



North Sydney Local Government Area
Edward and Union Combined Precincts Committee Meeting
Minutes: Wednesday, 2 November 2022, 7:30pm
Delivery: Face-to-face at McMahons Point Community Centre & Zoom

Chair: GMc
Secretaries: JC Edward Precinct
CT Union Precinct
Agenda: JC
Minutes: CT

1. Welcome / Apologies/ Attendance/ October Minutes

- (a) 14 in attendance in total
Face-to-face: x 4 [Edward] x 7 [Union] = 11
Zoom: x 2 [Edward] + x 1 [Union] = 3
(b) Apologies x 3 [Union] + x 2 [Edward] = 5
(c) Minutes of the October 2022 meeting were accepted without objection.

2. Response to Council SOA

- (a) Fire order and Public Jetty still have not effectively been addresses and this precinct does not regard these matters as closed for Council. We have not had an update for 12-months. This precinct strongly believes if a developer promises a public benefit such as the public jetty it should be held to account to deliver that public benefit. It has been 30 years and the non-delivery sets a precedent for other developers to also renege on agreed deliverables.
(b) Question about Green Waste and Food Scraps. Is there some option Council can explore for residents beyond the current trial.
(c) Compliment Council on the current 'Lungs' campaign.
"These trees are the lungs of North Sydney, absorbing carbon dioxide, releasing oxygen and creating a cleaner atmosphere for us all to breathe."

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Council_News/Latest_News/Open_letter_to_Tim_James_MP

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Council_News/Latest_News/Council_objects_to_TfNSW_taking_control_of_Cammeray_Park

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Council_News/Latest_News/Open_letter_to_the_NSW_Government

3. Development Applications
Edward Precinct

- DA 313/21 48 Edward St, North Sydney. This DA has been to a Planning Panel.
Discussion:
 - The meeting discussed that despite objections being submitted by this Precinct and residents this DA was passed.
 - Comments were shared about the number of approvals being approved by Planning Panels despite Council's refusal of it.

MOTION:

Precinct[s] would like to raise their concern about the reported approvals by Local and Regional Planning Panels approving DAs that have been rejected by Council and for the data to be made available to Precinct in relation to the number of approvals made by Planning Panels over the past 12 months.

Passed without objection

- [DA 256/22](#) 48 Bay Rd Waverton. Construction of a carport on an existing hard-stand and a new door. Lodged 29 August.
The meeting noted this DA.

Union Precinct

- [DA 266/20/3](#) 26 Euroka St., Waverton. Modification of consent to an addition to the first floor in form of new fencing and a gate.
The meeting noted this DA.

For more details on Development Applications visit: <https://apptracking.northsydney.nsw.gov.au>

Of Interest to the Precinct[s]

▪ **Purchase of 65 Berry Street by ACU**

The meeting discussed the recent purchase by Australian Catholic University [ACU] of the office tower located at 65 Berry Street.

Discussion:

- Education Institutions do not pay rates.
- Edward Precinct appreciates ACU is no longer purchasing residential properties, noting one ACU property was recently sold and is now residential again.
- This matter was discussed at a recent conference.
- Concern that previously rateable buildings will no longer be rateable and there will be a net loss of income to council which ratepayers will have to absorb.
- Could Council approach the State government to explore options?

MOTION:

Precinct[s] express their concern about loss of rates when existing 'rateable' buildings are purchased and then become 'non-rateable'. **Passed without objection**

4. Council Matters and Notices

The following matters were shared with members at the meeting:

- (a) Bookings for **New Year's Eve** opened on November 1
To book visit: <https://www.sydneynewyourseve.com/vantage-points/>
- (b) The **new General Manager for North Sydney Council** has been appointed
Discussion:
 - Excellent choice
 - Highly credentialed in sustainability and financial management.
- (c) **Changes to Precinct votes on matters** moving forward will include a tally of 'yays' and 'nays' rather than one single vote for per Precinct.
Discussion:
 - This should increase Precincts' contributions more accurately on significant matters
 - Precinct thanks Council for this decision.
- (d) **CPC update**; the meeting heard working groups are underway as part of the Precinct Review process, including: Marketing, Office Bearer Training and Online Meetings.
- (e) **North Sydney Community Awards** nominations are open in the following categories; Community Builder, Next Generation, Eco Warrior, Trailblazer, Living Legend.
Nominations close 10 December:
https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Community_Services/Arts_Culture/Arts_Culture_Events/North_Sydney_Community_Awards
- (f) **West Street Cycleway** Plans for a segregated cycleway between Pacific Highway & Ridge St, x 6 new trees and raingardens.
Have your Say: <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/west-street> Closes 14 November.

The Following Council Related Topics Were Discussed by Members at the Meeting:

(a) **North Sydney Pool Update**

The meeting heard about a presentation from Council's Acting General Manager and Mayor Baker, at the recent Combined Precinct Committee meeting, regarding the status of the North Sydney Olympic Pool redevelopment.

- the project is running over time and will not be delivered until mid 2023 at the earliest; budget renegotiations have occurred with contractors; projected income-streams reviewed as well as tenant lease arrangements.
- an Extraordinary Council meeting was held to call for an independent review into the management of the redevelopment and that the new General Manger will oversee an independent contractor to ensure due diligence, fiscal responsibility and transparency are paramount moving forward.
- Findings will be made available to the public.
- some Council assets/properties may need to be sold to pay for the overages, so ratepayers and future councils are not burdened with excessive debt.

