



DRAFT

**Minutes of Meeting of Wollstonecraft Precinct Committee held on
Wednesday 9 June 2021.**

- 1. Welcome and Attendance: 22 members had registered. 17 Residents logged in. The meeting commenced at 7:45pm**
- 2. Apologies:** R and EY; P W, J , D K (trouble logging in).
- 3. Presentation: 'Saving Berry Street' from the WHT&BL (Ian Grey - on behalf of Committee for North Sydney).** Ian provided a short presentation on the campaign being organised by the Committee for North Sydney. The EIS for the Western Harbour Tunnel & Warringah Freeway Upgrade which has been approved (with conditions) and the subsequent EIS for the Beaches Link which is waiting assessment and approval, together paint a bleak picture for traffic conditions in the North Sydney LGA.

All traffic coming from the North and from the eastern side of the Freeway wanting to access the new tunnels or the SHB, SHT and Cahill Expressway will be directed down the Pacific Highway or down West or Miller Streets then onto Berry Street to access ramps. This is bad planning. Every other major city in Europe or the USA directs regional traffic onto arterial roads thus avoiding traffic gridlock in local streets. The "triangle" formed by Falcon St/Military Road, Pacific Highway and the Warringah Freeway should be a no-go area for traffic that is heading outside the North Sydney LGA.

Wollstonecraft and Waverton traffic will also suffer even more than they do now. For example, as predicted by the EIS, the very busy River Road/Shirley Road/Pacific Highway intersection will move to 'Fail' and the Rocklands Road/Pacific Highway and the Bay Road/Pacific Highway intersections, already very busy conditions will also likely be 'Fail'. The latter two are high volume pedestrian traffic areas for school children and parents in week mornings. "Fail" means that only a couple of cars will be able to access on t the Pacific Highway due to Gridlock on Berry Street. Rat runs bypassing these intersections will increase traffic through the two suburbs. This is not sustainable.

The Committee for North Sydney campaign is designed to make the government aware of the seriousness of the consequences of these two major infrastructure projects and demand alternative solutions be considered to ensure that traffic wanting to go somewhere else other than North Sydney is expressly diverted onto arterial roads. This is exactly what North Sydney Council campaigned for during the consultation and assessment period of the WHT and WFU projects. The Committee for North Sydney's campaign seeks to redouble that effort.

Enclosed with these minutes are copies of material that will be used on social media to focus attention of residents and government.

4. Minutes of the April meeting were taken as read and confirmed as a true record.

Moved by the Chair. Seconded by Tony Gribben. For 17. Against Nil. Abstained Nil.

5. Matters Arising:

a. Planning Proposal 7/20 Fiveways Site Crows Nest: It was noted that North Sydney Council had decided not to support the application submitted by Deicorp. The matter is now for Deicorp to decide if it wishes to apply directly to the DPIE for the matter to be considered by the regional Planning Panel (NSPP).

b. Street Lighting Boronia Lane: Nothing to report.

c. Hume Street Park Upgrade Project Stage 2: Preparation of draft plans for this project is underway to allow submission of a development application. Timing is expected to be after Council elections in September. Allocation of funds to proceed with the project was confirmed at Council's May meeting wherein the VPA approved for the Crows Nest OSD.

d. Planning Proposal 6/19 27-57 Falcon Street Crows Nest: The meeting noted that North Sydney Council had resolved to send the proposal to the DPIE with a request to amend the LEP to give effect to any future Development Proposal.

The cash contribution from the associated VPA of \$800,000 towards open space requirements would not normally be paid until issue of an Occupation Certificate. Councillor Baker will check to see if this money which is set aside, can be allocated specifically for open space in the St Leonards Crows Nest precinct.

e. Crows Nest Station OSD – VPA: At its meeting on 24 May, Council approved the execution of this VPA which will see upfront payment to Council within 30 days of execution of \$9.8 million towards Section 7.11 contributions that Council would normally receive (plus \$2 million that Council had decided would be allocated to the Holtermann Street Carpark redevelopment.)

