

## **NEUTRAL PRECINCT Minutes**

**Tuesday 8 October 2024 commenced at 7:00pm.**

1. Apologies CP, EF, TP, TM
2. Additional item of TfNSW freeway closures added
3. Business from minutes of meeting held 10 September 2024:
  - i. September 2024 minutes were confirmed as accurate. Proposed by PW, seconded by CB
  - ii. Council responses to Precinct motions

Precinct asked a question about parking meters in September with regards to the 8% surcharge charged and if there was a fee free option. Council response below:

Acting Team Leader Parking Meters advised Customers can avoid the surcharge by using the standing 'traditional' parking meters and refraining from paying using the PayStay App and Touch N Go boxes. Whilst the network is cashless, the meters accept card payment via the black payWave box on the stem of the meter underneath the screen. Both debit and credit are accepted as well as prepaid cards and payment via smart devices. You can find a map of our parking meter and Touch N Go locations here: [Parking meter and Touch N Go locations – North Sydney Council \(nsw.gov.au\)](https://www.nsw.gov.au/parking-meter-and-touch-n-go-locations)

There is an 8.25% surcharge when using the PayStay app and Touch N Go boxes. The app provides additional functionality to help manage parking, and has been popular with many, while others have found it confusing. The app identifies the cost for that service which includes the surcharge. All charges can be found on our website under 'Additional fees and surcharges.' In making the decision to implement this service, Council chose to reduce the costs passed on to the broader rate payer base in favour of a fee for use model. As the surcharge is associated with an additional service provided by the contractor, by Council not absorbing the cost the surcharge has not been spread across all payment options

Council is taking steps to address community concerns including installing 30 more parking meters across the LGA, putting up clear signs above the Touch N Go boxes, and reminding everyone that using the PayStay App is optional, not mandatory. We've also created a video outlining how to use the different payment options to help people adjust to the change.

Council will also be providing the community with assistance in using the parking app and technology through the technology help sessions at Stanton Library.

Council has also addressed additional concerns and queries about the new meter system by providing an FAQ's on the website which can be accessed at the following hyperlink: [Parking meters frequently asked questions and answers – North Sydney Council](#).

Council teams are here to support all community members with the new technology and our Customer Service team is available on 02 9939 8100. You can also contact Orikan directly on 1300 322 111.

There was confusion that this answer seems to say you can avoid the surcharge by not using parking spots that use the new payment system. With the scarcity of spots in our area there was concern that may not be always possible. Clarification was sought.

4. Warringah Freeway Works Upgrade; GC advised that residents of Upper North Alfred Street, Wyagdon, Rose will not have free access to their properties anymore for 6 days a week ( Mon – Sat) and 3 variable nights a week. They will have to enter their properties via Winter Ave under traffic control. This will continue until late 2026!

5. Food Delivery Riders on footpath in Neutral bay. TM raised the issue of delivery riders on the footpath in Neutral Bay. Many members relayed close calls had with riders on various section of Military Road in NB.

A motion was unanimously passed asking North Sydney Council to take action to ensure the safety of residents.

6. Drivers exiting to Falcon Street via Warringah Freeway Bus Lane

TP raised the issue of drivers using the bus lane to exit the Warringah Freeway then turning left in to Falcon St, often just missing pedestrians on the crossing. It was noted in the past a police officer had been stationed there

for a week. These drivers try to quickly exit the bus lane (which they are not meant to be in) and don't wait for pedestrians to clear the crossing. Effectively committing a second offence to cover up their first offence.

A motion was unanimously passed asking North Sydney Council to contact TfNSW to see if anything can be done to mitigate the situation, such as a 'Caution, pedestrian crossing' sign when turning left.

7. Cammeray Warringah Freeway entry and North Sydney Exit closures by TfNSW. It was raised that numerous NP members and their family members had inadvertently made a trip in to the city on the weekend. This was due to the Cammeray freeway entry reopening, so residents thought they could use it to get to Neutral Bay, but the North Sydney Exit was closed. TfNSW makes much of their website detailing traffic changes, but this is dangerous to access in a moving vehicle. As these ramps often close in a pair, it was assumed they had opened in as a pair. The freeway removes some Neutral Bay bound traffic from Military Road and for those in the construction zone enables them to miss the dangerous Tramway Lane exit.

A motion was unanimously passed asking North Sydney Council to ask TfNSW to put signage at the Cammeray Freeway Ramp entry stating whether the North Sydney Exit ramp is open or not. This information is vital to Neutral Bay residents and helps remove traffic from Military Rd.

#### 8. Development Application modifications

i. :DA137/2023/3 5-7 Lower Wycombe Road, Neutral Bay  
S4.55(1A) modification application to approved development to amend conditions of consent.

#### 9. Upcoming meetings

- i. Council – 8 October – inaugural meeting of new council
- ii. Neutral Precinct - 12<sup>th</sup> November – Neutral Bay Club

Meeting closed at 8.20pm