



North Sydney Local Government Area  
Edward and Union Combined Precinct Committees

Minutes of Meeting Wednesday **3 August** 2022, 7:30pm

**Hybrid: McMahons Point Community Centre and Online**

Chair: GM  
Secretaries: JC Edward Precinct  
CT Union Precinct  
Minutes: JC & CT

**1. Welcome / Apologies / July Minutes**

- a. There were 10 attendees, 4 on zoom and 6 apologies
- b. The meeting accepted the minutes from the 6 July meeting without objection

[https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council\\_Meetings/Community\\_Engagement/Precincts/Edward\\_Precinct](https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Community_Engagement/Precincts/Edward_Precinct)

Council's response to our July minutes was received today, and will be emailed to precinct members with the meeting minutes.

**2. Development Applications:**

<https://apptracking.northsydney.nsw.gov.au>

The following relevant DAs are under assessment or determined:

**Edward Precinct**

- [DA 195/22](#) 26 Toongarah Rd. Subdivision to consolidate three part-lots to enable construction of a studio apartment, landscaping and associated works. Lodged 29 June. Some concerns were raised but no objector attended this meeting. Noted.

**Union Precinct**

- [DA 188/22](#) 39 Union St McMahons Point. Alterations and additions to a house. Closed 22 July. Noted
- [DA 191/22](#) 16 French St McMahons Point. Subdivision of railway corridor to create Lot 3 to be subdivided from Lot 100 DP1103512 to be consolidated with Lots 1 and 2 DP745924. Closed 29 July.

The meeting received an emailed comment from a precinct member, which was read out at the meeting:

"Comment on the [...] DAs 190/22 and 191/22 which relate to 2 French and 16 French St respectively. The DAs concern subdivision of railway land and transfer of that land to these properties on the basis that existing carports were built on this land.

While I have no objection to these DAs for this purpose, I would be very concerned if this leads to further subdivision and possible development on these parcels of land or other sections of the railway corridor.

I therefore ask the Precinct[s] to ask North Sydney Council to ensure that the subdivision adheres to the stated intention as written in the DA "This application does not seek approval for any physical works or change in land use. The proposal will enable the portion of land that is currently utilised by the adjoining property for car parking purposes to be under the same ownership as the dwelling it services."

Those present at the meeting (online and face-to-face) supported the comment and then discussed the following:

- It is not unusual in North Sydney for parcels of land along the rail corridor to be utilized in such a way
- Community has expressed significant interest in utilising the remaining railway land behind the carports on French Street for a community garden. We understand this request was rejected by Council previously due to the expense of reclaiming the land.
- Is it possible for other parcels of land along the rail corridor to be used for community gardens also?

Edward/Union Precincts support the comment from our precinct member and request that Council relook at the community's desire to have a community garden in the Rail Corridor land, situated behind and in between the two residential carports at 16 and 18 French Street.

- [DA 196/22](#) **13 Euroka St North Sydney**. Alterations and additions to a dwelling including demolition and removal of two trees. Closed 29 July  
Enlargement of building rear  
Architect/owner attended the meeting and advised that the design respects the building's heritage listing. The two trees scheduled for removal are not well suited to the area (being non-natives). It is planned to plant two local species trees. The development is supported by a neighbour also present at the meeting.

### 3. Council Meeting 25 July and various notices

- **Call for Environment Reference Group Citizen Members**  
The ERG is required to have 3 citizen members. Two citizen members have been appointed, One further nomination is sought. Members of Edward and Union Precincts are encouraged to apply.
- **Invitation to submit motions for Local Government Conference**  
<https://lgnswconference.org.au/> 23 to 25 October 2022  
Submissions are due by 25 September at latest. The meeting noted the information.
- **Update on Trial Pocket Park - East Crescent Street, McMahons Point**  
The meeting heard from an attendee of the East Crescent Street site visit held on 23 July who relayed to the meeting that:
  - Attendance was high – around 30 residents
  - Support for and against the 'pocket park' was evenly balanced
  - The head of engineering explained the plans
  - Residents were encouraged to have their say
  - A more traffic calming/pedestrian friendly approach was discussed as an alternative to the full plan including the softening and greening of the site
  - Residents did not want another 'Burton Street Kirribilli' type design
  - The Mayor was encouraging of greater/enhanced community consultation moving forward
  - The Council meeting discussed the site's plans and made a resolution at their most recent meetingThe meeting also heard from a precinct member who read the minutes of the Council meeting:
  - Reworked designs will be presented to council after 'some' community consultation
  - Any 'lost' parking spaces (due to creation of the newly calmed area) will be made up by reconfiguring existing parking in the area with parallel parking.
- **Recycle Smart Trial (free monthly pick up or on-demand service)**  
The meeting heard that Council is exploring enhanced recycling practices in the LGA including a potential on-demand collection service.  
The meeting discussed the trial sharing ideas and experiences as follows:
  - Precinct[s] support trialing a separate food waste collection
  - Appreciate that NSC provides worm farms.
  - Members of the combined Precincts are keen to find out more to circulate by email to precinct members' mailing lists.
  - Precinct[s] appreciate the alternate fortnightly household and green waste collections which few other Councils provide

- Precinct[s] support the Streets Alive and Zero Waste approach and want to encourage and support such initiatives and discussed how we as a community can do more or what we want/need reaching a conclusion to explore how to deal with food waste (and avoiding rats)
- Discussion related to the different kinds of properties in the area—single home dwellings through to a substantial number of high-density residences and apartments—and what their specific needs are. How does Council accommodate those varied needs?
- Other approaches by Councils such as the Northern Beaches and South-Eastern suburbs were discussed as options to examine.

