

Report of the Chief Executive Officer

13.7 Quarterly update: Current legal matters status as at 30 June 2025 (cont)

Communication/Community engagement

Not applicable

Attachments

Nil

Enclosures

- 1 Legal Matters update summary as @ end of June 2025 

Item 13.7

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive this legal status update summary report and note the following approximate amounts have been expended as at 30 June 2025 on the legal matters itemised in the attachment since the commencement of each individual proceeding:

- NSW Land & Environment Court = \$320,072.48
- Federal Court matters = \$49,291.11
- Local Court matters = \$88,269.70
- General legal/Probity advice = \$15,136.10
- NCAT = \$7,710.00
- Investigations = \$3,080.00

TOTAL = \$483,559.39

Background

Part of the role of the Implementation Team is the oversight of Council's legal portfolio, ensuring that Council staff utilise the services of Council's panel of external legal services providers in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

There is a process in place requiring all requests for legal services, be it advice or representation, to be coordinated by the Business Integrity Coordinator. Some of the benefits of consolidating this process include:

- Fee estimates are sought from at least two legal panel members
- Requests are spread evenly across all members of the legal panel
- Requests are not sought for the same or similar advice
- Requests will require approval at least at Manager level

A quarterly update of legal matters is provided at the second ordinary meeting of the quarter (i.e. August, November, February and May) to ensure that Council is provided with the most current information.

The June 2025 result of \$483,559.39 reflects a significant reduction in legal expenditure compared to previous quarters:

- 31 March 2025 - \$1,205,455.27

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- 31 December 2024 - \$1,321,014.53 (including costs amount)
- 30 September 2024 - \$5,013,391.23 (excludes settlement amount)
- 30 June 2024 - \$4,501,918