Discussion:

- Real concern about selling Council assets such as the Lavender Bay-McMahons Point Community Centre.
- The stress to local residents of having both the North Sydney and Willoughby Leisure Centre pools closed at the same time is disappointing.
- Supportive of the review and the stated transparency of making findings public.

(b) **Proposed Car Parking Changes in New Residential Developments**

The meeting heard about changes to the North Sydney Development Control Plan to only allow x 1 car parking space for every x 4 residences in NEW residential developments when it is considered

there is reliable and regular public transport links.

Discussion:

- Mixed messaging from State government as they simultaneously build metro lines for high-density areas and major road/tunnel infrastructure favouring cars.
- With more and more high density without such initiatives the roads in the LGA will become clogged with cars this is an effort to prevent that scenario
- The problem is bus and train services have been cut and are gradually being reduced all the time
- Essential workers from this LGA have to uber to and from Royal North Shore Hospital, for example, as services have been reduced.
- If current services are maintained/improved while the community waits for the metro to come online that would be a good start
- Can we contact local State member?

ACTION:

MC will reach out to Felicity Wilson MP, to invite her to attend the March 2023 meeting.

MOTION:

Precinct[s] will support efforts to minimise road congestion in the LGA as long as public transport services are maintained/improved. **Passed without objection**

Read more and have your say at: <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/nsdcp-high-density-parking>

5. Proposed Merger of Edward and Union Precincts

MOTION:

THAT the Edward and Union Precinct Committees formally merge into one new Precinct area, effective from 2023:

- the current office bearers of both Edward and Union Precinct Committees will continue until the new Committee formally commences
- the first meeting of the new Precinct area will be an Annual General Meeting, held in February 2023, to elect office bearers for the new Committee and present the Statements of Income and Expenditure of each of the current Committees
- the Precinct area boundary and name of the new Precinct Committee is to be determined in consultation with Council.

DISCUSSION:

- Reservations from an Edward member that the merge will be Union-centric as it is difficult to get to the McMahons Point Community Centre.
- Representation tonight is relatively equal Edward and Union and has been for the past few months.
- The hybrid Zoom and Face-to-Face we have been trialling over the last few months is a solution for those who cannot make it to Face-to-Face meetings.
- Nothing is set in stone as-yet, whether it will be Ros Chrichton Pavilion or McMahons Point Community Centre, it just needs to be one venue all the time.
- Comment via email from SS: 'Would prefer for the trial merger to continue at this point-in-time.'
- Numerous and extensive conversations have taken place at both Edward and Union Precincts about the merits of merging such as the question of size. By combining, collectively we cover a broader area resulting in more diverse inputs.

VOTE ON MOTION:

For: Edward 5 / Union 8

Against: 0

Abstain: 1

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

New Name for the Merged Precincts

- Lawson: a suitable possibility
- Edward-Union: rejected – needs to be a new name with no legacy attachments
- An Aboriginal name relevant to the location: to be investigated. See Action.

ACTION:

MCC, KR & GMc will work as a group on due diligence/liaison with Council and Council's historian on the new name and report back to the meeting.

6. General Business

(a) **Holt Street pedestrian safety.**

- No accessible footpaths parked cars block the footpaths on both sides forcing pedestrians including mothers with prams onto the road, which is unsafe.

- Members noted that Woolcott/Euroka/Carr streets are also in a similar position with narrow paths and little safety for pedestrians.
- Trees and telegraph poles also hinder egress.

MOTION:

Council improves pedestrian safety on Holt Street by demarcating the northern side of the street.

Carried Unanimously

- (b) **Waverton TfNSW Berrys Bay Masterplan Session Report**
 The meeting heard TfNSW avoided answering questions and that all the community collaboration up to now is no guarantee on any decisions as the Contractor may want to make changes and 'reconsult'. Participants kept asking what is going to happen on the water at Berrys Bay and were informed there are no plans, there 'could be' a 50-berth marina or a wedding venue. The TfNSW representatives/presenters had no insight on the Northern Beaches Link. The above raised concerns for those present at the session particularly in relation to the use of Berrys Bay that do not comply with the Berrys Bay Masterplan/Landscape Plan. If the project is deemed a "State Significant Development" TfNSW can do what it pleases – which is not compatible with the State governments stated commitment to green open/recreational space.
- (c) **December Meeting**
 - The meeting agreed to a 7pm start
 - Questions on notice for the Mayor, who will attend the December meeting.
 - If any members have questions on notice for Mayor Baker:
Send them to Union Precinct email account no later than cob THURSDAY NOVEMBER 24
With Q.O.N: MAYOR BAKER in the subject line
unionprecinct@gmail.com
- (d) **Kylea Tink** has accepted the invitation to attend the February 2023 meeting.
<https://www.kyleatink.com.au/contact>
- (e) **Planning Proposal session** held at Council is available as a video to view
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LVYPxRSxu4>
- (f) **Waste bins on the Pacific Highway between the Post Office and Bay Road.**
 Discussion:
 - The detritus from local cafes – mostly takeaway coffee cups are everywhere as there is nowhere to dispose of them.
 - Members discussed the situation of the bins everywhere in the LGA are continually in a state of overflow.
 - Members are delighted single use plastic bags have been banned officially in NSW as of today.

SUGGESTION:

Precinct[s] suggest the Council Waste Officer goes to the Cafes in this area and discusses options for proper disposal of take away coffee cups

- (g) Next Combined Precinct Committee meeting will be held on November 29.

MEETING CLOSED 8:55pm