



North Sydney Local Government Area
Edward and Union Combined Precincts Committee Meeting
Minutes: Wednesday, 7 December 2022, 7:00pm
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/ November Minutes

- (a) Total = 26
 - Face-to-face: = 24
 - Zoom: 2
- (b) Apologies = 3
- (c) Minutes of the November 2022 meeting were accepted without objection.

2. Response to Council SOA

Fire order and Public Jetty still have not effectively addressed and this precinct does not regard these matters closed for Council. The continual closed for council statements in the summary of actions that come back to Precinct we feel are not satisfactory, therefore this Precinct will continue to include standing items in our agenda that are have not been clarified.

3. Development Applications

- DA 362/22 59 Crows Nest Rd Waverton. Alterations and additions to residential building. Construction of single storey rear extension.
- DA 262/22 52 Crows Nest Rd Waverton. Dual occupancy and strata subdivision

DISCUSSION

- A meeting member noted they were preparing an objection to this proposal which seeks to excavate 12 metres below ground in a heritage conservation area.
- The meeting heard there will be destabilisation and vibrations and the issues are the size of the development in a conservation area and the depth of the dig not in keeping with the local area.
- D-Lap reports and condition reports should be noted in the comments factoring in there is an apartment building adjacent to track damage from vibrations and destabilisation.

MOTION:

UNION AND EDWARD PRECINCTS OBJECT TO THE PROPOSAL FOR ITS IMPACT ON THE CONSERVATION AREA AND THE SIZE AND SCALE OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT.

Passed without objection

I. DA 355/22

3, Morton St Wollstonecraft. Demolition of Two Strata Residential Flat Buildings and Construction of a New Residential Flat Building. Noted

II. DA 72/22

45 Thomas Street.

This went to North Sydney Planning Committee today [December 7, 2022]. Feedback from the meeting will be available in time online. Approved by NSLPP.

NOTE:

PRECINCT[S] WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY TO THE NSC DIRECTOR OF PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NOTIFICATION TIMING AND INPUT FROM OBJECTORS NOT IDEAL. ONLY 36 HOURS-NOTICE WAS GIVEN THERE WAS NO CONSULTATION WITH OBJECTORS.

III. 253-267 Pacific Highway, North Sydney (PP-2021-2926). Corner McLaren Street / Pacific Highway. On public exhibition from Wednesday 7 December 2022 until Friday 3 February 2023.

DISCUSSION:

- The meeting heard there is community concern about the planning proposal being advertised during the holiday period.
- Extending the exhibition window to the end of February would be preferable.
- See more about this Planning Proposal and 'Have your Say' at <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/pp-253-267-pacific-highway-north-sydney>

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

4. Council Matters and Notices

The following matters were shared with members at the meeting:

- Proposal for Heritage Conservation Area for Parraween Street and listing of Hayden Orpheum Picture Palace
- Plans to develop diverse and affordable housing
- Post-exhibition reports on Draft Plan of Management for Neighbourhood Parks, Draft Bushland Plan of Management and Draft Playgrounds Plan of Management

Discussion:

The meeting heard the Premier of NSW and the Local State Member made an announcement regarding the Western harbour tunnel construction which will now be constructed across the harbour with deep tunnel boring machines instead of being an Immersed Tube Tunnel.

*"Tunnelling means we no longer need construction sites at Balls Head and Berrys Bay in Waverton ... I'm enormously excited to be able to return Berrys Bay to the local community and deliver them 1.9 hectares of beautiful foreshore parkland and public space, even earlier than planned."*¹

The meeting agreed it is a better outcome for Waverton however are still concerned about where the tunnel will now be located:

- There is no detail
- We can't rely on a press release 'announceable'
- no information is available other than looking at the FAQ sheet for Rozelle
- What are the gradients for this bored tunnel
- What are the safe levels of exhaust
- Where are the pollution stacks going to go?
- There are a substantial amount of impacts currently in play on all fronts of the North Sydney LGA at the moment—The Harbour Bridge Cycleway and consequent loss of Bradfield Park; 2 x Metro station construction sites; Warringah Freeway construction; destruction of Cammeray Park, substantial removal of established tree canopy; the Western Harbour Tunnel and proposed Berry Street Distributor cutting the North Sydney CBD in half—that are yet to be finalised and are ALL very concerning.

