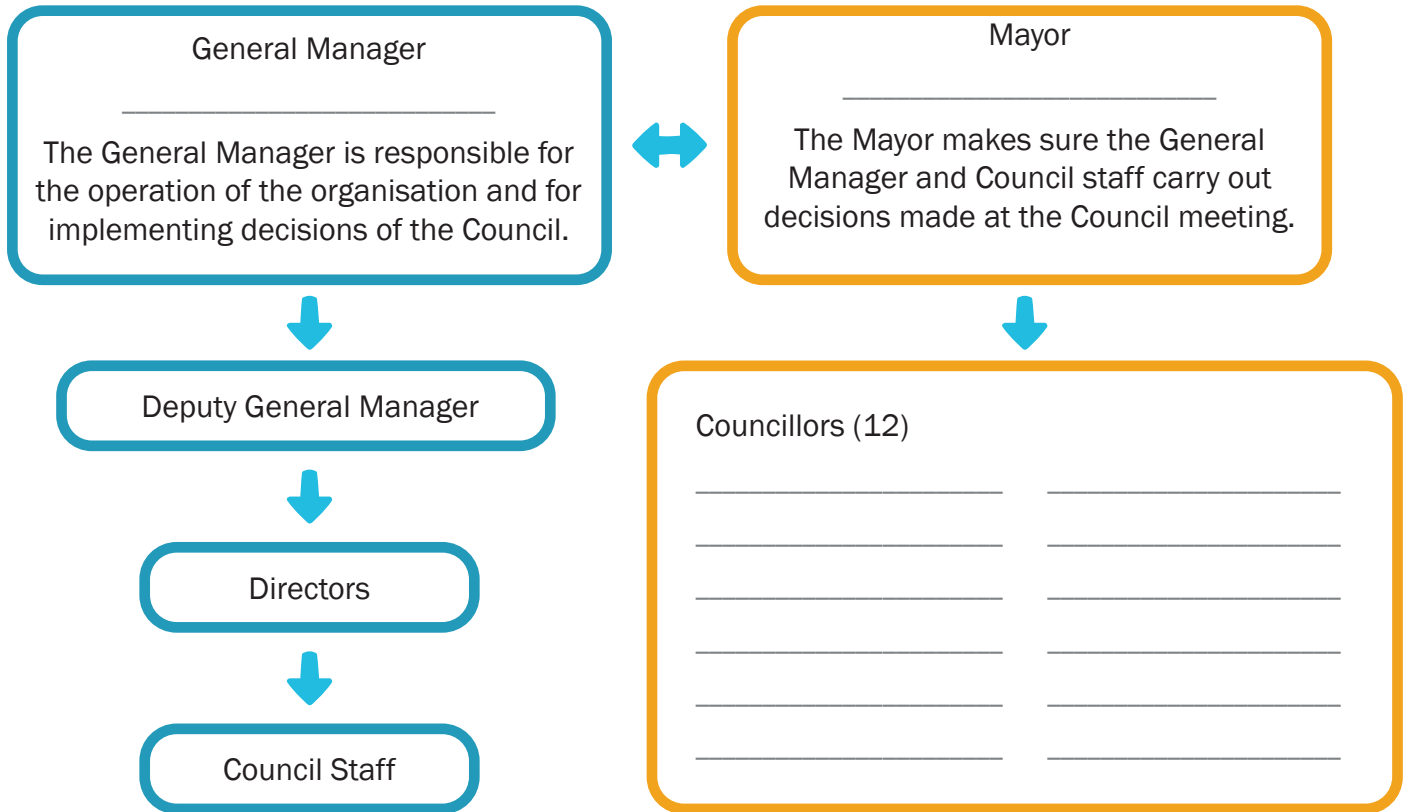
_____

_____

_____

_____

What is important to you? What do you feel makes a good local government leader?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Fairfield City Council structure

A lot of people work for your local council. These people are responsible for ensuring very important everyday services are provided to the community.

Do you know the names of Fairfield City Council's leaders?

Try to fill in the names in the Council structure below. You can visit Council's website for more information **www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au**

General Manager _____ The General Manager is responsible for the operation of the organisation and for implementing decisions of the Council.	Mayor _____ The Mayor makes sure the General Manager and Council staff carry out decisions made at the Council meeting.
↓	↓
Deputy General Manager	Councillors (12) _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
↓	
Directors	
↓	
Council Staff	

The Mayor

The Councillors have a leader who is called the Mayor. The Mayor is a Councillor elected by the people. Local voters determine who the Mayor will be for a four year term. The Mayor performs both an administrative and ceremonial role. The Mayor chairs all Council meetings and has a casting vote when the vote is tied. The Mayor makes sure the General Manager and Council staff carry out the decisions Council makes. The Mayor also performs duties such as presenting awards, making speeches on Council's behalf and attending official and community functions.