Of the \$9.8 million, approximately \$3.2 million is for Open Space and \$5.6 million is for Public Domain. Councillors present were requested to confirm that money be set aside out of the S7.11 allocation specifically for Hume Street Park and any left over, for Crows Nest Precinct generally. (*Management Report 8.13 Council Meeting 24 May*)

f. Wollstonecraft Station Access Upgrade – Feedback: Noted that a report is being prepared in consultation with those residents who made comments on the draft document prepared after the Precinct meeting in April. Once agreed, it will be sent to Transport for NSW and other parties.

6. New Business:

- a. **Precinct System Review:** The meeting noted the report on the current status of the Precinct System review:
- i. reduce numbers of Precincts by way of amalgamation of boundaries of existing precincts and absorbing inactive precincts into the new amalgamated areas. Wollstonecraft Precinct, already being by far the largest Precinct, would remain unchanged.
 - ii. The proposed changes to the CPC operations be discontinued and that Council continue to support 4 to 6 CPC meetings/year
 - iii. to defer the matter to the next Council meeting to allow a briefing to Councillors and allow clarification of any questions.

Councillors present were requested to note that Wollstonecraft Precinct is concerned about the creeping intrusion by Council into the way in which Precincts are managed and supported. Specifically, Precincts are considered to be a community committee and the rules on who they should invite to attend should be largely a matter for Precincts, they should be non-political, they should be fully supported by Council and their opinions welcomed by Council. Precinct acknowledges that certain rules are necessary for consistency of support, to protect privacy and to avoid confrontational issues.

- b. **Council's Draft Operational Plan & Budget 2021/22 - Have Your Say:** Precinct registered to attend an [information session on 15 June](https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/information-session-on-15-june):
<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/operational-plan-budget-2021-22>
It is a zoom meeting. Precinct has submitted three questions in relation to Hume Street Park Stage 2; Upgrade of the Crows Nest Shopping Precinct Plan adopted in 2017; and Additional allocation of funds for the Crows Nest Streetscape Committee.
- c. **Council Elections 4 September 2021:** Residents present noted that there will be no voting to popularly elect a mayor. Instead, voting will be to elect 10 Councillors who will appoint one of those Councillors as mayor for a two year term.

The Ward system has also changed: There are now two (2) Wards each with five (5) Councillors to be elected. The north ward is called St Leonards Ward and includes Wollstonecraft Precinct. The southern ward is called Cameraygal Ward.

A Ward map adopted in 2020 can be found on this link:

https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Our_Organisation/Elections_2021/Council_elections

Councillor Mutton mentioned the possibility of submitting a Notice of Motion for

a poll or constitutional referendum question to the June Council meeting that would if successful, result in the return to three Wards and 9 Councillors.

The Chair advised that most if not all Precincts would support such a motion the result of which is what was understood would be the effect of the last referendum when electors voted for a mayor to be elected by Councillors.

- 7. General Business of which no advance notice has been given:** Another Planning Proposal is under review by Nth Sydney Council: PP1/21 at Pacific Highway Crows Nest directly opposite the junction with Alexander Street. It is for a Commercial Office Building but in a B4 Mixed Use Zone.

This is one of the many sites that the DPIE actually increased in number of stories when finalising to 2036 Plan: In this case from 8 in the Draft Plan to 13 in the Final 2036 Plan. The implied height of a 13 storey commercial building is 52 metres (4 m/floor). The applicant is seeking 59 metres. Properties in Sinclair Street would receive the minimum required solar access at winter solstice of 2 hours/day (compliant with the 2036 Plan). Precinct will follow up and submit comments to Council in advance of a meeting of the Local Planning Panel.

- 8. Next Meeting on Wednesday August 11 will be at the Uniting Church Hall and subject to strict protocols of Covid Safe Plans of The Uniting Church and North Sydney Council Precincts.**

Arrangement has been made with Council for Mr Ian Garradd, Council's Sustainability Officer to deliver a presentation on sustainability for North Sydney residents, programs that Council offers , such as:

- a. the Futureproofing Apartments Program,
- b. Electrification of the Grid,
- c. Preparing For & Removing Gas from Homes.

If there is any particular matter that you would like explained, please let us know so that a request can be passed on.

- 9. Meeting closed at 9:07 pm**