



## WOLLSTONECRAFT PRECINCT MEETING 12 June 2024 – MINUTES

1. **Open meeting. Acknowledgement of Country:** RB (Chair) read the acknowledgement
2. **Apologies:** AW, CF, JS, JC, LW, SW
3. **Confirmation of Minutes** of meeting held on **10 April 2024:**  
Motion: That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday **10 April 2024**, having been circulated were taken as read and are hereby confirmed.

**Proposer:** JH    **Seconder:** RH

The motion was put and passed unanimously.

#### 4. DEVELOPMENT MATTERS

- **Five Ways Planning Proposal** - Motion to approve Precinct's Submission on SSD-66826207 Fiveways Site Crows Nest. There were 34 Objections and 7 Supporters. Confirmation of submission which can be read on the planning portal website: <https://www.planningportal.nsw.gov.au/major-projects/projects/mixed-use-development-including-fill-affordable-housing-five-ways-crows-nest>

**Proposer:** JH    **Seconder:** GY

The motion was put and passed by show of hands – 21 For and 3 Abstentions.

- **Outstanding Developments Wollstonecraft/Crows Nest:**

1. **DA 193/23 at 270 Pacific Highway Crows Nest :**

**Council comment:** This matter remains an active appeal. The Land and Environment Court conducted a s.34 conciliation conference on 2 April which was subsequently adjourned in late April 2024. This has been further adjourned since, a process that is presently ongoing. This is not unusual in circumstances where the applicant is seeking to resolve issues raised by Council. While we are currently unable to confirm any particular outcome for the appeal at this stage, resident submitters can



expect a further update on the application in coming weeks. This is an unwelcome development for at least 7 properties in Sinclair Street which will lose all morning sun and have more traffic using the shared road.

## 2. **DA at 7-9 Selwyn St Wollstonecraft:**

**Council comment:** The appeal for this matter has now concluded with the appeal now upheld following agreement with Council on amended plans. A copy of the Land and Environment Court's decision can be accessed via the NSW Caselaw website here:

[CPDM Pty Ltd v North Sydney Council - NSW Caselaw](#)

## 5. **Wollstonecraft Precinct Priorities**

Barbara DeGraff facilitated a session on priorities that North Sydney Council are seeking feedback on for the next 10 years with a closing date for submissions of June 23 2024. Everyone is encouraged to go on to the website at <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/> and make a submission. Priorities were discussed in 3 areas; Integrated Transport; Open Space and Recreation; and Culture & Creativity.

## 6. **INTEGRATED TRANSPORT**

There was much discussion on what are the most important priorities and a call for specific suggestions for improvement. The focus was on the North Sydney LGA and Wollstonecraft.

General consensus was that the **most important** priorities were;

- Improving lighting, sidewalks, **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY and pedestrian infrastructure**
- Integrating pedestrian safety with cycling safety is of paramount importance in areas like Crows Nest with the growth of eBikes and food delivery vehicles.

The **medium priorities** were:

- Improving **bus** infrastructure – suggested use of **Mini Buses** throughout Wollstonecraft to take residents up the hill to the Metro



and Crows Nest shops and down to Berry Island Reserve which is not easily accessible for those who need to drive.

- Improving **transport interchange** – a covered walkway would be welcomed between Crows Nest Metro and St Leonards station
- Improving **accessible car parking** – It's important to provide adequate ACCESSIBLE PARKING, especially at places like the METRO and Berry Island Reserve.

The **lowest priorities** were;

- Improving **EV infrastructure**
- Improving **cycling** infrastructure (safety) -
- Improving **car share** – **NO SUPPORT**

**COMMENTS ON INTEGRATED TRANSPORT** included:

*"Too much money spent on cycling infrastructure for not enough use."*

*"The cycleways are in the wrong places, that's why cyclists don't use them."*

*"More needs to be spent on cycling infrastructure to join up and complete a network so cyclists would use it."*

*"Why can't we do it like European cities that separate cycleways from walkways and roadways and provide lighting?"*

*"Wollstonecraft is hilly. Why not use of Mini Buses down to Berry's Bay and up to the Metro/Crows Nest?"*

*"How about a Wollstonecraft Mini Bus on-demand service?"*

*"It would be good if the bus stops provided audible options telling you when the next bus is coming like the trains."*

*"There is NO need for chargers in parking stations. People charge their cars at home. That is a waste of money."*

Even the lowest priorities attracted support from some residents.



