

North Sydney Combined Precincts Committee (CPC)
General Meeting
6.00pm start
Tuesday 18 June 2019
Ros Crichton Pavilion, North Sydney Council

GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Co-convenor presiding: IC (CPC Co-Convenor/Lavender Bay)

Present: BC (Bennett); BE (Bay); JK (Bay); PM (Bay Co-Convenor); JC (Edward); DW (Hayberry); LT (Holtermann); JM (Holtermann); IC (Co-Convenor/Lavender Bay), BS (Lavender Bay); MB (Neutral); EC (Neutral); MA (Registry); MDS(Registry); KH (Union); KR (Union); LT (Willoughby Bay); PM (Willoughby Bay); CE (Wollstonecraft); JH (Wollstonecraft).

Also present: JG, Manager Integrated Planning & Special Projects (North Sydney Council); GN, Community Engagement Coordinator, MM, Landscape Technical Officer (North Sydney Council), R, Director Open Space and Environmental Services, MJ (Stanton/Hayberry)

Apologies: JL (Harrison); MDS (Harrison); JB (Registry), MC (Union), IG (Waverton); PW (Willoughby Bay)

1. Introductions and Apologies

IC (Co-convenor/Lavender Bay) opened the meeting at 6.02pm

2. Guest Speaker - MM, Landscape Technical Officer - Urban Forest Strategy implementation - ATTACHMENT 1

MM (NSC) gave overview of the internationally recognised term ‘urban forest’ which is the totality of trees and shrubs canopy in an area. The presentation provided information on the importance of urban forest to the environment and land value. It gave background on NSC’s approach to developing urban forest and statistics illustrating the decline in the canopy cover in the LGA.

MM asked that the meeting takes this information back to their Precinct Committee/community to begin opening conversation with Council on how/where the urban forest can be rejuvenated and provided copies for circulation.

MM offered to make the presentation at individual Precinct Committee meetings on request.

ACTION: Precinct Committees who wish to receive individual presentations to contact MM, Landscape Technical Officer (NSC) or GN, Community Engagement Coordinator (NSC).

The Urban Forest Strategy is available at:

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Trees/Tree_Policies_Strategies

The presentation was followed by Q &A.

Q: JH (Wollstonecraft) Which parts of the LGA are good performers?

A: We haven't mapped it in this way, but we have a layer on our mapping.

Q. JH (Wollstonecraft) Are roundabouts could be good places for trees? One has been removed from a roundabout on Shirley?

A. Can't comment on site specific situations, however, Council's arborists are very committed to tree preservation, some have worked for Council for many years and may have planted the trees themselves. I can only assume it was removed due to an engineering or health issue.

Q. JC (Edward) Is this information available from Council's website?

A. Yes, access via www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Trees

Q. M (Neutral) The inception work for this was undertaken in the 1980's. Generations have passed since then is it about time to undertake a new survey?

A. Yes, I agree that time has passed, and we can start to build momentum in conversation about lowering the Tree Preservation Order from 10m (Note: it is 3-5m in other LGAs).

Q. KR (Union) Do you have statistic about the loss of Trees on Council Roads vs RMS roads?

A. We've broken down land use but haven't pulled out specific stats, it's obvious that the major arterials have had seen tree removal.

Q. KH (Union) You haven't commented on green walls, roof tops and the marine environment. Examples are the breathing wall at St Leonards and UTS Broadway provides another good example.

A. Street trees also help protect the marine environs. The policy that sets out the requirement for green roofs are in Council's *Development Control Plan*¹, Council has an instruction manual² for technical guidance.

Q. MA (Registry) There was replanting of *ficus* at Jeaffreson Jackson Reserve when the pedestrian bridge was re-done. It could easily have more trees which would also provide a noise buffer.

A. This is exactly the conversation we want to be having with the community, to identify places where we can put more trees.

Q. PM (Willoughby Bay) Is there overlapping of the figures on the table (slide 10) as they add up to more than 100%?

A. Yes, we were trying to present it in one slide, but take on board that two tables could be more easily understood.

Q. LT (Willoughby Bay) Has the gradual erosion of the soft landscape ratio over the last 20 years contributed to the current state of canopy.

