

Current Legal Cases – Status and Costs – March & April 2023

Advice on Costs and Status of Council's Court Proceedings

Executive Summary

- 1. Advice on Council's Court proceedings for the period 1 March 2023 to 30 April 2023 is contained within this report.
- 2. Total legal costs to date for the 2022/23 financial year are \$1,651,305.00.
- 3. Total legal costs recovered to date for the 2022/23 financial year are \$960,624.00
- 4. Total costs incurred by Council in legal proceedings are \$1,186,602.00.
- 5. Total nett costs are \$690,682.00.

Background

6. The current Court Proceedings for the reporting period are broken down as follows:

Land and Environment Court

- 23 x Class 1 (Merit/DA)
- 3 x Class 4 Proceedings
- 6 x Class 5 Proceedings

Supreme Court – Court of Appeal

• 1 x Summons

Local Court

11 x Council Prosecutions

Costs Recoveries

19 x costs recoveries

New Matters

7. There were 11 new matters in this reporting period: 8 x Class 1 Appeals: Elgammal. W H Project Management Pty Ltd, Green, Bentayga Pty Limited. Eskander, Yazbeck, Lombardi, Kai Tian Group Pty Ltd; 3 x Local Court Proceedings: Pinoy, The Baked Bakers Kitchen Pty Ltd and Hassan.

Finalised matters

8. Three Land and Environment Court (**LEC**) Class 1 matters were finalised in this reporting period: *Hallinan, McInnes* and *Truland Development Pty Ltd* and 2 x Costs recoveries: *The Congregational Christian Church in Samoa, Parish of Sydney Inc x* 2.

Current Table

9. The Court proceedings current for the 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 Co	urt Proceedings - Class	1 Appeals
1	6 – 10 Torrens Street, Blakehurst	deemed refusal of DA2021/0478 which	September 2022. Matter adjourned
	Applicant: Lioncrest Capital Holdings Pty Limited		
	Proceedings: 2022/25659	construction of a five- storey residential flat building over basement parking.	
2	26 Martin Place, Mortdale	Class 1 Appeal against demolition of existing structures, removal of	26 July 2022. S34 Conference terminated. Matter listed for
	Applicant: JAMG Holdings Pty Ltd as Trustee for the JAMG Property Trust	trees, erection of a 4 storey residential flat building containing 5 units, parking on grade.	1 December 2022. Judgment
	Proceedings No: 2022/83335		

3	2 – 6 Lacey Street, Kogarah Bay Applicant: Truland Development Pty Limited Proceedings No. 2022/241040	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of Modification Application Portal Reference PAN-209172 being an application to modify the development consent Council reference DA2021/0211.	9 February 2023. A S34 Agreement was entered into following amended plans. Development consent granted following judgment.
4	41 – 47 Princes Highway, Kogarah Bay Applicant: Skyton Developments No 2 Pty Ltd Proceedings No: 2022/252723	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of MOD2022/0052 (seeking modification to conditions of DA183.20.2016) for minor modifications to address structural engineering requirements, reduction of units from 52 to 45 residential apartments to comply with ADG, increase in the total height from 10 storeys to 12 storeys and an increase in parking in basement area.	22 February 2023 however terminated. Matter is listed for
5	21 Hogben Street, Kogarah Applicant: Michel Murr trading as Michel Proceedings No: 2022/273362	Class 1 Appeal against actual refusal of DA2020/0190 for demolition works, site preparation and construction of a twelve (12) storey mixed use development in elevation comprising ground floor retail/commercial floor space, 51 residential apartments above five (5) levels of basement containing 76 car spaces, roof top communal open space, landscaping, site works and stratum subdivision.	31 January 2023. Adjourned to 12