See for more <https://www.recyclesmart.com>  
Precinct members can [download the RecycleSmart App](#)

- **Precinct System Review**

Union Secretary shared with the meeting news that a Progress Update-Council Resolution (made on 27 July) had been made and a document outlining the recommendations and resolution had been emailed to Precincts.

The meeting heard/discussed:

- Council will adopt the recommendations in the Consultant Report (including a Communication Plan) and will consult with Precinct Committees prior to a further report being delivered to Council.
- Council recognises that while being advisory bodies only, Precincts are a vital channel of communication between the community and NSC.
- Council accepts that, in order to function adequately, Precincts are free to determine, without interference, their office holders, boundaries (by agreement between precincts) and agendas.
- Some Precincts are dormant such as the CBD Precinct or struggling. The Meeting reiterated that it was not in favour of integrating the CBD into Edward/Union Precincts as per Edward's June 2021 minutes.
- Edward and Union Precincts are in favour of revitalising Precincts and supporting ways to generate interest, agreeing that combined face-to-face and online meetings (such as the set up trialed at this meeting) can promote this and ensure a diversity of community voices.

- **Service NSW**

The meeting noted and welcomes the arrival of a dedicated Service NSW facility in North Sydney, however the lack of accessible parking near the site was noted.

Edward/Union Precincts request Council to consider providing a disabled parking place in front of the Service NSW premises at 213 Miller Street.

For the services offered see <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/services>

- **Miller Street Pedestrian Pop-up**

The meeting discussed the current expanded pedestrian area on Miller Street in the CBD on the block between Pacific Highway and Berry Street, as feedback has been extended until 2 November.

- Originally installed to preserve pedestrian space in an area that is going to be dramatically affected by the Western Harbour Tunnel which will see Berry Street become a major multi-lane funnel into the new tunnel.
- Reference made to the Save Berry Street campaign.
- Members would like to see Miller Street remain open to traffic as it is the most efficient means to get in and out of our Precincts
- The look and design choices of the pop up were questioned and comments made as to why the expansion was not done permanently and 'properly' in the first instance.

- **Permission for remote Precinct Committee Meetings (Notice)**

NSC has agreed to support remote precinct meetings

- Edward and Union Precincts support this decision and are already experimenting with hybrid remote and face-to-face meetings.

Edward/Union Precincts would like enhanced technical support from Council to facilitate successful remote participation in meetings. Currently Precinct members are purchasing or utilising their own equipment to support remote participation in Precinct meetings.

#### 4. Other Business

- **MLC Building Heritage Status**

The Land & Environment Court has ordered the NSW Heritage Council to remove the heritage status of the 1950s MLC office building in Miller St, permitting the developer to proceed with its bid to demolish the building and replace it with a 27-storey building. It is noted that the MLC building remains a local heritage item under North Sydney's planning controls.

The meeting heard that:

- Two errors were made by the State Minister in relation to the listing;
- Council is urging the State government to rectify the errors.

**Precinct[s] moved the following motion:**

Edward/Union Precincts strongly urge North Sydney Council to ask the current Minister for heritage NSW, (the Hon. James Griffin) to correct the errors made in the heritage listing of the MLC Building, to ensure it is relisted and protected from demolition.

Passed unanimously

- **Western Harbour Tunnel (WHT). Status of early works in Waverton**

The meeting heard:

- The WHT crossing from Rozelle to Berrys Bay has been approved despite numerous objections
- Council continues to oppose the project
- Preparation work has begun on Crows Nest Rd
- There is real concern that the project will lead to destruction of the Coal Loader
- A request has been made to move the Cape Don from its current mooring at the Coal Loader
- There are fears about the impact of a sheet pile coffer dam to be built adjacent to the Coal Loader
- An article published in the Sydney Morning Herald recently indicates there is a 'willingness' to take another look at 'how' this harbour tunnel will be constructed and that 'other options' are being looked at including "a deeper tunnel drilled through bedrock to avoid the pollution issues from trench construction" (Sydney Morning Herald 27 July).

Precinct members are encouraged to review the Transport for NSW survey relating to Waverton Peninsula:

<https://media.caapp.com.au/pdf/z09d0k/0dea3bae-8ebb-4b6f-8afa-ef96534367d/Waverton%20Peninsula%20-%20Community%20values%20survey%20%28July%202022%29.pdf>

Edward/Union Precincts will keep a close eye on the project and its ongoing development and ask Council to include the Your Say Survey on its website because of the importance of this project to the amenity of the LGA.

- **Moorish Blue Restaurant, Blues Point Road**

The meeting heard:

- Resident concerns about the scale of renovations/work being done at this locally significant premises and the amount of 'debris' being removed/demolished.
- If there are no external changes other than 'repair' and works internally are certified, there is no need for a DA.
- The building is in a conservation area and residents are monitoring what is taking place at the site.

- **80 Union St Query**

The meeting received a query from the community in relation to proposed works to 80 Union St.

- No attendees were aware of any work set to take place.
- Edward Secretary will investigate if Shore School is planning work at the currently vacant building.
- There are disruptions in areas surrounding Shore School from time to time resulting from students parking cars.

- **Laurel Leaf Bistro 'Pop Up' Outside Dining Trailer**

The current pop-up outside Laurel Leaf Bistro was discussed at the meeting:

- Safety (as the trailer impacts egress for cars driving down Union Street) and loss of parking.
- The small area for outside dining at Laurel Leaf.

- **Meetings**

The next Combined Precinct Committee CPC meeting will be on 17 August.

The next Edward/Union meeting will be on 7 September.

**Meeting closed: 8:40pm**