The Councillors

Councillors stand for election because of an interest in the well-being and welfare of the local government area.

General Manager

The General Manager runs Council day-to-day, making sure that Council's decisions are actioned. The General Manager is responsible for employing all Council staff and ensuring the money that Council receives is accounted for.

The General Manager employs Directors and Group Managers who in turn look after specific groups within Council. Each group is responsible for a range of Council services and activities.

Our Council

Fairfield City Council has 12 Councillors and a Mayor who are elected by residents and ratepayers every four years. Fairfield City is divided into two wards (shown below) with each ward represented by six Councillors.

The first stage of electing a new Council involves calling for nominations. Anybody who is allowed to vote in the Council election can stand for election. They must be nominated by at least two other people in the community.

Council Meetings

Ordinary Council meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month starting at 7pm. A quorum of seven Councillors is required to allow a Council Meeting to proceed. The Mayor acts as an impartial Chairperson for all Council meetings.

During each meeting, Council considers items (reports) that have been referred from the Standing Committees - that is the Outcomes, Services, Independent Development Assessment Committee (IDAC) or Traffic Committees. Each of these items contains a recommendation or motion from the Standing Committee.

Councillors may direct questions relating to a particular item to the Mayor or the Chairperson of the Committee. The Council will move a motion for each item and each Councillor has an opportunity to speak on each motion. At the conclusion of debate each item is put to the Council and a vote is taken.

Find the meaning

quorum _____

motion _____

impartial _____

chairperson _____

recommendation _____

debate _____

zoning _____

Electing a new Council

There are four stages to electing a new council. Briefly describe what happens at each stage below.

Nominations

_____

Campaigning

_____

Voting

_____

Counting the votes

_____

Campaign poster activity

Get creative and make your own campaign poster!

Being a Councillor is a very responsible position. You need to represent the views of your community and make decisions on the City's future.

You have been nominated to run for a position as a local council representative. It is now the campaigning stage of the elections and you need to design your own campaign poster to help your chances of being elected.

Think of a slogan that best suits your vision, for example;
"Working towards making your city a better place."

Campaign Speech

Now it's your turn to run for Mayor!

Think about some great ideas for our city and list them below.
Then write a short speech (one minute) convincing the local community to vote for you to be a Councillor or the next Mayor.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Council Chambers

Council meetings occurring each month are held in the Council Chambers located at Council's Administration Centre in Wakeley.

This diagram and image below gives you an idea on how a Council meeting is set up.

KEY

Numbers 1 -12
Elected Councillors each colour representing a ward.
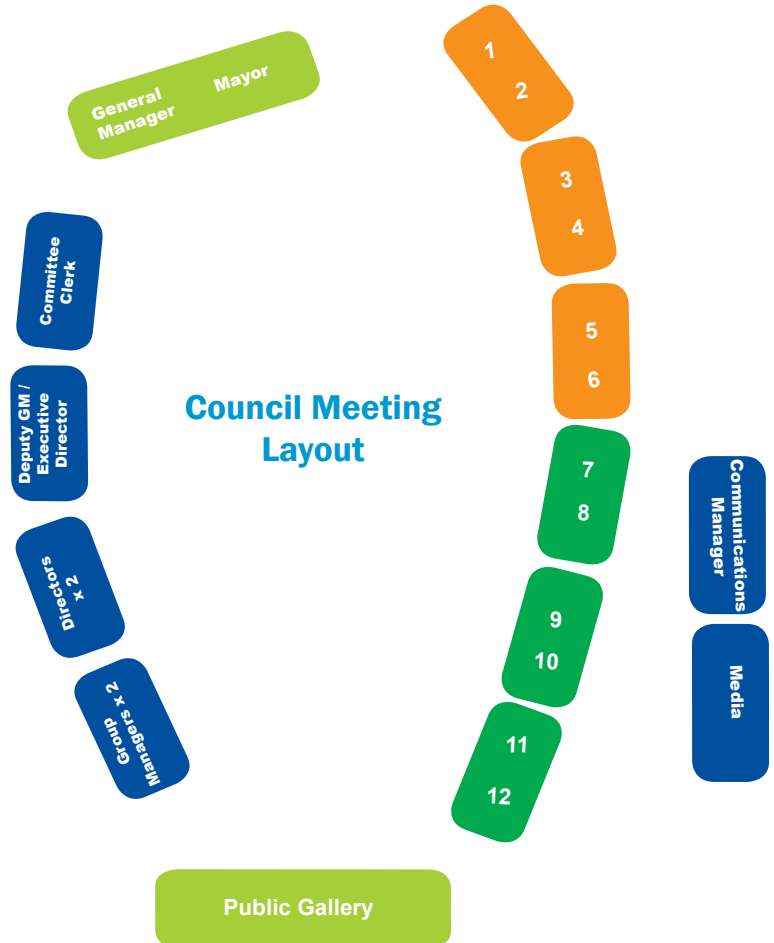
Fairfield/Cabravale Ward
Parks Ward

