

Waverton Precinct Meeting 2 June 2026 Minutes

The meeting commenced 7:30pm, Waverton Uniting Church Hall, and was closed at approximately 8:45pm.

Chair: Ian Grey
Minutes: Shelley Kirkwood
Attendance: 20

Join your neighbours and make a difference to the community you live in.

North Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) has an active Precinct community. North Sydney Council's Precinct System began in 1972 and now comprises 17 Precincts within our LGA. Run by residents, the Precinct meetings provide feedback to Council in an advisory capacity. Comments from the regular Precinct meetings are reported to and considered by Council as part of its decision-making process, and so are one of the many ways that Council staff and councillors stay abreast of community opinion.

Residents can meet at their local Precinct Committee to share views on a range of topics and to help inform governments of community opinion on projects, plans and proposals. Precincts also encourage social interaction within the local community by coordinating events.

The aim of Waverton Precinct is to participate in the democratic life of our area, from the most modest DA to grassroots ideas for the district and city, to the largest proposals affecting our neighbourhoods.

1. Welcome and apologies

- Ian Grey welcomed attendees and highlighted the document *Western Harbour Tunnel—Berrys Bay Place, Design and Landscape*, which has been now approved and is available to view through or after the meeting.
- Apologies received from: Kevin Alker, Albert Guterres, Peggy Knott, Genia McCaffery, Kate Miller and Denise Moore

2. Previous meeting minutes (May 2026)

Moved by Denis Smith, and Seconded by Vera Yee

“That the May 2026 minutes be approved”

Carried unanimously

3. Matters arising from the May minutes

No specific matters were noted, but the Chair had met with the Mayor last Friday on a range of issues and this will be included in the updates on each item

4. North Sydney Council (NSC) and Combined Precincts Committee (CPC) meeting update

Kevin Heys provided a summary of items noted at the 19 May CPC meeting. Meeting minutes are available to view online at <https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/homepage/80/combined-precincts-committee-meetings>. Please note: at the time of producing Waverton Precinct June meeting minutes, the CPC May meeting minutes weren't yet uploaded.

- This week is National Reconciliation Week
- Local planning issues
- Stanton Library survey
- Tree damage and vandalism in Neutral Bay
- Warringah Freeway updates can be read here nswroads.work/wfuportal

- Sydney Vivid
- The Census will take place from July to October 2026. It is conducted every five years.

5. North Sydney Council (NSC) response to previous resolutions

NSC has yet to respond to the May 2026 resolutions.

6. Existing business

6.1 Positive outcomes of the Precinct Trivia Night fundraiser on 19 May 2026

- The trivia night was a successful and fun night, with approximately 30 people attending, and raising \$500 net.
- The funds will be used to top up an existing account that supports campaign activities. These activities may require specialised expertise, such as legal or planning advice. While such support is often provided by Precinct members, the fund serves as a backup to ensure access to these resources when needed.

Moved by Jeremy Dawkins

Seconded by Ann McDonald

“THAT Waverton Precinct moves a formal thank you to Lisa Middleton and Peggy Knott for their work in making this night a success.

In favour 20

Abstain 0

Against 0

Carried unanimously

6.2 The latest on Berrys Bay foreshore park

- Ian Grey and John Bohane met with Meagan Schlecht, Project Leader, ACCIONA; and Deborah Metcalf, Communications and Community Engagement Manager, ACCIONA, on Monday. They provided an update on the works at Berrys Bay.
 - Large quantities of rocks are being ‘smashed’ and repositioned, to form the retaining wall. These rocks provide a more natural appearance, in keeping with the surrounding landscape.
 - The next phase starting in two to three weeks is that of linking to the sewer, and power supply. Running water channels will also be constructed—connecting water to bubblers and the community centre site.
 - Once the above phase is complete, the hard landscaping will begin to take shape—levelling and heights, to enable construction on the pathways to commence—expected late October.
 - By Christmas 2026, it is expected that visually there will be a strong sense of what this area will become.
 - To date, both timing and budget are meeting expectations, with completion currently forecast for late 2027.

6.3 New foreshore walk between Milsons Point and Wollstonecraft Stations

- Ian Grey met with Mayor Baker and identified this as one of the live projects for the Waverton Precinct. Mayor Baker expressed strong support and agreed that it is a valuable initiative. Should the project gain momentum and reach a level of significance comparable to the Balmoral to Taronga Zoo walk, as an example, the NSW State Government may become involved as a stakeholder, ideally contributing funding for signage and promotion. This would help reduce pressure on Council resources.

