

Wollstonecraft Precinct
Minutes of Meeting – 12 February 2020

Attendance: - 28 – Refer to Attendance List

Chairman – JH.

Meeting opened at 7.35pm

Apologies: DK; JAM; JH; JS; DM.

Item 1: Presentation – Energy & Emissions Reductions – IG, Sustainability Projects Officer North Sydney Council. A PDF copy of the Presentation has been circulated to all residents on the mailing list. Some points from the presentation:

1. NS Council has increased its reliance on renewables (solar) and lower forms of energy over the last three years since we first saw what was being done.
2. 30% of Council's retail energy supply now comes from solar (PV cells)
3. Cost is 9% lower than energy from fossil fuel generation
4. Council also has 303 Kw of solar cells on its own building roof tops such as the Coal Loader
5. Currently installing a 95 Kw solar array on top of the Holtermann Street car park Crows Nest
6. Efficiency upgrades at the NSOP have resulted in energy cost savings of ~ \$70k per annum
7. There are many opportunities for high rise apartment buildings to save money in areas such as:
 - a. Cooling towers
 - b. Smart controls on lighting and pressure pumps
 - c. Heat pumps to replace gas fired HW boilers
 - d. Rooftop solar (requires close cooperation with all tenants who are individually billed. At least one company is willing to step in as the gas customer to the building, install new equipment at their cost and bill all the tenants a lower rate leading to immediate savings)
 - e. Swimming pool heating
8. Coal Loader displays and help centre to guide interested owners

Item 2: North Sydney Council Ward Boundaries Review Update:

Crs. Zoe Baker and Ian Mutton addressed the meeting. Their advice is summarised as follows:

At the extraordinary meeting of Council on 20 January it was resolved to proceed with the 2 Ward system with a North/South split using Military Road and suburban streets as the divide. (Independent Councillors proposed an alternative of an East West split using the Warringah Freeway as the divide.) A Rescission motion was legally lodged with Council for the resolution to be rescinded and replaced with the alternative East/West split using the Warringah Freeway as a divide. However, the General Manager had advised the Electoral Commission a few minutes prior to the receipt of the Rescission Motion and consequently did not distribute the motion to other councillors until Monday 10 February, citing the following from the Code of Meeting Practice:

The General Manager must not include in the agenda for a meeting of Council any business of which due notice has been given if, in the opinion of the General Manager the business is, or the implementation of the business would be, unlawful. The General Manager must report, without giving details of the item of business, any such exclusion to the next meeting of Council.

And then advising his decision:

After consulting with the Office of Local Government (OLG), NSW Electoral Commission (NSWEC) and legal counsel, I have formed the opinion that the resolution of 20 January cannot be lawfully rescinded. The notice of the rescission motion will therefore not be included in the agenda for the 24 February meeting.

Consequently, the matter is fait accompli and we are advised to think about a Council referendum to be put before voters at the September election that will ask them to agree to 3 Wards and 9 councillors, one of which will be elected by the Councillors as the Mayor (or some other question that will ensure proper representation of all Precincts and ensures there will always be a clear majority/minority when all councillors vote). In other words what we thought we had as a result of the last two referenda.

Item 3: Update on St Leonards Crows Nest 2036 Plan and Metro Station OSD:

The Chair distributed copies of all correspondence and file notes related to meetings with the Department of Planning from 9 December 2019 up to our letter dated 7 February 2020 seeking further clarification from the DPIE of its position which is summarised:

There will be no further community engagement and that the DPIE will prepare a draft determination for the Minister in relation to the 2036 Plan land use and infrastructure and the “zoning” for the Metro OSD. For clarification, they say they will not be proposing a change to the LEP zoning B4 mixed use but will be proposing a change in height controls (and presumably FSR and setbacks) and the LEP will be amended accordingly after determination. The proposed site visit by the Minister remains undecided.

Following determination by the Minister, Sydney Metro will be obliged to make a fresh application for the OSD buildings to comply with zoning and height controls. That application will be exhibited by the DPIE for public consultation and the matter will be again determined by the Minister.

(A side comment is that the OSD is still classified as State Significant which of course is nonsense. They will be just another 3 or 4 buildings that must comply with North Sydney Council’s amended LEP which could easily be dealt with by Council. Instead NS Council is relegated to a similar role as the public, although there is a statement in writing that State-led Zoning is to be done in collaboration with Councils – and the community. So far, we seen little evidence of that).

At the time of writing there has been no formal response to our last letter. And we have no indication as to timing of a site visit by the Minister. When further information is received, the community will be updated. All of this is likely to take much longer than indicated by DPIE. Timing is anyone’s guess.

Item 4: WHT & Warringah Freeway Upgrade:

The Chair distributed copies of information on the WHT & Warringah Freeway Upgrade EIS and explained that a group centred around Registry Precinct called STOP THE TUNNELS was holding community meetings weekly, the first of which coincided with our Precinct Meeting on 12 February. Residents were encouraged to participate. The approach is to dissect the EIS into segments and allocate those to groups who would be best placed to analyse, comment and prepare draft submissions.

Wollstonecraft Precinct has submitted a request for an EOT of two months and other Precincts are intending to do the same. Individuals can also make the same request to their local MP and/or the Premier and Minister for Planning and Public Spaces. (The day after the meeting, the department wrote back advising that they had already extended the statutory period for lodgement of feedback/submissions by two weeks and they will not be extending the date for submissions at this time).

Residents were also encouraged to attend one of the three remaining information drop-in sessions, the next being 13 February in the Fred Hutley Hall at Nth Sydney Council chambers. They should focus their attention on the impacts of the Freeway Upgrade on local roads and traffic as a minimum and any loss of land and amenity, the largest being on the Cammeray golf course where two large facility buildings to service the tunnel ventilation system will be built and where the Council draws its water for watering parks and gardens.

Item 5: Correspondence and Council Action Items:

- There was nothing to report from Council at the meeting BUT a response was received at 4:28 pm on 12 February which contained no new actions, Regrettably, they overlooked our request outlined in the December minutes. The Chair will remind them. Noted however that the review of parking arrangement is due 6 months after the date of the September Council meeting so expect something late April.
- A resident again reported that Boronia Lane remains a safety hazard due to very poor lighting and being partly overgrown. This was last reported in April 2019 as being attended to. Perhaps it needs more regular maintenance on clearing, but poor lighting is of great concern.
- Another resident has complained in writing that Rocklands Road (near #6) is used for unlimited parking by train passengers and Mater Hospital staff despite it being 2 hour parking. Her complaints in writing to Council, are not answered. The matter has been forwarded on to Council who should write or call to advise her of the Ranger's email address and how to make telephone contact, to report an offender.

Vote of Thanks: SW moved to thank the work done by the Chairperson on behalf of residents. This was acknowledged by acclamation from those present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.38 pm.