Public Gallery
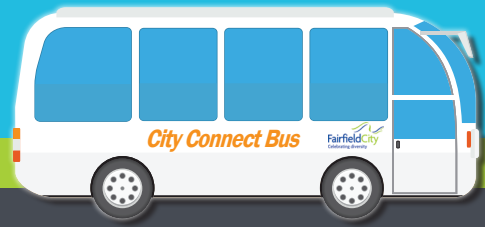The public are invited to attend Council meetings.

Council Staff
Committee Clerk
Deputy General Manager/Executive Director
Directors
Communications Manager

Media
Local news media attend to report on Council meeting discussions.

Council Meeting Layout

General Manager | Mayor

Committee Clerk

Deputy GM / Executive Director

Directors x 2

Group Managers x 2

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12

Communications Manager

Media

Public Gallery

Explore Fairfield City

There is so much to see and do in Fairfield City! Name the attractions below then draw a line to the dot to identify their location in Fairfield City.

Council Chambers

Horsley Park
Wetherill Park
Smithfield
Old Guildford
Bossley Park
Prairiewood
Fairfield Heights
Yenorra
Fairfield West
Fairfield
Fairfield East
Cecil Park
Wakeley
Carramar
Greenfield Park
Canley Heights
Villawood
Abbotsbury
Edensor Park
St Johns Park
Canley Vale
Bonnyrigg Heights
Bonnyrigg
Cabramatta West
Cabramatta
Lansvale
Mt Pritchard

Clues: Adventure Park, Aquatopia water park, Youth Centre, Museum and Gallery, Futsal Court, Bonnyrigg Park, Horsley Homestead
Obstacle Course, Chipping Norton Lakes, Pai Lau gate, The Crescent Plaza, Lansvale Bridge, Council Chambers, Stockdale Reserve

What is your favourite place to visit in Fairfield City, and why?

Look at the picture above and try to identify some of the many services your local council provides to the community.

A_ima_ C_n_r_l
Ch_ _d Ca_e C_n_r_s
F_ _tp_ths
Wa_ _e C_ll_cti_n
L_is_re C_nt_es
Li_ra_i_s
P_r_s
Pl_n_ing and B_i_di_g

Pla_ g _o_ _ds
Loc_l r_ _ d _
S_o_ting F _e_ds
St _r _w a_e_
Str_ _t s_ g_s
T_ee p_an_ing
Wa_ _ing pa_ _s
Wa_te a_d R_c_c_ing

Can you think of any other Council services?

Make a collage activity

Did you know local on-line news contains information about many different services your local council provides to your community?

1. Go on-line and search for news articles about local services provided by your local Council.
2. Create a digital collage and label each article with the type of service the council is providing, for example waste and recycling, protecting the environment, libraries, leisure centres and child care.
3. Think about what council services you are most interested in and think about ways this service can be improved.

Trivia

Did you know Council's website has loads of information about Fairfield City?

1. How many suburbs are in Fairfield City? _____

2. How many Councillors are elected in our city? _____

3. What is Council's New Years Eve event called? _____

4. What is the name of the water park located in Prairiewood? _____

5. Who are the original inhabitants of the area? _____

6. Who is the Cabramatta library named after? _____

7. What is the name of the playground found at Fairfield Showground? _____

8. What is Council's motto, "Celebrating ...."? _____

9. What is the name of the youth festival celebrated in Fairfield City? _____

10. How many leisure centres are located in Fairfield City? _____

11. How many libraries are located in Fairfield City? _____

12. What is the name of a creek in Fairfield City? _____

13. Name an event that is celebrated in Cabramatta? _____

14. Can you name a native animal found in Fairfield City? _____

15. What year did Fairfield become a City? _____

Community's Vision

Did you know Council engages with the community and asks them how they would picture the future of Fairfield City? As a result a list of community priorities and a community vision are identified and Council works hard to deliver these for the people.