A. Yes, this could be a factor; this is why we need to renew our policies and legislation to protect trees.

Q. LT (Willoughby Bay) Are there trees not protected if they reach 10m e.g. liquid amber, camphor laurel.

A. The only exempt species are *African Olive* and *Cocos Palms*. Noxious weeds still need to be looked at and assessed on merit e.g. If they are near bushland and seeding onto another area they may be

¹ Available in the following chapters of DCP; 1.6.10 (residential development); 2.6.12 (mixed and commercial development); 3.5.11 (non-residential development in residential zones)

² Available on Council's website

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/files/assets/public/docs/8_business_amp_projects/strat_plan_projects/nsc_green_roof_resource_manual.pdf

deemed problematic, however if they are habitat Council may recommend an alternate tree is planted nearby and return later to assess. If a noxious weed is on a heritage item it is protected regardless of size.

IC (Co-convenor/Lavender Bay) thanked RE and MM for their attendance.

RE and NM (NSC) left the meeting.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

ATTACHMENT A

MOTION: That the Minutes of the meeting held 16 April 2019 were confirmed as read and correct. MOVED BY: JH (Wollstonecraft), SECONDED BY: BS (Lavender Bay) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Actions Arising from Previous Meeting - Council's response to Actions Arising

ATTACHMENT B

5. Council update: GN, Community Engagement Coordinator

a) Precinct Councillor Suppers

GN (NSC) informed the meeting that at its meeting on 17 June 2019, Council's Governance & Finance Committee resolved to recommend to Council at that the supper events be reinstated annually, and that the 2019 event be held on Monday 21 October 2019, after the Legal and Planning Committee meeting³. This requires the next CPC meeting scheduled for 15 October 2019 to be moved to 21 October 2019.

MOTION: That the CPC meeting scheduled for 15 October 2019 be moved to 21 October 2019 MOVED BY: IC (Lavender Bay), SECONDED BY: JH (Wollstonecraft) CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b) Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement and Draft Local Housing Strategy

Further to the briefing by staff at the CPC meeting held 16 April 2019, the *Draft North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement* and *Draft Local Housing Strategy* will be reported to Council on Monday 24 June 2019 seeking endorsement to publicly exhibit. Council's Strategic Planning Department has offered to facilitate a special briefing exclusively for Precinct Committees on Wednesday 17 July 2019, from 6pm. The purpose of the briefing is to provide background and equip office bearers, or their delegates, to be able to discuss the draft documents with your individual Precinct Committees, to inform submissions should you resolve to submit such. A memo will be provided to all Precinct Committees with full details.

Council's Engineering & Property Services Division have offered to present on the *Urban Branding and Style Manual for Neutral Bay and Cremorne* at a special briefing for Precinct Committees. Pending finalisation on the related report to Council, it may be possible to hold the two events on the same night for the convenience of Precinct Committee members. Further details to be provided in due course.

c) Parks Precinct Reactivated

³ Minutes of this meeting will go to the 24 June 2019 Council meeting for adoption

Parks Precinct Committee held a reactivation meeting on Wednesday 12 June 2019 in which they decided to move forward with reactivating the Precinct Committee. They will meet monthly for the next 6 months and decide where to proceed from there. Two interim co-convenors will conduct a meeting on Wednesday 10 July 2019 in which office bearers will be elected.

6. General Business

a) Pre-submitted items by Precinct Committees:

i) Draft Code of Meeting Practice (Action Arising from previous minutes)

PROPOSED MOTION: That the CPC makes a submission to Council on the Draft Code of Meeting Practice⁴ in regards to the clause(s) relating to members of the public addressing Council meetings.

GN (NSC) advised that the Draft Code of Meeting Principles and Practice was discussed at the Governance & Finance Committee meeting held 17 June 2019 and the post exhibition report will go to Council meeting of 24 June 2019.

JH (Wollstonecraft) noted that the number of submissions received as at 5pm on Monday 17 June 2019 was zero. To encourage discussion JH (Wollstonecraft) has prior circulated by email a copy of the submission that he had made to Council on behalf of Wollstonecraft Precinct Committee.

JC (Edward) noted that Edward Precinct Committee had passed a motion on 6 March 2019 requesting that Council revert to its previous process (i.e. pre 29 January 2019) with less limitations on those presenting for and against and the time of registration.

DW (Hayberry) noted that Hayberry Precinct Committee had passed a motion as its meeting held 12 June 2019, opposing the discretionary elements of the proposed Code i.e. pre-meeting, powers to General Manager, not giving people enough time to speak etc.