### Suggestions for **where pedestrian safety needed to be improved.**

- Smoothey Park lighting is inadequate, and parts of the footpath had no lighting at all. Needs lighting right through the park. Residents do not feel safe there at night.
- Nicholson St / Oxley St intersection is not safe.
- Nicholson St / Hume St intersection is not safe. Stop sign is ignored. This intersection will see increased traffic when the Metro opens
- Christie Street near the walkway
- All of the intersections along Oxley Street
- Shirley Rd and Telopea Street. Drivers coming over the railway bridge are going too fast and do not slow down as they cross the railway bridge and veer left down Shirley Road. When you are coming out of the laneway at 29 Shirley Road you can't see them. . A warning sign to be aware of traffic entering Shirley Road from the laneway is suggested
- Boronia St / River Rd intersection was particularly dangerous coupled with the narrowness of the footpath over the railway line and the difficulty of crossing River Road when going to / from Lithgow Road Reserve.
- Railway Bridge on River Road. Walking across the bridge is very dangerous. It is too narrow and there is no safety rail.
- Use of "Visual Controls" - very common in cities overseas to show pedestrians how and where they should walk etc. A lot of emphasis on vehicle driver responsibility but not enough on pedestrian responsibility.
- The pathway on Hume Street from River Road to the Metro is very dark.
- Reduce traffic speed of 30 Kms per hour around Wollstonecraft Station.
- Use minibuses instead of an hourly large bus to improve frequency.

### **7. OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION**

There was a general consensus that the **lack of open space is a major issue.** After an interesting discussion, there was general agreement that:

- It would be best to **repurpose North Sydney Oval** from an elite facility to a sports facility with broader community sports use like the stadiums in Launceston - and leverage the iconic stands. Both the NTC and York Park



support elite and community sport successfully. Both grounds are in better condition than North Sydney Oval.

- There was **100% support for requiring BOOKINGS for public spaces** rather than charging fees. For example, when a trainer brought a group to an area with public exercise equipment they took over so others could not use the equipment.
- **Some roads could be closed** at various times to become recreational facilities at the weekends / evenings (if done carefully). This has been successfully implemented in various cities in Europe.
- **Precinct supports the partial closure of Willoughby Road between Clarke Street and Albany Street.**
- Pedestrianisation of Willoughby Road has been suggested and it needs full support of Council to pass Transport for NSW.
- We support better use of under-utilised community spaces like school playgrounds be could become shared open and recreation spaces when school is not in session. Both public and private schools.

#### **COMMENTS REGARDING OPEN SPACE**

*"In the context of our location so close to the city and the water are we lacking open space?"*

*"We do not need enormous spaces. Pocket parks with seats scattered throughout the area like London are great."*

*"Casual seating throughout Wollstonecraft and Crows Nest, especially in hilly areas, would be great."*

***"We are missing contemplative outdoor space to visit in times of grief."***

*"Not enough investment in the North Sydney Oval to maintain it as an elite sporting ground."*

*"I don't think we ought to be charging for use of public space. We want to be encouraging people to use those spaces."*



*“Why not charge a cleaning fee for the use of public spaces?” A cleaning fee is really a usage fee.*

*The lack of shade at the Coal Loader is a health problem. Why not get sponsorship for some shade cloth if budget is the problem?*

*“Create a park over the Railway Line like the new one in St Leonards over the Railway line to Wollstonecraft and along Lithgow Road.”*

*“I would like the “better lighting in Smoothey Park”, as it is the shortest home from the meeting for me. Some lights are only powered by solar and can be weak and there are some gaps with no lights.”*

#### **UNDER UTILISED ASSETS identified:**

- School playgrounds and theatres
- Berry Island Reserve – is under-utilised because there is no parking
- Wondakia (private property) has big open spaces
- Crows Nest Community Centre
- Independent Theatre – wouldn't it be good to have an amateur theatre company housed there. There used to be a very popular theatre in Walker St North Sydney. We should encourage such a facility.

#### **8. CULTURE AND CREATIVITY.** Due to time, this subject was covered briefly.

##### **1. Activating laneways and plazas – STRONG SUPPORT**

There was a strong general consensus favouring creative ways to brighten up and activate the laneways and plazas, like Melbourne and Darwin have done, especially in Crows Nest in places like Clarke Lane, Hume Lane, ZigZag Lane and Willoughby Lane.

##### **2. Providing more ticketed events – NO SUPPORT**

##### **3. Providing subsidised workspaces for creatives – NO SUPPORT**

##### **4. Providing creative spaces in community facilities – SOME SUPPORT**

##### **5. Sharing heritage stories – SOME SUPPORT.** *We are already doing that*



## COMMENTS

- *“Let’s add Creativity to our stations”*
- *“The mini bus could take people to our creative spaces – Wendy’s Secret Garden, The Coal Loader, Berry Island Reserve etc.”*

9. **Summary of Actions report from Council:** Copy is attached together with copy of a reply sent to the Director Open Space and Infrastructure.

10. **Vote of Appreciation:** A vote of Thanks was made to AF who provides the refreshments for the Precinct meetings and has been doing so for the past 7 years. She does this willingly and sometimes forgets to make a claim for her expenses – but we do follow up and ensure she is recompensed. There was a spontaneous round of applause for AF.

## Close of meeting

The chairman closed the meeting at 9 pm followed by refreshments. The next meeting is on Wednesday, 14 August 2024 at 7.30pm.

## Attachments:

- Summary of Action Report from May meeting
- Response to Director Open Spaces and Infrastructure