

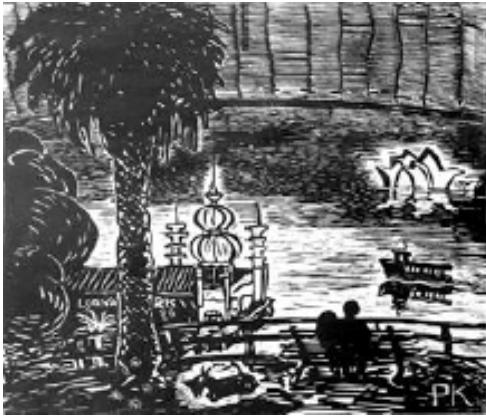
**North Sydney Local Government Area
Lavender Bay Precinct**

MINUTES

Thursday 27 March 2025

Starting at 7.00 pm

**McMahons Point Community Centre
165 Blues Point Road, McMahons Point**



Sketch by renowned late local artist Peter Kingston

Chair: Robert Stitt KC Robert@StittQC.com.au
Secretary: Joan Street lavenderbayprecinct@gmail.com

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed 41 residents to the meeting and recorded 9 apologies.

The Chair welcomed Jaimee Rogers, Liberal candidate for Warringah and residents of our neighbouring precincts, Euroka and Milson.

2. GUEST SPEAKER - Ms Jaimee Rogers, Liberal candidate for Warringah.

Jaimee Rogers in her address identified the following as issues that need to be addressed:

NATIONWIDE

- Childcare costs in Warringah are known to be among the highest in Australia and can be upwards of \$200 per day.
- Cost-of-living pressures driven by rising costs of essential goods and services, impacting household budgets and potentially leading to financial stress and hardship. The Coalition Government will introduce strategies to provide immediate cost-of-living relief for Australians.
- Cost of housing in Sydney has skyrocketed. To ease the burden on first home buyers, a Coalition Government will allow Australians to access up to \$50,000 from their superannuation to buy their first home.
- Infrastructure. The Beaches Link Tunnel, placed on hold in 2023, will be back on the agenda. This is a state issue but will require federal funding.
- Small business is the backbone of the economy. 26,000 small businesses closed over the past few years. The Coalition Government will cut red tape, make the “Instant Asset Write Off” permanent and will introduce a tax deduction for business-related meal and entertainment expenses.
- Energy. The Coalition will address this challenging issue with a combination of coal+gas, renewables and nuclear. Research conducted by Frontier Economics concluded that including nuclear power in the energy mix is cheaper – by up to 44% - for Australians in the medium-term future.
- Defence. The Coalition Government will increase defence spending.
- Mental Health. The Coalition will increase Medicare psychology rebates from 10 to 20 sessions.

LOCAL

- Does not support the proposed 87% rate increase.
- Disappointing for all that the North Sydney Olympic Pool is not complete. Need to get it finished for all including swimming carnivals.
- The absence of female changing rooms in sports venues e.g. North Sydney Oval needs to be addressed.
- Disappointing that the nearest hockey facility is in Homebush – challenging to remedy due to lack of green space.

In answering questions, the following were raised:

- Journalists hold power to account and public interest journalism should be better funded. It is a critical part of democracy. In addition it provides opportunities for new journalists.
- This community requires a strong voice in federal parliament
- The North Sydney Olympic Pool is a national asset and justifies increased federal funding.
- North Sydney Council's Business Plan for the North Sydney Olympic Pool which projects losses of \$12 million over the initial 3 years and \$25million over 10 years is unacceptable. Appointing an external Special Advisory Board with relevant expertise would be a positive step.
- International diplomacy and trade. Current world situation is challenging. Need to increase defence spending. Many countries are deserting net zero targets. However, Mr Dutton has advised he would not withdraw Australia from the Paris Agreement. The imposition of tariffs by the US is of concern and requires strong leadership with the ability to build partnerships.
- Need to remove all TV sports betting.

The Chair thanked Ms Rogers for her engaging and stimulating discussion on issues relevant to the community.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February were read and approved.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 Proposal for Special Rate Variation (SRV)

Submissions closed on *24 March 2025*. The secretary would keep Precinct informed.

4.2 1 Henry Lawson Avenue, McMahons Point

DA 410/2024

Action required by residents – submissions close 4 April 2025

Please submit an objection to this DA – details provided below.

Submit *either*:

Email [REDACTED] *or*

Council's application tracker [REDACTED]

- In 2021 the land was acquired by the NSW Government and in 2022 transferred to North Sydney Council for the creation of a continuous foreshore park between the McMahons Point Ferry Wharf and Blues Point Reserve. The current Development Application seeks

to replace the existing buildings with unnecessary new structures which would effectively leave Henry Lawson Reserve split into two parts.