BS (Lavender Bay) asked what the CPC wants to do, does it want to make a submission inline with the proposed motion by Edward Precinct Committee? Noting that the CPC needed to be realistic about what can be achieved and what the tangible outcome would be.

The meeting discussed alternatives for the motion including:

- Returning to the historic system address
- Isolating the parts of the Code that the CPC did not support
- That the same method of registration of speaking used at the North Sydney Traffic Committee meetings be used for Council meeting
- That a system of address similar to NSLPP be used i.e. the number of speakers isn't limited but speakers are unable to speak about the same thing

MDS (Registry) expressed confusion as to why the Code was being re-exhibited. In response JG (NSC) provided background on prescription of a new Model Code by Office of Local Government.

MOTION: The CPC is in favour of the historic system of members of the public addressing Council meetings (i.e. before 29 January 2019):

⁴ The Draft Code of Meeting Practice is available at: <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/policies-on-exhibition>

a) Clause 4.3 - The CPC opposes the speaker registration deadline of 4pm on the day of the meeting before the date on which the public forum is to be held. Instead request that speakers can register on the day as per previous practice, 10 mins prior.

b) Clause 4.4 - The CPC requests that speakers not be limited to the number of items they can speak to.

c) Clause 4.6 - The CPC opposes the discretion being given to the General Manager to oppose a speaker.

d) Clause 4.12 - The CPC requests that this clause also state that an extension to the three (3) minutes can be granted on request of the Chair, as per previous practice.

MOVED BY: IC (Lavender Bay), SECONDED BY: JH (Wollstonecraft) CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Bay x 1 Bennett x 1 Edward x 1 Lavender Bay x 2 Holtermann x 1 Hayberry x 1 Neutral x 1 Registry x 2 Willoughby Bay x 2 Wollstonecraft x 2	None	Bay x 1 Holtermann x 1 Neutral x 1 Union x 2
Total: 14	Total: 0	Total: 5

ii) DA 1164/90 - Noakes: 6 John Street, McMahons Point⁵

PROPOSED MOTION 1 (Waverton): That the CPC calls upon North Sydney Council to take up with Noakes the matter of the construction of a public jetty in Berry's Bay, as a matter of priority. This is a non-completed commitment made by the company and was associated with the approval of their DA 1164/90 over two decades ago. The CPC notes the most likely locations are at the base of Munro Street, or John Street in McMahons Point and further notes the jetty must have sufficient water depth for yachts and power boats to come alongside. In this regard, the public wharves in Lavender Bay are suggested as a suitable example.

PROPOSED MOTION 2 (Union): That North Sydney Council revisits DA 1164/90 and pursues requirements for Noakes to construct a public jetty and a public walkway as part of the approved DA in Berrys Bay, Waverton.

BS (Lavender Bay) suggested that this item is now redundant (as was proposed prior to the Council meeting held 25 May 2019) and that it not be discussed further.

MOTION: That there is no further discussion on item 5ii at this meeting

⁵ Note: this matter was discussed at Council meeting held 25 May 2019

- MM02: Floating Dry Dock Development Application for 6 John Street, McMahons Point. Minute No. 126 - **ATTACHMENT C**
- NoM01: Notice of Motion No. 5/19 - Crs Baker, Carr and Beregi - 22/05/19 Re: Compliance with DA 1164/90 - Noakes: 6 John Street, McMahons Point. Minute No. 131 - **ATTACHMENT D**

Note: the following extract from Officer Report (General Manager) for NoM01, stated in the agenda for 25 May 2019: At this time Council is unable to enforce condition D51 of DA1164/94 as compliance with that condition has not been breached.

MOVED BY: JH (Wollstonecraft) SECONDED BY: JC (Edward) CARRIED UNANIOUMS

iii) Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link (Edward)⁶

There are several negatives in relation to the proposed Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link (tollways) including excessive truck movements for waste rock removal, unfiltered exhaust stacks and long-term traffic and parking issues in North Sydney.

PROPOSED MOTION 1: That CPC note the recommendation of the Sustainable Transport Reference Group held 13 May 2019 (Minute No. 3.1): That North Sydney Council write to the Premier congratulating her on her government's decision to fast track the Sydney West Metro and expressing the hope that this marks the start of a policy to prioritise sustainable public transport projects over unsustainable motorways. In particular, a commitment to scrap plans for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link and instead build a rail tunnel to the Northern Beaches servicing the North Sydney Council LGA and the City.

