

WAVERTON PRECINCT

MEETING 4 August 2026 MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7:30 pm at the Waverton Uniting Church Community Hall.

Chair: Ian Grey

Minutes: Jeremy Dawkins

Attendance: 25

1 Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Kamila Chylewski, Shelley Kirkwood, Laurance Laveau and Kate Miller.

Presentation by Transport for NSW and Acciona

The Chair welcomed Dean Mcallister from Transport for NSW and Deborah Metcalfe, Meagan Schlecht and Lachlan Brown from Acciona, who walked us through a visual tour of the site and answered questions. From the answers, we learned:

- the Western Harbour Tunnel budget includes a Berrys Bay Park amount which will not be revealed;
- the Berrys Bay item in the WHT budget is already overspent;
- the sea walls were not repairable so banks of basalt covered in sandstone rocks will be tipped in front of the sea walls;
- consideration may or may not be given to enabling visitors to walk to the water's edge (as at present) by extending some kind of solid structure over these banks of rocks at one or two points;
- a single basketball ring still does not fit within the 'concept design';
- people will have access to the water at the Woodley slips, despite the contamination there;
- original and culturally significant walls have not been conserved but the demolished *rocks* will be treated as heritage items;
- buses (for instance school buses) will have the same access to the area that they presently have;
- in expecting the 'landscape' and 'design' proposals to be loved by the locals, TfNSW has not yet understood that local input has consistently asked for less rather than more, for simple, natural and useful over shiny and expensive;
- there seems to be no way for a project of this kind to evolve in response to public use over time, or to allow for refinements and maintenance, since a set budget must be fully (or over-) expended by mid-2028;
- the political imperative is for the park to open to the public before the tunnel comes into use, meaning mid-2028;
- the community building will be transferred to the North Sydney Council as a shell, so any ideas about its suitability or adaptability for community use should be raised with the Council. The Precinct reminded Acciona we have suggested a sliding wall be installed so that two smaller rooms can be created for different activities to happen simultaneously.

The meeting resolved to congratulate the representatives of Transport for NSW and Acciona for their presentation and for their participation in the meeting.

2 Confirmation of previous minutes – July 2026

It was moved by Kevin A and seconded by Susan:

THAT the July 2026 minutes be adopted. CARRIED.

3 Matters arising from the minutes

Nil

4 NSC and Combined Precincts Committee updates

Kevin H advised the meeting that the next meeting of the Combined Precincts Committee will be held on 15 September 2026. At last week's meeting on 27 July the committee discussed (among other things) recreation resources, the state of Bradfield Park, the management of Lime bikes, the lack of transparency in community responses to development proposals and in development assessment, the Sydney marathon starting at North Sydney Oval on 30 August, and the Census on 11 August.

5 NSC responses to previous resolutions

5.1 Former Waverton Bowling Club

The Precinct requested the Council to provide an update on any information received and actions taken in relation to the former Waverton bowling club site.

Instead, the Council resolved to keep the Precinct informed of future development proposals on the site, and welcomes at the appropriate time the Precinct's input into the site's future.

5.2 Larkin Street

The Precinct suggested that a yellow line be painted in the turning area at the end of Larkin Street to reinforce the no parking requirement. The yellow line has been painted.

6 Existing business and updates

6.1 Former Waverton Bowling Club site

Ian and Jeremy will be meeting with Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director of Planning and Environment, and his deputy on 17 August 2026. The working group will meet later in the month to discuss the outcomes of the meeting and other initiatives, and also consider the matters raised by Kevin A at the July meeting of the Precinct.

6.2 Proposed new foreshore walk between Milsons Point and Wollstonecraft Stations

The working group has individually and collectively investigated this proposal and has agreed on the way forward. Their findings and recommendations were summarised in a draft resolution circulated in the agenda, for the consideration of the Precinct.

Answering a suggestion that the meeting should adopt a general resolution and ask the Precinct Executive to discuss the issue with Council officers, the Chair reminded the meeting that:

- An explicit set of proposals responds to the Council's request for a detailed proposal.
- The draft motion captures the actual proposals that were generated by the working group's investigations – and invites discussion by the meeting.
- A formal motion of the Precinct carries weight and urgency that a verbal report by the executive does not carry.
- A formal motion of the Precinct requires a formal response from the Council.

It was **MOVED** by Jeremy and seconded by Wendy:

THAT Waverton Precinct:

- 1 *Thanks Shelley Kirkwood, Peter Krinks, Neil Lanceley, Ian Napier, Denise Salvestro, and Wendy Pryor for forming a committee and looking into the ideas around promoting an integrated and continuous walking track from Milsons Point to Wollstonecraft railway stations.*
- 2 *Notes that this does seem to be an absolute possibility as the physical 'track' actually exists but it currently is not branded as a continuous walk, has no name, has minimal signage, has no profile etc. Promoting this as one single 'named' continuous walk is expected to give greater priority for grant funding and has the likelihood of raising community awareness.*
- 3 *Notes that the 'new' walking track would likely commence at the eastern exit of Milsons Point station in Kirribilli and head down to the lookout then across to the Olympic Pool. This start point links to the Harbour Bridge walkway for people coming across from the CBD. The track ends at Wollstonecraft station.*
- 4 *Notes that such a track would be easily expanded to include a second phase to Greenwich ferry wharf and that this concept has the in-principle support of the Mayor of North Sydney and, it is understood, the Mayor of Lane Cove.*
- 5 *Notes that this combined walk would coincidentally form the 'eastern section' of the longstanding suggested northern foreshore track between the Harbour Bridge and Parramatta, which has long been featured in the State Government's concept of creating the Sydney Green Grid.*
- 6 *Notes that the Government has formed a Sydney Blue-Green Grid Committee to promote and implement the concept of the Green Grid, through the Greater Sydney Parklands Authority. Projects that align with that plan are required to be favoured in the financial support they receive. It is noted that the Greater Sydney Parklands Authority is awaiting revision of its Act before it actually has extra funding – but also that government funding*

currently is sourced and available through 'Get NSW Active' program, the 'Metropolitan Greenspace Program' and the 'Better Open Space' program.