- Mayor Baker suggested that Greenwich endpoint is an optional extra route—great views from the oil refinery back to the Harbour Bridge and into the Lane Cove River, as well as the walk would link to the ferry at Greenwich or a bus back to St Leonards Station.
- When Waverton Precinct can present this proposal, Mayor Baker will connect the Waverton Precinct working group with the appropriate people on the Council.
- Shelley Kirkwood provided a summary on the work to date:
 - A working group has been formed. Thank you to Wendy Pryor, Peter Krinks, Denise Salvestro, Neil Lanceley, and our adviser Ian Napier.
 - The working group has had one meeting, at which Ian provided valuable advice and resources, drawing on many years of experience in similar projects. Ian is also a co-founder of The Walking Volunteers.
- Kevin Heys highlighted the Seven Bridges Walk as a possible source of synergies.
- Vera noted Bill Orme as someone who has provided valuable insight into this area. The working group was already made aware of Bill by Ian Napier.

6.4 Former Waverton Bowling Club site

- Jeremy Dawkins provided an update for this project:
 - The working group has had two meetings discussing the issue at length.
 - Mayor Baker submitted a Mayoral Minute, presenting a motion to Council regarding the former Waverton Bowling Club site. The Mayoral Minute outlined the background to the site, including the process of change of ownership; and addressed its future, noting the current zoning and the process for rezoning applications.
 - The working group has produced its first report to the Precinct. This report is attached.

Moved by Jeremy Dawkins

Seconded by Dianne Finnegan

THAT the Waverton Precinct Committee:

- 1 Expresses its support for the aims and principles of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act.**
- 2 Recognises that the ownership of the crown land formerly occupied by the Waverton Bowling Club has been transferred to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council for economic self-determination and for social, economic and environmental benefits, and recognises the justice of this general process.**
- 3 Believes that crown land should not be ‘claimable’ as ‘unused and unneeded’ when it is integral to an area (a) that is highly valued and used by the local and regional community and (b) that has long been seen (and legally zoned) for public recreation.**
- 4 Understands that issues related to the definition of ‘claimable land’ are the subject of current negotiations between the NSW Government, NSW Aboriginal Land Council and others, and that the case of the former crown land formerly occupied by the Waverton Bowling Club (WBC) should be considered in those negotiations.**
- 5 Requests the WBC working group to work with the North Sydney Council and confer with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Minister for Planning and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to seek an outcome for the WBC land that recognises the legitimate and competing rights of the general community and the owners of the land.**

- 6 Will list the issue as a standing item on the Precinct's agenda, and each month will request the Council to provide an update on any information received and actions taken in relation to the former Waverton bowling club site.**

In favour 19

Abstain 1

Against 0

- There was discussion on the Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983. The working group's first report to the Precinct provides relevant information.
- North Sydney Council has been approached to provide relevant Council contacts for the project. The contacts are yet to be provided.
- Ian Grey noted from his discussion with Mayor Baker, that the Mayoral Minute noted above, will be given prominence. It was highlighted in the discussion that a similar case to Waverton Bowling Club site, that of Paddington Bowling Club, has highlighted a 'hole' in the current legislation. Council will link with appropriate government departments and with the Waverton Precinct, so that all stakeholders are in contact.

6.5 Ian Grey met with Mayor Baker to discuss:

- **former Waverton Bowling Club site**—noted above under item 6.4
- **a lack of recreational areas for teenagers**
 - Mayor Baker noted this is a common comment, and Council is currently trying to get land back from Cammeray Golf Club to build such amenities. She requested that Waverton Precinct present specific suggestions to Council.
 - John Bohane has identified a suitable area within the Coal Loader site and has produced a visual rendering to show to Council.
 - Mayor Baker noted that the Cammeray Golf Club site was noted as potential for a range of sport facilities, should the site ownership change hands to the Council.
- **Coal Loader wharf**
 - At the 2026 February Waverton Precinct meeting it was noted that Waverton Precinct has changed its long-standing position (to have the wharf saved), to one of being in favour of dismantling the wharf, after the current heritage review has been carried out. It is now too costly to rebuild (which was the previous position), and the recent removal of decaying wharves and jetties in Berrys Bay has shown how much better the site now looks. So, the Coal Loader site similarly will look a lot better, too.
 - Council maintains its position in favour of rebuilding; however, this position is likely to be redundant.
 - There is a heritage assessment underway and then it is anticipated this will be followed by the wharf removal by TfNSW.
 - She concurred about the new look of Berrys Bay and the removal of debris as a favourable example of the outcome and thought Council will not object if that is the decision.
 - The Mens Shed has approached Council requesting access to the 'debris' as wood materials could be repurposed.
- **Lime bike litter**
 - Mayor Baker noted that every Council has this same issue, that of, lime bike litter.
 - Ian Grey noted overseas examples in Paris and New York, where bike hire schemes are managed effectively through designated docking areas, with systems linked to credit cards for returns. This means you unlock the bike and your credit card is triggered and this ceases when you lock the bike into another rack (or back in the same rack). So, there are virtually no bikes just left anywhere.