PROPOSED MOTION 2: That the CPC requests North Sydney Council to write to the Premier and recommend that the WHTBL tunnels and link to Westconnex are re-examined including their likely economic impact and financial performance. The potential alternative to the Beaches Link of a rail tunnel, linking North Sydney or Chatswood to the Northern Beaches should be evaluated in depth including relative environmental impacts before approving the road tunnels.

IC (CPC Co-Convenors/Lavender Bay) advised that the CPC should focus on communicating with Council, rather than the CPC writing to Premier itself.

Those that attended the Sustainable Transport Reference Group meeting on 13 May 2019 were unsure if Council had actioned the recommendation detailed in Proposed Motion 6aii)

MOTION 1: That CPC note the recommendation of the Sustainable Transport Reference Group held 13 May 2019 (Minute No. 3.1): "That North Sydney Council write to the Premier congratulating her on her government's decision to fast track the Sydney West Metro and expressing the hope that this marks the start of a policy to prioritise sustainable public transport projects over unsustainable motorways. In particular, a commitment to scrap plans for the Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link and instead build a rail tunnel to the Northern Beaches servicing the North Sydney Council LGA and the City".

MOVED BY: JC (Edward) SECONDED BY: MDS (Registry) CARRIED

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Bay x 2 Bennett x 1 Bay x 1 Edward x 1 Hayberry x 1	Holtermann x 1	Holtermann x 1 Lavender Bay x 2 Willoughby Bay x 2 Neutral x 2

⁶ Note: WHTBL has been discussed by CPC on the following occasions:

- [Monday 22 October 2018 - item 2iii\)](#)
- [Tuesday 21 August 2018 - item 7biv\)](#)
- [Tuesday 22 May 2018 - item 5aiv\)](#)
- [Tuesday 27 February 2018 - item 5bii\) and 5biii\)](#)
- [Thursday 10 August 2017 - item 3](#)
- [Tuesday 20 June 2017 - item 2](#)

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Registry x 2 Wollstonecraft x 2 Union x 2		
Total: 10	Total: 1	Total: 7

MOTION 2: *That the CPC requests North Sydney Council to write to the Premier and recommend that the WHTBL tunnels and link to Westconnex are re-examined including their likely economic impact and financial performance. The potential alternative to the Beaches Link of a rail tunnel, linking North Sydney or Chatswood to the Northern Beaches should be evaluated in depth including relative environmental impacts before approving the road tunnels.*

MOVED BY: JC (Edward) **SECONDED BY:** JH (Wollstonecraft) **CARRIED**

In favour	Opposed	Abstained
Bay x 2 Bennett x 1 Bay x 1 Edward x 1 Hayberry x 1 Neutral x 1 Registry x 2 Wollstonecraft x 2 Union x 2	Holtermann x 1	Holtermann x 1 Lavender Bay x 2 Willoughby Bay x 2 Neutral x 1
Total: 13	Total: 1	Total: 6

v) Precinct System publicity (Neutral)

PROPOSED MOTION: That Council investigates and suggests activities to publicise the Precinct System in order to inform, educate and encourage more residents of North Sydney Council area to attend meetings. Resident's involvement in community matters will help make the North Sydney Council area a better place to live.

MOTION: *That Council investigates and suggests activities to publicise the Precinct System, in order to inform, educate and encourage more residents of North Sydney Council area to attend meetings. Resident's involvement in community matters will help make the North Sydney Council area a better place to live.*

MOVED BY: IC (Lavender Bay/CPC Co-convenor) **SECONDED BY:** MB (Neutral) **CARRIED UNANIMOUS**

b) Other items - to be tabled at the meeting

i) Proposal for a strategic plan to increase pedestrian safety within North Sydney's unique education precinct (Hayberry)

DW (Hayberry) advised that a motion was passed by Hayberry Precinct Committee on 14 March 2019⁷ in relation to working with the Council and reactivate the idea of gaining State Government recognition of the unique nature of North Sydney as an Education Precinct and implementing a plan to achieve pedestrian safety within North Sydney. Noting that pedestrian safety and traffic is raised more than any other topic at Hayberry Precinct Committee meetings. North Sydney has unique issues

⁷ https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Community_Engagement/Precincts/Hayberry_Precinct

with the density of schools (CBD, Education Precincts, Kirribilli etc); many students at schools surrounding St Leonards Park traverse there.

PM (Bay) highlighted that Bay Precinct Committee has different safety concerns but overall pedestrian safety is import.

