



MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Access and Inclusion Committee** meeting held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday 6 August 2024.



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Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at 5.35pm.

In Attendance

Chair:	Councillor Maryann Beregi
Councillors:	Councillor Godfrey Santer
Committee Members:	Jillian Christie (remotely)
	Naomi Deck
	Kate Hooke
	Kate Wilson
	Alistair Lee (remotely)
Council staff:	Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Planning and Environment
	Gabrielle Rennard, Service Unit Manager Community Resilience and Sustainability
	George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator
	Sam Clarke, Community Engagement Specialist (remotely)
	Miranda Shoppee, Minutes Secretary

Apologies

Councillor Zoe Baker (Mayor)
Council CEO Therese Cole
Committee member Jaci Armstrong
Committee member Judy Harwood

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 May 2024 were taken as read and confirmed.

Kate Hooke advised that she was an Apology for the meeting of 21 May 2024 which was not noted in the Minutes. This amendment will be made, with confirmation of the Minutes for the meeting of 21 May 2024 deferred to the next meeting of the Committee

2. Disclosures of Interest

Nil

3. Committee Reports

3.1. UserWay Widget Consultation

AUTHOR: George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to brief the Access and Inclusion Committee (AIC) on the UserWay Accessibility Widget that Council has recently implemented on the YourSay website.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The UserWay Accessibility Widget is a program that adds additional features to a website, to improve digital accessibility.
- Council has commenced a one-year subscription of the widget on our YourSay website to ensure that more members of our community can engage in current and upcoming consultations.
- The program allows visitors to the YourSay website to alter the display of information at the click of a button. Features include live translations into 50+ languages, screen reader capability, alteration of text size and text spacing, and various other options.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note Council's subscription to the UserWay Accessibility Widget, to enhance digital accessibility to the YourSay community engagement pages on Council's website.
2. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback on how Council may most effectively use the UserWay Accessibility Widget to maximise accessibility features.

Committee member Alistair Lee joined the meeting at 5.51pm.

The Motion was moved by Naomi Deck and seconded by Kate Wilson.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note Council's subscription to the UserWay Accessibility Widget, to enhance digital accessibility to the YourSay community engagement pages on Council's website.
2. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback on how Council may most effectively use the UserWay Accessibility Widget to maximise accessibility features.

The Chair requested that any additional feedback on the UserWay Accessibility Widget be emailed to the Access and Inclusion Coordinator.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- English (Australian) to be set as the default language.
- It was suggested for ESL (English as a second language) users that the current widget icon might not be recognised as a way to access language supports.
- Dropdown tab to be added for ESL (English as a second language) users.
- Committee felt widget to be a useful resource and questioned if it could be used beyond the Your Say page e.g. across various Council webpages.
- Suggested feedback survey regarding the UserWay Accessibility Widget be added to YourSay page.
- UserWay Accessibility Widget information to be added to the accessibility statement in the mobile version of the website.

The Community Engagement Specialist left the meeting at 5.58pm.

3.2. Crows Nest/St Leonards Transport Oriented Development

AUTHOR: George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to brief the Access and Inclusion Committee on the State Government's Transport Oriented Development (TOD) proposal currently on exhibition for the Crows Nest / St Leonards Precinct.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- The Crows Nest/St Leonards [Transport Oriented Development Program](#) (TOD) rezoning proposal is now on exhibition until 5pm Friday 16 August 2024.
- Crows Nest/St Leonards has been identified as an "accelerated precinct" under the program, to deliver up to 3,255 new homes (over and above the existing capacity of the "2036 Plan" which is discussed below), 2600 new jobs, and a mandatory affordable housing contribution of 10-15 per cent.
- The plans consider the built form, environment, movement, and land use. The plans appear to be silent on social infrastructure.
- The TOD builds on the recommendations and targets established in the previously completed '[St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan](#)', which was finalised in 2020. Together with the targets established in the 2036 Plan, forecasts estimate that total population growth in the precinct by 2036 will be 16,000 people.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee note the State Government's Transport Oriented Development proposal currently on exhibition for the Crows Nest / St Leonards Precinct.

2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and feedback on the TOD proposal to help further inform Council's submission.

A Motion was moved by Kate Wilson and seconded by Alistair Lee:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee note the State Government's Transport Oriented Development proposal currently on exhibition for the Crows Nest / St Leonards Precinct.

2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and feedback on the TOD proposal to help further inform Council's submission.