6	426 – 428 Princes Highway, Blakehurst Applicant: Julie McInnes Proceedings No: 2022/282069	Class 1 Appeal against actual refusal of DA2021/0388 for demolition works of existing structures and the construction of a residential flat building.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 27 January 2023. Matter listed for further hearing on 20 & 21 June 2023 however was discontinued by the Applicant.
7	42 Treacy Street, Hurstville Applicant: Vi Phong Chau Proceedings No: 2022/284572	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2021/0448 for demolition of existing single storey brick building, construction of seven storey boarding house with two commercial units on ground floor over three levels of basement car parking.	Matter was listed for S34 Conference on 10 February 2023 however terminated. Matter is now listed for hearing on 24 and 25 July 2023.
8	44 Park Avenue, Oatley Applicant: Bryan & Holly Hallinan Proceedings No: 2022/305763	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA REV2022/0011 for construction of a new two storey dwelling house, landscaping and site works.	Matter listed for S34AA Conciliation hearing on 20 and 21 March 2023. A S34 Agreement was entered into following amended plans.
9	36 – 38 Waterview Street, Carlton Applicant: Fardous & Saab Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2022/295282	Class 1 Appeal against order made under Division 9.3 and Schedule 5, Part 2 (Order 1) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 dated 5 September 2022.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 19 December 2022 however terminated. Matter listed for hearing on 3 July 2023.
10	40 Algernon Street, Oatley Applicant: Ross Green	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2021/0273 for subdivision of two Torrens title lots and	Matter listed for S34AA Conference on 29 and 30 March 2023 however vacated. Matter listed for further directions on 30 May 2023.

		distriction of	<u> </u>
	Proceedings No: 2022/335956	driveway and landscaping works.	
11	36 – 40 Anderson Road, Mortdale Applicant: John Hatch Proceedings No: 2022/335956	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of Modification Application 2021/0193 for the increase in capacity from 68 children to 90, construction of new car park and play area, and other	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 30 May 2023.
		landscaping and building alterations.	
12	95 – 99 Railway Parade, Mortdale Applicant: NXT Developments Pty Limited Proceedings No:	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2022/0113 for a seven storey shop top housing development.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 24 May 2023.
	2022/369251		
13	348 – 352 Railway Parade & 2 – 2A Garfield Street, Carlton Applicant: Vortex Construction Pty Limited Proceedings No. 2022/383670	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2022/0431 for demolition of existing structures and construction of a multistorey shop top housing development comprising of one commercial tenancy and 39 residential apartments and three level basement parking.	8 May 2023. Matter adjourned to 5 June 2023.
14	37 Inverness Avenue, Penshurst Applicant: Beaini Corp Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2023/7575	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of Modification Application MOD2022/0168 relating to DA2021/0227 which relate to the demolition works and construction of a detached dual occupancy.	

15	10 Spalding Crescent, Hurstville Grove Applicant: Wageeh Ayoubi	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2022/0826 for demolition works and construction of a dual occupancy development.	Matter listed for S26 Mediation on 31 May 2023.
	Proceedings No: 2023/26519		
16	26 Bowden Crescent, Connells Point	Class 1 Appeal against an order issued under Division 9.3 and	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 7 August 2023.
	Applicant: Yasser Elgammal Proceedings No.	Division 9.3 and Schedule 5, Part 5 (Order 2) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act by	
	2023/67101	Council dated 1 February 2023 in respect of the above property.	
17	1 Butler Road, Hurstville	Class 1 application direct to Land and Environment Court to	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 18 July 2023.
	Applicant: W H Project Management Pty Ltd	modify development consent DA2017/0402 granted by the LEC in W	
	Proceedings No. 2023/68786	H Project Management Pty Ltd v Georges River Council [2020] NSWLEC 1508 on 23 October 2020 for demolition of existing structures on the site; construction of new mixed use buildings and ground floor commercial/retail. 11 levels of apartments and 3 levels of basement car parking and strata subdivision. The modification application seeks to modify condition B.1 of the consent to modify the southern fire stair egress and consequential amendments to the approved plans.	

18	2A Woodlands Avenue, Lugarno Applicant: Russell Winston Green Proceedings No. 2023/78761	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of Development Application DA2020/0460 for boundary adjustment and re-subdivision of two lots, including construction of driveway and partial demolition of dwelling and garage.	Matter listed for S34AA Conference on 16 and 17 August 2023.
19	202 – 206 Princes Highway, Kogarah Bay Applicant: Bentayga Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2023/80478	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2022/0379 for demolition of the existing commercial buildings and construction of a 6 storey residential flat building containing 39 units over basement parking.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 10 July 2023.
20	12 Ogilvy Street, Peakhurst Applicant: Shady Eskander Proceedings No: 2023/91345	Class 1 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.	Matter listed for S34AA Conference on 23 and 26 June 2023.
21	14 Targo Road, Beverley Park Applicant: Patrick Yazbeck Proceedings No: 2023/96759	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of application for a Building Information Certificate in relation to a retaining wall at the rear with back fill and additional hardstand area.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 19 July 2023.