Complete the puzzle to reveal Fairfield City's community vision.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
19					15				-	-			17			-							-	-	-

```
__ __    A  __ __    F  A  __    F  __ __ __ __ __    __ __ __  A    __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ N __
2  26   19  7  26   15 19  3    7 15  3 26 14 11    18  3 16  5   19   2 26 14 18 13 22  3 17 10

__  A  F  __    A  N  __    __ __ __ __ __ __ __    __ __ __ __ __  N __ __ __
12 19 15 26   19 17 11    11  3 21 26  7 12 26    18 13 22 22  6 17  3 16  5

__ __ __ __ __    __ __    A  __ __    __ __ __ __ __    __ __    __ __ __ __  N __
2 23 26  7 26    2 26   19  7 26    20  7 13  6 11   16 13    4 26 14 13 17 10

__  N __ __ __ __    A  N __    __ __ __ __ __ __ __
3 17 21 26 12 16   19 17 11   20  7 13 12 20 26  7
```

Find a word

Agenda
Building
Centre
Childcare
Council
Councillor
Creeks
Environment
Events
Festivals
Footpaths
Garbage
Grants
Leisure
Library
Mayor
Minutes

Museum
Parks
Planning
Rates
Recycle
Residents
Roads
Sportsfields
Stormwater
Voting
Ward

```
S C G D A S R S D A O R Z F L
T D R N T D L A M Y O G O R G
M A L N I I N I T L E O T O N
W E E E C D N E L E T L N Y I
C V O N I U L I G P S I E A N
E E U L T F C I A A K B M M N
C O N E E N S T U T E R N F A
C H S T U I H T A B E A O E L
A B I O R S S G R L R R R S P
X V C L P E J U N O C Y I T M
S T N E D I S E R I P S V I U
Z E L C Y C E R S E T S N V S
S T O R M W A T E R P O E A E
P A R K S G A R B A G E V L U
G R A N T S M J E M M P B S M
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Sustainability and Waste

Local councils are responsible for managing waste in your city.

Draw a line to connect each item below into the correct bin.

Where would we be without local council services?

Recycling Bin

Garbage Bin

Match ups

There are many people who work for local Councils to provide very important services to the community. Can you match the service to the Council position?

Building Surveyor	• looks after preschool children
Health Officer	• designs a new roundabout
Environmental Officer	• makes sure buildings are constructed correctly
Information Technology Officer	• manages resources in the library
Librarian	• protects the local environment
Payroll Officer	• advises if a development is suitable for the area
Records Officer	• helps residents with their inquiries
Town Planner	• grows and plants trees
Traffic Engineer	• makes sure food that is sold is safe to eat
Child Care Worker	• processes staff wages
Landscape Gardener	• maintains Council's computer systems
Customer Service Officer	• keeps Council's documents in order

Crossword

Across
1. A person standing for election
3. The elected leader of the local council
4. A person who is elected and represents the community
7. The minimum age to be able to vote
8. Your council is what level of government
9. Council meetings are held in the Council _____
10. Group of people represented by Councillors

Down
1. A nominated person will do this to persuade people to vote for them
2. When you turn 18 you will be eligible to do this
5. The taxes charged by local council
6. The type of government in Australia

Hints: campaign, candidate, chambers, community, Councillor, democracy, eighteen, local, Mayor, rates, vote.

Join in the fun!

Fairfield City Council provide great services and activities that you can get involved in!

FairfieldCity
Celebrating diversity

OPEN LIBRARIES

Have fun learning and exploring at Fairfield City Open Libraries.

Books, magazines, comics, workshops, movies – all for free.

2166 STUDIO

Studio 2166 ia a soundproof video and audio recording area with editing software, mixing boards and 'green' wall to create quality digital content.

Access cutting edge equipment, to help bring your creative ideas to life.

lab.LX

Come experience virtual reality and the latest tech gadgets for free.

lab.LX ia an experimental media space to play and understand technology and create digital content.

For more information visit www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/openlibraries

THINGS TO DO @FCMG

Did you know that Fairfield City Museum & Gallery has a fantastic range of fun activities for kids?
From clay creations to drawing, collage and 3D model making – there's something for everyone! All courses and workshops include materials and tuition.

For more information visit
www.fairfieldcity.nsw.gov.au/FCMG

NSW GOVERNMENT | **Create NSW** Arts, Screen & Culture

FC MG

Fairfield Youth and Community Centre

First Sunday of every month is FREE! So head on down and try out the awesome equipment from 11am to 4pm.