DW (Hayberry) highlighted that protected pedestrian phases have improved safety in a number of locations and Council should continue to advocate for this. If more was done to reduce pedestrian safety parents/guardians may feel more comfortable allowing their children to walk to school (despite the encouraging footpath decals currently in place). Hayberry Precinct Committee wishes to table this item, with the view of proposing a motion at a subsequent CPC meeting, once it has been discussed at individual Precinct Committee meetings.

ACTION: CPC representatives to discuss this item at individual Precinct Meetings and contact DW (Hayberry) regarding the proposed motion for next CPC meeting.

7. Next meeting 20 August 2019

Meeting closed at 7.32pm

North Sydney Urban Forest



Outline

Snapshot of NSC – landform and landuse

What is Urban Forest and why is it Important?

North Sydney Tree Management Policies

Canopy Cover Statistics

Analysis of findings

The Way Forward - Plans for the future



Landform & Land use



- 54% is covered by hard surfaces
- Only 9% is zoned open space.
- 4% (46ha) is zoned bushland.
- 18.6km of foreshore
- Steep hilly terrain and poor sandstone soils

Population and Housing

- Population in 2016 - 72,037
- Additional daily influx of 17,000 students and 50,000 workers
- Residential Density of 64.50 persons per hectare (PPH)



41% of land area



What is Urban Forest?

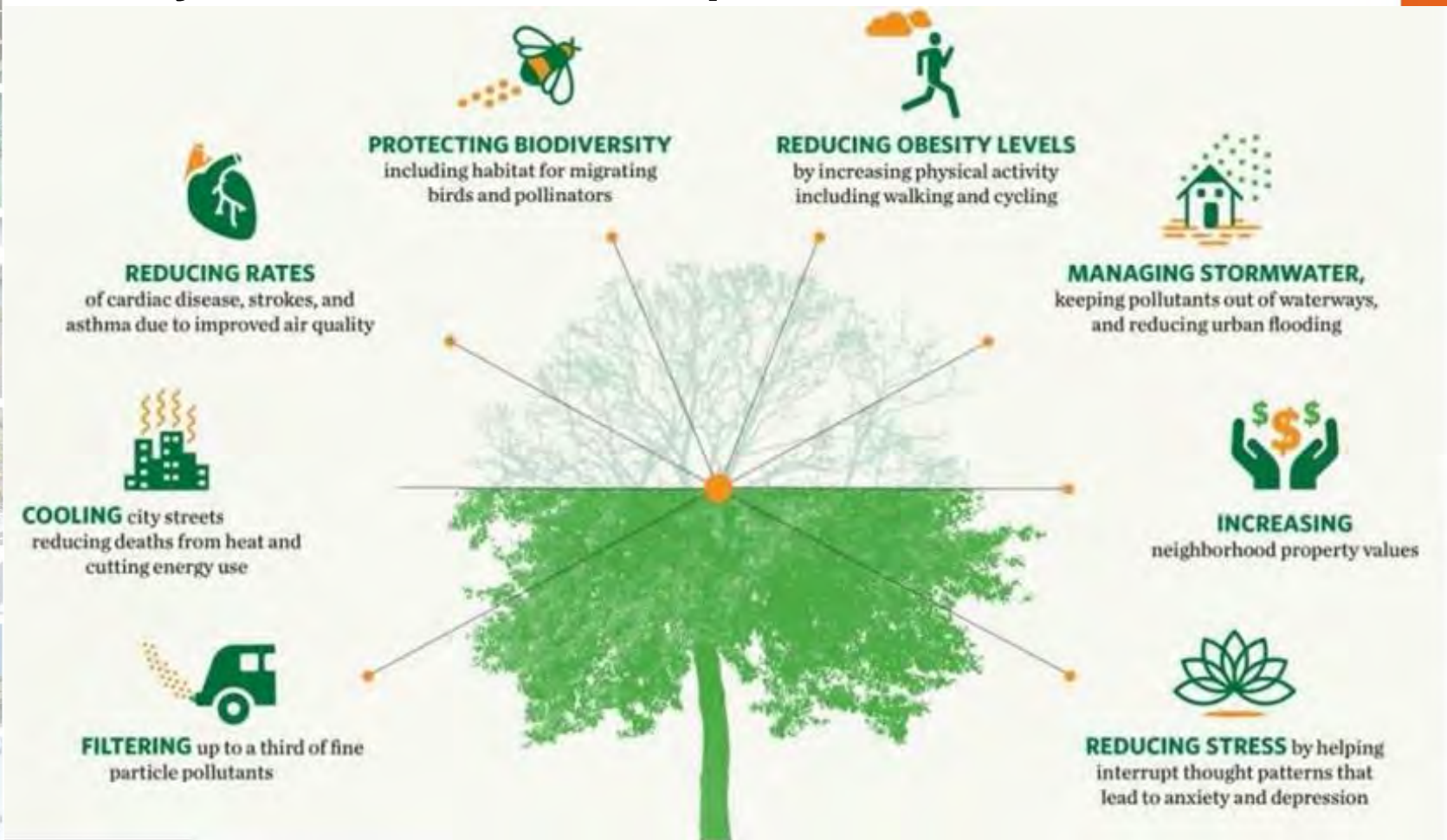
Urban forest, or green infrastructure, is more than just the pretty green bits and pieces that fill the spaces between buildings and roads; it is an integral component of a healthy urban environment providing immense services and benefits to the community. Without this urban vegetation, our city would be much hotter, our energy consumption much higher, our stormwater levels much greater, and our lives much more stressed.