22	50 Lily Street, Hurstville Applicant: Carmelina Lombardi Proceedings No: 2023/86674	Class 1 Appeal against actual refusal of DA2021/0361 for demolition of alterations and additions to existing dwelling house and change of use to a boarding house.	
23	18 Victoria Street, Kogarah Applicant: Kai Tian Group Kogarah Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2023/103213	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2023/0015 for alterations and additions to the upper level of an approved residential flat building (DA2017/0597) and the construction of two additional residential units.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 5 September 2023.
Clas	ss 4 Proceedings		
1	244 Connells Point Road, Connells Point Parties: Habib Hamade, Zeinab Hammoud, Carole Li and Winson Li Proceedings: 2020/72897	Class 4 Application in relation to unauthorised excavation works resulting in the undermining of a retaining wall and swimming pool at neighbour's property.	Notice of Motion relating to non-compliance with Court orders listed for further hearing on 28 July 2022. Consent orders entered into to complete additional remedial works within 21 days. Contempt proceedings listed for 17 and 18 April 2023. Judgment reserved.
2	247 Princes Highway, Carlton Parties: Perry Properties Pty Ltd Proceedings No: 2022/237344	Class 4 Application in relation to the compulsory acquisition of 247 Princes Highway, Carlton.	Matter listed for hearing on 23 and 24 March 2023. Judgment reserved.
3	26 Bowden Crescent, Connells Point Parties: Yasser Elgammal & Abdul Hammoud Proceedings No: 2023/35778	Class 4 Application in relation to unauthorised works.	Matter adjourned to 9 June 2023.

Clas	ss 5 Proceedings		
1	9 Nellella Street, Blakehurst Parties: SAF Developments Pty Limited	Class 5 Summons for carrying out development on land which was prohibited.	Matter listed for hearing 6 and 7 March 2023. Judgment reserved.
	Proceedings: 2021/244132		
2	9 Nellella Street, Blakehurst	Class 5 Summons for carrying out	Matter listed for hearing 6 and 7 March 2023. Judgment reserved.
	Parties: SAF Developments Pty Limited	development not in accordance with consent.	
	Proceedings: 2021/244133		
3	9 Nellella Street, Blakehurst	Class 5 Summons for polluting land.	Matter listed for hearing 6 and 7 March 2023. Judgment reserved.
	Parties: SAF Developments Pty Limited		
	Proceedings: 2021/244134		
4	9 Nellella Street, Blakehurst	Class 5 Summons for unlawful transport of	Matter listed for hearing 6 and 7 March 2023. Judgment reserved.
	Parties: SAF Developments Pty Limited	waste.	
	Proceedings: 2021/244135		
5	9 Nellella Street, Blakehurst	Class 5 Summons for polluting land.	Matter listed for hearing 6 and 7 March 2023. Judgment reserved.
	Parties: Mohammad Safwan Abdul- Rahman		
	Proceedings: 2021/244136		

6	9 Nellella Street, Blakehurst Parties: Mohammad Safwan Abdul- Rahman Proceedings: 2021/244137	Class 5 Summons for unlawful transport of waste.	l e
Loca	al Court Proceedings		
1-7	532 King Georges Road, Beverly Hills Parties: N & N Khan Investments Pty Limited	Court Attendance Notices in relation to offences under Food Act 2003 (NSW) of Phillies, 532 King Georges Road, Beverly Hills.	Matters listed for hearing on 10 November 2023.
8	75 Boundary Road, Mortdale Parties: Macchina Espresso Pty Limited	Court Attendance Notice in relation to development without development consent.	Matter listed for hearing on 30 March 2023. Defendant entered guilty plea and was convicted, fined \$1,000 and ordered to pay professional costs of \$600.
9	26 Regent Street, Kogarah Parties: Panlasang Pinoy	Court Attendance Notice in relation to offences under Food Act 2003 (NSW).	Matter listed for mention on 16 May 2023.
10	301 Homer Street, Earlwood Parties: The Baked Bakers Kitchen Pty Limited	Court Attendance Notice in relation to development without consent.	Matter listed for mention on 23 May 2023.
11	17 Raymond Street, Oatley Parties: Tarek Hassan	Court Attendance Notice in relation to tree removal.	Matter listed for hearing on 22 May 2023.
Sup	reme Court - Court of	Appeal	
1	117 Stuart Street, Blakehurst Parties: Peter John El Khouri, Goumana Therese El Khouri and Effi	Supreme Court Summons (Judicial Review) of decision of Commissioner Horton of the Land and Environment Court on 7 April 2022 to grant	Matter listed for hearing on 6 April 2023. Court of Appeal handed down judgment dismissing application. Negotiations taking place in relation to costs.