The meeting agreed time is pressing and would like to ask Council to compile an update, encompassing all of the different iterations of information put out by the State government regarding the Western Harbour Tunnel and for Transport for NSW to provide a new EIS.

RESOLUTION

EDWARD AND UNION PRECINCTS REQUEST AN UPDATED EIS FROM TRANSPORT FOR NSW INCORPORATING THE MOST CURRENT AND COMPLETE INFORMATION AND REQUEST COUNCIL PROVIDES ANY FURTHER DETAILS ON THE COUNCIL WEBSITE FOR PRECINCT AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO BE ABLE TO RESPOND AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.

1. Statement by Felicity Wilson <https://felicitywilson.com.au/media/major-milestone-for-sydneys-new-harbour-tunnel>

5. Merger of Edward and Union Precincts Update

The meeting heard the merger between Union and Edward precincts is being processed.

The next steps are:

- to nominate office bearers in the new year: Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Calls were made for any nominations.
- an AGM will take place on 1 February 2023. Financial statements will be available at that meeting and elections for office bearers will be held.
- operational funding to be resolved for both Precincts:

- (a) Union Precinct has sought funding for the next financial year. Edward has not as their funds exceed the upper limit.
- (b) The two respective Treasurers will consolidate funds into Union Account.
- (c) Council will advise as to funding arrangements
- (d) Union Precinct PO Box will be the primary mailing address. Co-Chair MC will organise for the name to be changed.
- (e) - Once the name of the new Precinct is approved by approx. mid-January 2023 distribution of the agenda via pamphlet will take place. Emailing list will be consolidated.
- (f) - Intend for the hybrid face-to-face and Zoom meeting currently implemented by Union Precinct to continue as it has been working well and enhances inclusivity. Council has yet to advise on its preferred process and the availability of zoom licences and other equipment.

The meeting heard the proposed new name for the merged precincts of Lawson was deemed appropriate by Councils' historian.

Other options of Bank and Euroka were put forward at the meeting. A vote was taken and Euroka was the most popular of the three options of Lawson, Euroka and Bank.

ACTION: GMc WILL LIAISE WITH COUNCIL OFFICERS TO REACH A CONCLUSION ON THE NEW NAME.

6. Mayor Baker Questions on Notice and from the floor from members

- (a) **Q: The master plan for McMahon's point village and the pocket park. What is the status where is it heading.**
A:
 - The East Crescent pocket park is at stage one.
 - The master plan will go ahead once a more refined design has been created for the next stage seeing it continue up to King George Street.
 - Community consultation will happen in the first quarter of 2023.
 - A special rate specifically for Kirribilli and McMahons Point village upgrades was imposed on LGA ratepayers. These funds are earmarked only for those works.
 - Implementation is the issue at the moment due to lack of resources and staff to manage the project.
 - A number of projects are going on in the LGA at the moment; Crows Nest, Kirribilli and Neutral Bay.
 - The new GM will look at projects gaps, resourcing, staffing in 2023
 - Traffic is also going to be looked at and is included in the master plan. t
 - Ideally 40km-an-hour/ shared zones along Blues Point Road is something Council would like in most of the LGA's villages, a holistic look at all.
 - These projects to date have not been transparent. This Council is re-looking at it all.
 - Next public exhibition of the master plan will factor in all of the above.
 - There is an absolute obligation and commitment to the village upgrades.
- (b) **Comment: The village atmosphere needs to be protected. We have issues here in the village with hooning and the Commodore Hotel, for example, not adhering to its approved activities. There is an overall lack of compliance generally with quite a few businesses, inconsistently operating.**
A:
 - Non-compliance is a serious issue and something that should be communicated to local ward members, not just to the precinct team.
 - The new GM will be focused on keeping the culture of the community at the heart of everything that Council does.
 - If there are compliance violations and concerns, send details to the compliance team at Council and copy ward councillors in on the email.

NOTE: IN FUTURE THIS PRECINCT WILL SEND A NOTE TO LOCAL WARD MEMBERS AND COMPLIANCE TEAM IN ADDITION TO RAISING CONCERNS VIA MINUTES AT PRECINCT MEETINGS.