Urban forest can be defined as the totality of trees and shrubs on all public and private land in and around urban areas and is measured as a canopy cover percentage of the total area. Urban Forest is internationally recognised as a primary component of the urban ecosystem and an essential part of a “liveable” and economically sound community.



Why is Urban Forest Important?



Benefits from North Sydney Street Trees

Description	2014 iTree ECO
Total street tree population	17,200
Replacement value	\$546 million
Carbon Storage	\$1.75 million
Annual Pollution benefits	\$3.14 million
Total annual carbon sequestration (tonnes)	\$7,200
Stormwater benefits \$	\$250,000
Energy savings	\$34,000
Total annual benefits \$	\$5.18 million
Annual maintenance costs \$	\$1.45 million
Net return benefits per annum \$	\$3.73 million

Streets make up just 16% of the North Sydney land area
Total net benefits for entire Urban Forest would be around \$22.4m/annum

Next street tree audit to be conducted 2019



North Sydney Tree Management Policies

Tree Preservation Order 1980's

- NSC 10m (other LGAs 3-5m)
- detailed within DCP 2013

Street Tree Strategy

- Adopted 1997 and updated 2007, 2016

Urban Forest Strategy

- Adopted 2011 and updated 2019



Canopy Cover Goals

The internationally accepted target for our climate is 40% canopy cover. This is based on land use targets as shown below.

Land use	Recommended % Canopy Cover over this land-use	Proportion of NS land area covered by this land-use %	Contribution to target % Cover for North Sydney
CBD	15	10	1.5
Urban	25	48.3	12.1
Suburban	50	41.7	20.8
Overall Target % Cover for North Sydney			34.4



Summary of Canopy Cover 1997-2017

Description	% of LGA	TARGET	1997 %	2001 %	2008 %	2014 %	2017 %	Total Decline Since 2008
Overall Canopy Cover	100	34.4%	19	24	33.9	30.7	28.2	5.7
CBD	10	15%			16.5	13.5	14.2	2.3
Urban	48.3	25%			32.4	28.8	26.9	5.6
Suburban	41.7	50%			39.8	37	33.0	6.8
Public Land	25.7				50.5	52.8	50.0	0.5
Private Land	58				31.6	26.4	24.0	7.5
Roads	16.3	30%			28.1	26.1	23.4	4.7



What Went Wrong?

Major losses on **Private, Suburban land**

- Landscape fashion – paved outdoor ‘rooms’, pools, decks?
- Urban consolidation / Developments?
- Rural Fire Service Act 10/50 rule?
- Tree Protection Height 10m?



Before (2011)



After (2018)

Significant losses on **Roads**

- Roads are a major source of urban heat and urban pollution & need tree cover more than anywhere else!
- B-Line, double-decker buses
- Other services and infrastructure in the Road Reserve; Powerlines, gas, water, sewer



Before (2011)



After (2018)

New Metro Stations



School capacity upgrades



So Plant More Trees?