	Theodorakopoulos v Gemaveld Pty Limited Proceedings 2022/197368	development consent to DA202/0247 for demolition works, construction of a multi level dwelling house, swimming pool, front fence, landscaping and site works.	
Cos	ts		
1	977 Forest Road, Lugarno Parties: The Congregational Christian Church in Samoa, Parish of Sydney Inc Proceedings No: 2020/304249	Class 4 interlocutory proceedings seeking the Respondents be restrained from using the land for the purposes of a place of public worship unless in accordance with the conditions of Development Consent 2006/DA0372.	Matter listed for hearing on 24 and 25 June 2021. Consent orders entered into to carry out acoustic measures at the site. Council awarded costs as agreed or as assessed. Payment made. Matter complete.
2	Lot 9, 29 Laycock Road, Penshurst Applicant: Penshurst Laycock Pty Ltd atf Trustee of Penshurst Laycock Unit Proceedings No. 20/208037	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 10, 29 Laycock Road, Penshurst Applicant: 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.

4	Lot 11, 29 Laycock Road, Penshurst Applicant: Penshurst Laycock Pty Ltd atf Trustee of Penshurst Laycock Unit Proceedings No. 20/208036	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.	_
5	2 – 4 Vaughan Street, Blakehurst Applicant: 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 recovery of costs from Defendant.
6	5 Maclaurin Street, Penshurst Parties: 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.

8	297 Rocky Point Road, Sans Souci Parties: Alan Frederick Goddard Proceedings No: 2018/366019 977 Forest Road, Lugarno Parties: The Congregational Christian Church in Samoa, Parish of Sydney Incorporated and Taeipo Malifa Proceedings No. 2018/23816 2019/43432	Proceedings commenced for accumulation of items resulting in premises being in an unsafe or unhealthy condition under the Local Government Act, 1993. Proceedings commenced against Respondents for a declaration that the First and Second Respondents have each breached the Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997 by failing to comply with prevention notices given to each of them under section 96 of that Act by Council.	Costs respondent lodged an application for review of the costs determination. Further Certificate of Determination received. Proceedings with recovery of costs from Defendant. On 24 September 2019 the Court held that the premises were unsafe or unhealthy and made Orders for de-accumulation of items in accordance with a schedule provided by Council. Costs awarded in favour of Council. Council awarded costs as agreed or as assessed. Certificate of Determination received. Proceeding with recovery of costs from Defendant. Costs awarded following hearing on 12 and 13 December 2018 and on 31 May 2019. Costs assessment finalised and Certificates of Judgment registered. Bankruptcy proceedings now commenced against Taeipo Malifa. A Creditor's Petition is being prepared to be filed with the Court. A Writ of Execution has been recorded on the Certificate of Title for the property owned by the Church.
			Payment made. Matter complete.
9	244 Connells Point Road, Connells Point Parties: Habib Hamade, Zeinab Hammoud, Carole Li and Winson Li Proceedings: 2020/72897	Class 4 Application in relation to unauthorised excavation works resulting in the undermining of a retaining wall and swimming pool at neighbour's property.	Consent Orders issued on 19 October 2020 including orders that the First and Second Respondents pay Council's costs as agreed or as assessed. Costs assessment review application filed with Supreme Court.