3. THAT Committee members provide input and feedback to the Access and Inclusions Coordinator by COB 9 August 2024.

4. THAT the Committee make a submission to the State Government re the Transport Oriented Development proposal, with this submission to be attached to Council's submission.

5. THAT the Committee's submission include an invitation to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Space to attend a Committee meeting for further discussion.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee note the State Government's Transport Oriented Development proposal currently on exhibition for the Crows Nest / St Leonards Precinct.

2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and feedback on the TOD proposal to help further inform Council's submission.

3. THAT Committee members provide input and feedback to the Access and Inclusions Coordinator by COB 9 August 2024.

4. THAT the Committee make a submission to the State Government re the Transport Oriented Development proposal, with this submission to be attached to Council's submission.

5. THAT the Committee's submission include an invitation to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Space to attend a North Sydney Council, Access and Inclusion Committee meeting for further discussion.

The Chair advised Submission to be from a user perspective, not a planning perspective, and suggested that the Committee include an overall purpose statement e.g., "An accessible, inclusive precinct for the future", as suggested by Ms Wilson.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- State government must be an exemplar model in design and practice and at minimum adhere to its own models and standards including the Liveable Design Standards.
- The TOD should be building for today and the future, moving beyond building codes to be an accessible, inclusive, safe, and connected precinct. Ensuring accessibility, connectivity, safe paths of travel/crossings, adequate community spaces and areas to gather and people feel welcome
- No details provided regarding accessibility e.g., transport routes, wayfinding Noise abatement, heating, cooling, ventilation etc.
- Mr Lee to provide the Access and Inclusions Coordinator with contact details for Alli Fagan, Guide Dogs Instructor at Guide Dogs Australia to assist with the Committee's submission.

3.3. Australian Disability Network membership hour allocation

AUTHOR: George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present an overview of how North Sydney Council's membership hours with the Australian Disability Network (ADN) can be utilised, and to seek feedback from the Access and Inclusion Committee on the prioritisation of proposed projects.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- North Sydney Council has recently renewed its gold membership with the Australian Disability Network, from 1 August 2024 to 1 August 2025.
- Included within the membership are 35 hours of specialized consultancy which can be used to support Council in developing its access and inclusion capacity. In the past, these consultancy hours have been utilised to support Council to develop Disability Inclusion Action Plans (DIAPs) and implement specific action items from DIAPs.
- To ensure this valuable resource is being adequately utilised, Council is seeking input and feedback from the Access and Inclusion Committee on prioritising potential future projects.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note Council's membership to the Australian Disability Network.
2. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback on prioritisation of projects for resourcing in the current Australian Disability Network membership period.

A Motion was moved by Naomi Deck and seconded by Kate Wilson:

1. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note Council's membership to the Australian Disability Network.
2. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback to Council's Access and Inclusion Coordinator on prioritisation of projects for resourcing in the current Australian Disability Network membership period.
3. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Coordinator determine what relevant training is offered by Local Government NSW (LGNSW), with a Notice of Motion to be considered by Council for submission to the LGNSW conference in November 2024 should LGNSW's training offering be considered lacking.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note Council's membership to the Australian Disability Network.
2. **THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback to Council's Access and Inclusion Coordinator on prioritisation of projects for resourcing in the current Australian

Disability Network membership period.

3. THAT the Access and Inclusion Coordinator research what relevant training is offered by Local Government NSW (LGNSW), with a Notice of Motion to be considered by Council for submission to the LGNSW conference in November 2024 should LGNSW's training offering be considered lacking.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Consider 'Train the Trainer' model as a possibility to expand training beyond Councillors, Council's Executive Leadership Team, and frontline staff.
- Access and Inclusion Coordinator to liaise with Committee member Judy Harwood whose accreditations may assist in research.
- The Committee suggested focus projects for the current Australian Disability Network membership period to include accreditation as a Disability Confident Recruiter and assessment on ADN's Access and inclusion Index.

4. General Business

- Mr Lee raised the difficulties of lodging a pre-Development Application or a Development Application. The Director Planning and Environment advised that Council has a Planning Advisor and is looking to employ an additional person to assist with the workload.
- The Chair noted the possibility of submitting a Notice of Motion to the LGNSW conference in November 2024 re the state government providing a more accessible planning portal, as well as a helpline.
- The Chair advised that the next Committee meeting would occur after the Council elections in September 2024, and a new Committee Chair would be chosen.

5. Closure

The Meeting concluded at 7.11pm.