Planting trees sounds easier than it actually is

- There is a lack of space on public land

Description	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Number of Trees Planted by Tree team (streets and parks)	315	462	387	420	412	410	412
Number of Trees planted on public land by Bushcare;					233	423	665
Number of native trees provided for private property as part of native havens etc.							337
Number of new trees planted by other departments – eg Mainstreet & Development					41	12	
TOTAL NUMBER OF TREES PLANTED					686	845	1414



Urban Forest Strategy 2019 - New Actions

Value

- Educate all stakeholders, residents, developers, authorities
- Marketing, Incentives, Rewards

Protect

- Review policy and procedures

Maintain

- Maximise longevity/benefits
- Assist land owners

Plant

- Continuous cover arboriculture
- Enforce Replanting conditions
- Assist land owners

Monitor

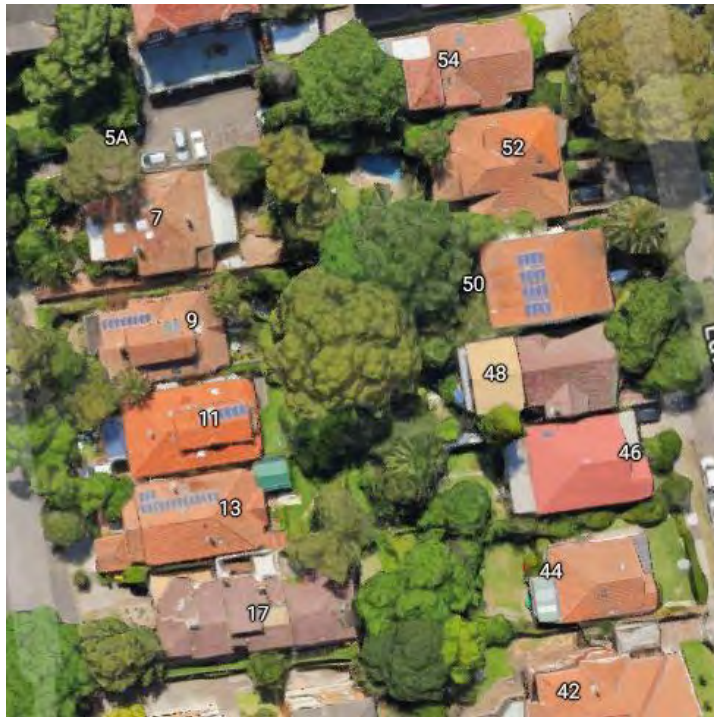
- Continue audits, canopy mapping and keeping accurate records/statistics



Value

Incentives Program

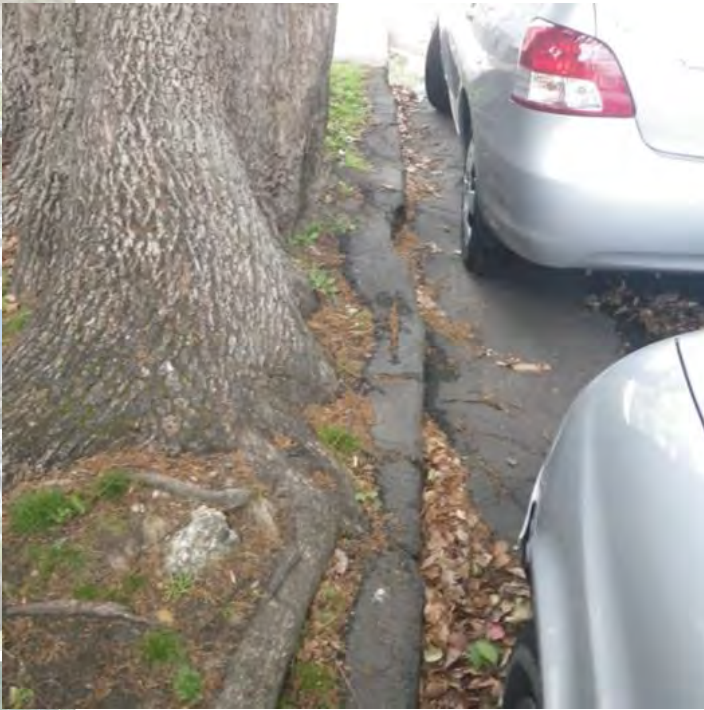
- Applaud and support those that already have good canopy trees
- Assist those that would like to have more canopy on their property
- Direct market to those that have capacity for more canopy



Protect

Protecting existing trees is the simplest way to achieve target cover; They are already in the ground and growing

- Think outside the square
- Benchmarking survey of other LGA TPO's
- Review DCP/tree management legislation





Plant more trees - Find innovative spaces where the canopy will provide the most benefits



More info

www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Waste_Environment/Trees