- The goal of the proposed works should be to turn as much of the site as possible into green space and to blend the site levels to meet the existing ground levels on either side. Apart from the Boat Slipway area, the rest of the site should be soft landscaping. This would be in keeping with Council's policy of protecting green space.
- Several elements of the proposed works were never envisaged or discussed. They are unnecessary, interrupt the continuity of Henry Lawson Reserve and adversely affect the visual qualities of the foreshore land. They should be removed.
 - i) Toilet Block: There is an existing toilet block close by in Blues Point Reserve.
 - ii) Kayak Storage: There is kayak storage with launch facilities in nearby Sawmiller Park, and another in Quibaree Park.
 - iii) Coffee Cart: There are several Cafes in Blues Point Road which are within a short walking distance from Henry Lawson Reserve.
 - iv) Picnic area: Any seating should be done in the same style as those recently installed at the western end of Henry Lawson Reserve.
- The DA should be amended to meet the intent of the NSW Government, North Sydney Council and the community to repurpose the site as parkland to maximise the continuity of Henry Lawson Reserve.
- This DA originated with North Sydney Council. Hence to avoid conflict of interest it must be assessed by an independently appointed external assessor.
- As the site is within the UNESCO World Heritage buffer zone of the Sydney Opera House, any development on the site requires Ministerial approval.

Lavender Bay Precinct resolved:

- 1) To support the demolition of the buildings on this site, the retention of the heritage items and restoration to parkland.
- 2) To strongly oppose the provision of an amenities block, kayak storage, a coffee facility, pavements and footpath, new pedestrian boardwalk, public viewing platform and a picnic area.
- 3) The DA must be assessed by an independently appointed external assessor.
- 4) Any development on the site requires Ministerial approval.

UNANIMOUS

4.3 Noise disturbance from modified cars and motorbikes

The ongoing noise disturbance from modified cars is getting even worse. For three consecutive nights, 21, 22 and 23 March the noise was unbearable. Representatives from McMahons Point and Milsons Point will meet with the Local Area Police Commander and Mayor Baker to explore solutions. The community will request:

- i) The installation of noise detection cameras – these can be portable.
- ii) Signage – reminding people they are in a residential area and please restrict noise.
- iii) Regular police patrols, especially 10.00pm onwards on Sat nights, but preferably also on Fri and Sun nights.

4.4 Rubbish in the Harbour “Save our Sydney Harbour Campaign”

A response has been received from the Hon Jenny Aitchison MP, Minister for Roads and Regional Transport – see Appendix A. The Marine Safety Act 1998 has been amended which

will allow NSW Maritime to better manage derelict and abandoned vessels on Sydney Harbour. Lavender Bay Precinct thanked [REDACTED] and her team for achieving this amendment.

5. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

No matters were reported under this item.

6. COMMUNITY STRATEGIC PLAN

Summary

- Council has an existing Community Strategic Plan (CSP), launched by Mayor [REDACTED] in June 2022, for the period 2022 – 2032. The Plan is fully funded through council’s existing Long-Term Financial Plan. Community satisfaction survey indicates the community is satisfied with this CSP. [REDACTED]
- Council is pushing through a new CSP, which is a wish list formed by combining unfunded 'Informing Strategies' were rejected by 78% of the community. [REDACTED]

Action required by residents– by 9 April 2025

- Please submit your views (details below) to council
- Email [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]
- Council’s form [REDACTED]

6.1 What is a Community Strategic Plan?

The Community Strategic Plan is the most important document for any Council. It is the centrepiece of all Council decision-making and actions. If it is not in the Community Strategic Plan, the Council cannot pursue it.

6.2 Legislative requirements

The Local Government Act 1993 mandates that each local government area has a Community Strategic Plan (CSP).

Under the statutory “Integrated Planning & Reporting” (IP&R) requirements, the CSP informs:

- The 4-year Delivery Program including financial estimates (and the annual Operational Plan & Budget)
- The 10-year Resourcing Strategy consisting of the three inter-related components – Long-Term Financial Plan (LTFP), Asset Management Strategy and Workforce Management Strategy

The Act requires that in the year following a council election, council must *either* endorse the existing plan *or* develop a new plan.

6.3 Council has a CSP - North Sydney Vision 2040

Following extensive community consultation throughout 2021 and 2022, North Sydney Council, under Mayor [REDACTED], endorsed a new Community Strategic Plan entitled “[REDACTED]”.

This CSP is supported by a Resourcing Strategy that considers the workforce, finances, and assets necessary to deliver services to the community. Both the Delivery Program 2022 – 2026 and the annual Operational Plan & Budget have been created with full consideration of the available resources.

When assessed against key services in 2023, a high degree of community satisfaction was recorded. In October 2024, Mayor [REDACTED] reported to Council that in June 2024, 60% of the targeted KPIs had been achieved.