			Certificate of Determination received. Proceedings with recovery of costs from Defendant.
10	34 Milsop & 47 Jersey Avenue, Mortdale	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.
	Parties: Robert		Costs assessment process undertaken.
	Stojanovski & Steven Stojanovski		Bankruptcy proceedings commenced. Hearing of Creditor's Petition to take place on or about 11
	Proceedings No: 2018/99739		November 2021. Awaiting further information from the Official Trustee in Bankruptcy.
11	4 The Esplanade, South Hurstville	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2017/0659 for demolition of existing	Matter listed for contested hearing on 24 and 25 May 2021. Appeal refused.
	Applicant: Ekon Pty Limited	structures and construction of 68 place childcare centre at 4 The	Negotiations in relation to costs taking place with Applicant's solicitors.
	Proceedings No: 2019/296629	Esplanade, South Hurstville.	
12	88 – 92 Botany Street, Carlton	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2019/0644 for demolition works,	Matter listed for consent order hearing on 17 August 2022 following amendment of
	Applicant: Hurstville Community Centre Incorporated	alterations to existing building and change of use from nursing home	application. Appeal upheld subject to conditions.
	Proceedings: 2021/360407	to place of public workshop, community facilities and associated works.	Negotiations in relation to costs have failed to resolve the costs issue. Matter has been sent for costs assessment.
13	5 Maclaurin Street, Penshurst	Proceedings commenced requiring Respondent to remove articles and items from the Premises (hoarding).	Respondent carry out works within 60 days and costs of \$4,093.00 to
	Parties: Emanuel Mifsud & Crystina Mifsud		
	Proceedings No: 2019/323436		

14	48 Oxford Street, Mortdale Applicant: Pyramid Consulting Pty Limited Proceedings 2022/96931	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2022/0041 for demolition of existing structures and construction of a part 3, part 4 storey, 27 room boarding house over two basement levels of carparking.	Conference on 10 February 2023 however vacated. Matter is now listed for hearing on 19 to 21 April 2023. Matter discontinued by
15	49 Jersey Avenue, Mortdale Applicant: Sharobem Holdings Pty Limited 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.
16	15 Dalcassia Street, Hurstville Applicant: Wang Zhang Lin & Bao Zhen Qiu Proceedings No. 2022/189574	Class 1 Appeal against refusal of DA2020/0261 for demolition of existing structures and construction of a 12 room boarding house (one being a caretakers room), landscaping and site works.	Matter listed for S34 Conference on 10 October 2022 however terminated. Matter listed for hearing on 13 and 14 February 2023. A S34 Agreement was entered into following amended plans. Awaiting payment of costs of \$12,000.
17	15 Greenbank Street, Hurstville Applicant: Carol Li Ma and De Yong Chen Proceedings No: 2022/254306	Class 1 Appeal against actual refusal of DA2021/0401 for demolition works, subdivision of land into three lots, construction of 3 x 2 storey detached dwellings with a basement and a swimming pool on each proposed lot and associated works.	
18	48 Oxford Street, Mortdale	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2022/0041 for demolition of existing	Conference on 10 February 2023 however vacated. Matter is now

Applicant: Pyramid Consulting Pty Limited Proceedings No: 2022/96931	structures and construction of a part 3, part 4 storey, 27 room boarding house over two basement levels of carparking.	
19 30 – 32 The Avenue, Hurstville Applicant: 32 The Avenue Hurstville Pty Ltd ATF 32 The Avenue Hurstville Trust Proceedings No: 2022/122081	Class 1 Appeal against deemed refusal of DA2021/0399 for demolition of existing structures, amalgamation of two existing lots and construction of a 4 storey mixed use residential flat building containing ground floor retail space, basement carparking and associated landscaping.	20 June 2022. Matter unresolved and listed for hearing on 31 October

10. Costs to date are as follows:

Туре	Amount
Class 1 Appeals – Consultants for Court Proceedings	\$519,151
Class 1 Appeals – Planning DA External Lawyers	\$424,296
Class 2 Appeals	\$0
Class 3 Appeals	\$0
Class 4 Appeals	\$186,196
Class 5 Appeals	\$35,722
Local Court Prosecutions/Enforcements	\$11,535
Supreme Court Proceedings	\$9,702
Industrial Relations Commission (IRC)	\$0
NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT)	\$0
Total	\$1,186,602