- (c) **Q: Status of the West Harbour Tunnel, Berry Street and other TfNSW projects devastating the LGA.**
A:
 - Council has made gains with federal government ministers who have agreed not to invest in any of the TFNSW projects in this LGA.
 - Council's position is to halt, and then review, not to proceed with the northern Beaches Link project, and not for anything to proceed on any of the projects in this LGA until March 2023.
 - The Western harbour tunnel modifications will be exhibited early next year.

- It is flawed project, and we must respond accordingly
- Ideally we want to see modification to the trajectory of the tunnel and knock on effects to Berry St.
- Council will not give up right up until construction begins.
- The devastation of the proposed Warringah freeway 'upgrades' with multiple spaghetti flyovers is worth fighting against.
- Council requested to be a third-party campaigner for the purpose of the upcoming election campaign so it can run protest ads.
- The contempt for local community by TFNSW is galling.
- Council wrote to the NSW Shadow Minister for Transport, and closer to the election will implement action around the loss of trees, tree replacement [two trees for one/new trees to be planted within 500-metres of where they were taken from/maintenance of all new plantings so they don't fail/requesting established trees—not saplings—so there's greater opportunity for new plantings to survive]. The priority is to restore the canopy.

(d) **Q: EV charging. There' are only 10 in Council carparks currently. What are the plans for other stations in the LGA.**

A:

- From January 1 2023, 100% of Council's energy will be from renewables and that's a \$120,000 per year saving, money which will be put into creating additional charging stations.
- Council will be trialling an electric car share scheme in North Sydney.
- The sustainability plan, recently adopted by Council, include open-air car charging stations in places such as the Coal Loader, so not just in car parks.
- These are not symbolic acts but real measures.
- Council is also looking at strategies such as opening up the Council staff car park on weekends for additional parking for community and business when it is not in use for staff parking. There will be a co-ordinated campaign around this in time.

(e) **Q: The quarantine depot is it within councils care and control yet?**

A:

- Various ideas are being looked at such as a Seniors Centre, a Womens Shed and other options.
- Community consultation and careful planning needs to happen.
- Woodleys shed, is still under State government control and there's no real reason for it not to be transferred now. The structure is falling apart as is the jetty.
- Community consultation took place in mid-January 2022.
- The Coal Loader wharf is another piece of State Government infrastructure that is being neglected. One of Council's landscape architects, has created a wonderful plan for it which has been refined and is a great example of what can be done.
- Feedback and consultation show everyone wants adaptive re-use of these sites.

(f) **Q: Solar initiatives in the LGA. Are their plans and programs involving solar?**

A:

- North Sydney Council wants to leading the way in terms of medium and high-density buildings and solar.
- The new general manager is tasked to making this happen.

(g) **Q: Local planning and crown land in the LGA. Waverton Bowling Club, which was under control of the State Government and has now been transferred to the Metropolitan Land Council.**

- The bowling club was zoned for public recreation.
- Council wants the State government to acquire and return this land to Council.
- Council has a list of demands that will be circulated to Precincts in the lead up to the State election in 2023.
- The Cammeray Golf Club in Cammeray Park lease is a similar scenario which could see the same thing happen again.
- Council has written to the Minister requesting no leases be renewed before consulting with Council
- A register of lands in state government control would be helpful.

(h) **Q. Status of North Sydney pool project.**

A:

- \$28 million in 2017 morphed over one year to become a \$58 million-dollar project.
- It is a constrained site due to heritage and topography.
- The previous Council pushed t awarding of the tender through on New Year's Eve 2020.
- This was a \$63.8 million contract with three million taken from Council's open-space budget

- 30 million was borrowed.
- The current council inherited an over budget, delayed project which was not being managed effectively.
- The new council has asked for formal modelling and has set up transparency for the remainder of the project and has engaged a probity officer.
- Operational modelling has been done.
- The financing of the project is extremely burdensome to Council and ratepayers.
- On October 10 a Mayoral Minute was put forward for a review to ensure the project is financially sustainable.
- The new GM has been involved prior to taking p her new role and Price Waterhouse Cooper has been chosen to implement the review.
- Moving forward North Sydney Council will be radically transparent, apart from any commercial in confidence details, regarding the pool project.
- The goal is to deliver a great pool for the community that will be operated by Council.

The Mayor was thanked for her attendance and frankness on matters of concern to the precincts.

MEETING CLOSED 8:55pm