- 7 *Notes that other walks in this Green Grid Plan that have been created (east of the Harbour Bridge) are now famous in Sydney and are used extensively by both Sydney residents and visitors.*
- 8 *Suggests that the North Sydney Council seek funding from the above listed programs to upgrade and integrate signage on this new walk and decide a name for this entire track. Provisionally, the Precinct suggests 'The Cammeraygal Walking Track'.*
- 9 *Suggests the existing walking tracks around Lavender Bay, Balls Head and at Berry island form part of the 'new' walk and notes these three locations already provide safe kayak access and pickup points (at Lavender Bay near Wendy Whiteley's Garden, at Badangi Beach for Berry Island and at the new park and community centre being built in the western arm of Berry's Bay).*

CARRIED.

6.3 Sport facilities for teenagers

The Chair advised the meeting that the information from the July meeting had been sent in.

6.4 Hume Park and support for Kelly's Place Childcare Centre

At its July meeting the Precinct:

- asked the Executive to promptly communicate the following positions to the Council;
- agreed that the following positions should be included in a formal motion which is to be prepared by the Chair and Secretary and put to a vote at the August meeting.

Waverton Precinct expressed its support for the following positions:

- Extending the current lease while the design for the Hume Park expansion project is reviewed with all stakeholders.
- Integrating a childcare centre into the design of Hume Park.
- Retaining the current Kelly's Place Childcare Centre as this model is a successful one – it is community run; it has dedicated and highly-trained staff; it has a higher staff to child ratio than required; it is a lower fee option; it benefits from being in a park; and it is ideally located in Crows Nest and near transport.
- Confirming that with increased population there are increased service needs for the residents, with childcare being a primary one.
- Confirming that the civic and environmental quality of the park can be maximised by actively integrating the childcare centre, through creative and imaginative design.

Following discussion of the issues –

It was **MOVED** by Kevin A and seconded by Kevin H **THAT**:

Agreeing that a primary planning objective for Crows Nest is to continue adding to public open space as opportunities arise, Waverton Precinct supports the following principles for Hume Park and urges the Council to adopt them.

- 1 *Extending the current lease until the design for Hume Park is fully developed, tested, released and agreed to.*
- 2 *Designing Hume Park to incorporate a childcare centre.*
- 3 *Retaining the existing community childcare centre model as a proven alternative to the larger, private-sector childcare centres in the municipality.*
- 4 *Integrating the childcare centre's structures and active open space into the overall design for multiple varied public uses of Hume Park.*
- 5 *Actively integrating the childcare centre into Hume Park, through creative and imaginative design, to maximise the civic and environmental quality of the park.*

CARRIED.

6.5 Coal loader wharf

We have been advised that the demolition of the coal loader wharf will now proceed and that is likely to happen commencing late this year.

6.6 Noakes shipyard

At the July meeting Bronwyn Muir suggested a resolution be drafted for Waverton Precinct to continue to monitor how Noakes Boatyard complies with its legal responsibilities on fire safety.

Ian and Bronwyn met with the Council last week. Jurisdiction is divided. The owner writes the fire safety certificate for the NSC to sign. The EPA deals with environmental aspects of the operations. Open-air activities are not easily regulated or enforced, since they do not take place in buildings regulated under the Building Code of Australia (boats full of fuel and inflammables are not 'buildings'); materials are not always stored appropriately; activities are not always performed inside, out of the wind. However, the 28 items on the fire order are either completed or in hand, and are likely to be finalised by the end of the year.

The meeting resolved that the work of nearby residents to monitor the impacts and risks at Noakes is greatly appreciated and is recognised as an ongoing responsibility of the Precinct.

6.7 Lime bikes

This matter was discussed at the Precinct's July meeting. The Precinct does not yet have sufficient information to comment on policy proposals.

7. New business

7.1 Coal Loader Cafe

The meeting welcomed the re-opening of the Coal Loader Café. John B suggested that the cafe could be given an enhanced presence and a greater chance of success (illustration added during preparation of the minutes.)

It was **MOVED** by John and seconded by Jeremy:

THAT the Council be asked to investigate and approve the creation of an opening in the rear stone wall, to give the cafe a shopfront and a presence on the main access to Balls Head, greatly increasing its reach to passers-by.

CARRIED.



7.2 Land swap or settlement with Shore regarding Edward Street

This unresolved issue is important to residents.

It was **MOVED** by Angus and seconded by Genia:

THAT Waverton Precinct requests the Council to work closely with residents to find a resolution to the Edward Street issue that balances the material benefits sought by Shore with tangible and practical benefits to the residents, including teenagers, of North Sydney, and with real protections for the residents of that section of Edward Street.

CARRIED.

8 Development applications

Nil

9 Community updates

Nil

10 Other business

Nil

Our SEPTEMBER meeting is at 7:30 pm, Tuesday 1 September at the Uniting Church Hall in Bay Rd.

Shelley Kirkwood
Secretary

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Our email address: precinctw@gmail.com

Mailing list: To add/update please click [here](#).