

WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING

Tuesday 4th March 2025

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The meeting commenced at 7.35

Chair: IG

Minutes: KA

Attendance : 12

Apologies: JD and KM

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The confirmation of the previously circulate draft minutes was moved by PK and seconded by KA
“That the February 2025 minutes be accepted”.

Carried unanimously.

3. EXISTING BUSINESS UPDATES

Rates Increase

The Council meeting to discuss the proposed rate increase was so well attended it was difficult to get into the chambers. There were approximately 30 presenters with only 1 supportive of the proposed increase. The majority of Councillors supported the increase. The Precinct believes the proposal is excessive, but we still want at minimum to have a well-funded Council where high quality services currently provided can continue.

The next step is submission to IPART by the Council of the approved increase. The tribunal will consider if the proposed increase is justified.

KA is requested to present on behalf of the Precinct.

Rail Noise

This has been an ongoing issue over many years. A lubricant from the US had been trialed but it was deemed to be unsatisfactory. Another lubricant from Slovenia (and which was thought to be superior by the Rail Noise Action Group) is to be tested in the near future.

Carradah Park

The Precinct Executive had undertaken a walk through with the Council GM Gary Parsons late last year. Several lookout areas had vegetation growing in inappropriate locations and these have been removed. However, there is now a wall of Banksias growing on the mid-level which will need to be thinned, as they are steadily forming a wall- blocking of the bay and harbour views from the parkland.

In addition, the area on Larkin St., just south of Wood St., has vegetation which is difficult and expensive to maintain and the whole space is only partially useable by the public. With increases in housing density in North Sydney this parkland area needs to be reevaluated to lower its maintenance costs and make it more accessible to the public. We understand Council is going to talk with the Bushcare group about the best way forward for this last section of Larkin St.

West Harbour Tunnel and New Park at Berry's Bay

The headers continue boring toward Waverton, and are running to schedule.

Representatives of Transport for NSW will attend the next Precinct meeting to discuss both the tunnel progress and to brief us on planning of the new Berry's Bay Park, which is a related part of the overall project.

We have been advised that some parking spots may be temporarily lost around Carradah Park and the base of Balls Head Rd during the tunnelling though this area and associated with the Park's construction.

It seems likely that Woodley's Shed site will be reimagined and developed as a community facility as part of the WHT project. Its adaptive reuse and redevelopment are now under consideration by NSC and the tunnel contractor. IG and JB are to meet with Councils GM this coming Thursday to be briefed on the state of planning of this new building. Concern was expressed that the new Woodley's Shed should not become a money pit for Council – it must have a capacity to generate some income for Council.

It was also agreed that we should raise with both the Council and with Transport for NSW both the removal of the derelict wharves and piers in the Bay; and the early development of a basketball court on the flat area between Carradah Park and Balls Head Rd.

Noakes

There are various issues here.

Air pollution from the site is monitored by the State EPA. Noakes have put in a DA for a carbon filter system to be installed with Council approval (it was noted Noakes have apparently installed a system already but nobody knows if it conforms to what they have put in their DA or whether it meets the EPA standards).

In addition, an unauthorized structure on site has been demolished and a fire safety order has been issued to pressure Noakes to bring these systems up to standard.

While the Precinct has made submissions in the past on these issues, and has made one on the currently live DA as well, others are encouraged to also make individual submissions particularly on the air quality filtration proposed as this a DA is 'live' and under active consideration. The Precinct is happy to forward its submission to anyone as a starting point for their own document, if requested.

Cape Don Restoration

Moored at the Coal Loader, it was reported that the vessel is due to be moved to dry dock at Garden Island later this year. Concern has been expressed about its sea worthiness, but new funds from the firm JR Richards have meant the on site restoration can continue. An Open Day is scheduled for May 24th.

In addition, tours of the MV Cape Don are now available every Friday and Sunday (\$10).

More information can be found at seaheritagefoundation.org.au/tours

4. NEW BUSINESS

Revised Federal Election Boundaries

There has been a change to Federal Electoral Boundaries with Waverton no longer being part of the North Sydney Electorate. Indeed, the seat of North Sydney has been abolished completely as the Electoral Commission looks to balance up numbers in the various electorates. Waverton now sits on the western edge of the Warringah Electorate.

Some other small parts of the former North Sydney electorate have gone to the Bennelong and Bradfield electorates. A map was tabled and the list of which suburbs are now in which seats were read out to the meeting.

Coal Loader Wharf

It is advised that the wharf, although in a poor state of repair, is not to be demolished. (We had misunderstood the newspaper article in reporting to the February meeting).

Instead, It is to be 'made safe' and some of the material from the structure will be retained "for possible historical re-use."

It was noted the work by Polaris Marine will take 6 months, so will clearly be major. It will all be done from on water, not from the land.

Trailers and Boats on Local Streets

This issue has been raised numerous times in the past. These non-motorized vehicles are often left for weeks at a time and include sail boats and work trailers. In some cases trucks are also parked up for long periods as well.

It was moved by KA seconded by PK

"That Council be asked to provide guidance on how they can control these types of long term 'parking up' of boat and working trailers and ask for ideas of how they might improve the situation in Waverton".

Carried.

Balls Head Heritage Listing

Balls Head is proposed for listing on the State Heritage list. Submission may now be made. As the reasons for its listing were not known, and nobody in the room could think of any obvious reason, the Chair advised that further information will be obtained for discussion at the April meeting. Questions were raised as to why it couldn't become part of Sydney Harbour National Park.

Community Awards

These awards are presented annually to those making a valued contribution in North Sydney. The categories are Community Builder, Eco Warrior, Living Legend, Next Gen and Trail Blazer.

It was Moved VY and seconded MS

"That Waverton Precinct nominate Bruce Donald for an award in the Living Legend category.

Carried.

5. DA's

The only local DA we have been advised about is the Noakes Carbon Filtration System (See above)

6. COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES

No new activities

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Tuesday 1st April and will commence at 7:30pm in the Uniting Church Community Hall, Bay Rd.

All residents are welcome.