This raises several questions

- a) North Sydney has an existing CSP “North Sydney Vision 2040”. Why replace it? What has changed to justify a whole new plan?
- b) What is fundamentally wrong with the current CSP?
- c) If necessary, why not just revise/update it?
- d) The community has advised council it wishes projects currently outstanding to be delivered before new projects are considered. Why is the council ignoring the community?
- e) Why spend council resources on a new CSP which appears premature and a misuse of council’s resources?

6.4 The proposed “Community Strategic Plan 2025 – 2035”

The legislative requirements emphasise the key role of resource planning. However, council developed its “informing strategies” in isolation, found it didn’t have the funds to realise them and then applied to increase rates by 87% via a Special Rate Variation (SRV) to fund its wish list.

Council will not know whether it has these funds until IPART gives its decision in May and yet Council is asking the community to commit now to this unfunded CSP.

This raises several questions

- f) Why did council not follow the principles of sound financial management?
- g) Why did council not align its CSP with the statutory Government requirements?
- h) Why is council asking the community to commit to major new initiatives, all requiring financial and organisational resources, without the required funding?

This action is high risk, financially irresponsible and premature.

Lavender Bay Precinct resolved:

- i) To advise council NOT to proceed with the “Community Strategic Plan 2025- 2035” until the IPART decision concerning the Special Rate Variation (SRV) is known.
- ii) When the decision on the SRV is known council, if it then wishes to proceed with the “Community Strategic Plan 2025- 2035”, actively involve the community in developing the plan, ensuring it reflects community needs and priorities.

UNANIMOUS

7. DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

3 Parker Street, McMahons Point NSW 2060

DA103/19

Modification to Court Approved development proposing various internal and external changes including changes to lift design; entry changes; awnings and boundary fencing and consequential layout changes to a residential flat building.

Lavender Bay Precinct resolved:

No comment

UNANIMOUS

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 **65 Victoria Street, McMahons Point**

DA27/2025

Submissions close 11 April 2025

Alterations and additions to an existing semi-detached dwelling

Lavender Bay Precinct resolved:

To strongly oppose this Development Application due to:

- i) Breach of height restrictions of Clause 4.3 of NSLEP2013,
- ii) Adverse impact on the streetscape,
- iii) Adverse impact on the setting of the neighbouring heritage items, and
- iv) Loss of iconic views to neighbouring properties.

UNANIMOUS

8.2 **Cycle Ramp in Milsons Point**

Construction of the cycle ramp and associated road modifications are proceeding in Milsons Point. Ongoing unsatisfactory issues include:

- Transport for NSW (TfNSW) changing night work dates at short notice, significantly increasing inconvenience to residents needing to relocate.
- TfNSW approaching a Milsons Point apartment building concerning acquisition of private land.
- Residents again raising safety concerns with council but receiving no response.

Lavender Bay Precinct resolved:

- i) To ask Council if it has received the \$2.5 million it agreed with TfNSW in exchange for landowner consent to enable progression of the cycle ramp through Bradfield Park North (ref resolution 5, item 7.1 in Council minute 28 February 2023).
- ii) To seek a meeting with Minister Graham.

UNANIMOUS

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday 1 May 2025 (in view of Easter and Anzac Day)



Robert Stitt KC
Chair, Lavender Bay Precinct

31 March 2025

The Hon Jenny Aitchison MPMinister for Roads
Minister for Regional Transport

Ref: LA PETITION

Ms Helen Minnican
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Re: LA PETITION 500+ - MS KOBİ SHETTY – SAVE OUR SYDNEY HARBOUR – IT'S NOT A JUNKYARD – STOP POLLUTION

Dear Ms Minnican,

I write in response to the petition lodged in the Legislative Assembly on 11 February 2025, by Ms Kobi Shetty MP, regarding the Petition - Save Our Sydney Harbour.

The NSW Government recognises Sydney Harbour is renowned for its diverse marine environment and aquatic vegetation. The Harbour is home to a large variety of species, including many found nowhere else in the world and the NSW Government is taking measures to help protect it.

On Thursday, 13 February 2025, the Marine Safety Amendment Bill 2024 passed NSW Parliament. The amendments expand Section 16 of the *Marine Safety Act 1998* and will allow NSW Maritime to better manage derelict, abandoned or unseaworthy vessels and former vessels more effectively.

The amendments expand the definition of 'unsafe vessel' to include derelict vessels and former vessels, allowing for better regulation of end-of-life boats that may pose a risk to safety and the environment. This means, authorised NSW Maritime officers will now be able to intervene and take earlier action on vessels considered unseaworthy or abandoned on the water.

The amendments also provide the NSW Government with the necessary legal framework to monitor and manage these vessels, including taking action against their owners if needed.

The measures in this Bill will contribute to preserving Sydney Harbour's beauty and its biodiversity. Protecting the Harbour and its marine life is a priority for the NSW Government and these amendments are important to further secure safe and effective management of our waterways and the vessels that operate on them.

Thank you for taking the time to bring this matter to the Government's attention.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenny Aitchison".

Jenny Aitchison MP
Minister for Roads
Minister for Regional Transport