- Other Sydney Councils have proposed building more docking areas at transport hubs; however, this she conceded may not sufficiently deter bikes from being left outside these designated areas.
- It appears that no one (Councils or the State Government) has control over the private enterprise business of Lime Bikes.
- A related issue is how these bikes are ridden, with disregard for road rules and safety.
- The Mayor suggested Waverton Precinct provides more robust suggestions and formally submit these to Council, who will then confer with other councils.
- This item will be on the Waverton precinct July agenda for more detailed discussion.
- **Fee structure for the use of major parks within North Sydney LGA by commercial businesses**
 - Waverton Precinct formally expressed its support for the introduction of fees for commercial businesses using major parks, with private schools included within this fee structure.
- **DAs**
 - **6 Larkin Street, Waverton 160/2026/1**
 - Waverton Precinct submitted a note of objection in relation to this proposed development, based on points forwarded by Kevin Carter.

7. New business

7.1 Planning System Reform: Community Participation Plan

- <https://www.insidestategovernment.com.au/nsw-govt-looks-to-simplify-planning-system-consultation/>
- From North Sydney Council notice to the Precincts
“These changes form part of a wider program of reform to the NSW planning system and may have implications for community participation, consultation processes and notification of development in the North Sydney Council area. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has placed the Proposed Statewide CPP on public exhibition, with submissions closing on 3 June 2026. The Draft CPP seeks to introduce a single, statewide approach to notification and exhibition of planning matters, replacing more than 100 individual council Community Participation Plans. Once implemented, the Statewide CPP would prevail over Council’s existing notification and exhibition requirements for planning-related matters contained within Council’s Community Engagement Strategy.”
- Precinct members are invited to review North Sydney Council’s paper from Sam Clark (attached to the meeting email) and lodge a brief submission via the NSW Planning Portal. Submissions close 3 June 2026.

Moved by Jeremy Dawkins

Seconded by Kevin Heys

THAT the Waverton Precinct Committee:

- **Asks the Council to include in its submission on the Community Participation Plan**
 - **a request for more time, if this consultation is to be a model for public participation in reforming the planning system, and**
 - **a strong argument that the most meaningful participation is required during the adoption of local land use and strategic plans—which should then provide a stable and enduring framework for accelerating development which actually delivers the intended outcomes of the plans.**
- **Asks residents to read Sam Clark’s paper (attached), click on the links, and submit one or two sentences at the NSW Planning Portal, generally making the same points.**

In favour 20

Abstain 0

Against 0

Carried unanimously

7.2 North Sydney Olympic Pool

- The opening is on 7 August 2026, with Council now in possession of the keys.

7.3 IPART decision on North Sydney Council's rate rise request

- The Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal has approved North Sydney Council's application for a permanent 52.66% increase in general income over three years, clearing the way for residential rates to rise by an average 52.3% by 2028-29.
- The average residential rate is expected to rise 23.3% in 2026-27, 14.2% in 2027-28 and 8.2% in 2028-29, for a cumulative 52.3% increase.
- <https://northsydneynews.com.au/community-politics/ipart-clears-north-sydney-rate-rise-despite-community-opposition>

7.4 General

- Request to ask of Council—how are Compliant Developments made known to residents?
- Concerns were raised regarding motor vehicle and motorbike noise on Crows Nest Road. Ian will contact the Naval Base Commander to advise that significant noise, reportedly above legal limits, comes from the Naval Base into the Waverton area.
- There is a community compost (two bins) behind the old Botanica cafe. The compost bins are well sealed. Signage will be placed.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm.

We look forward to seeing you at the next Precinct meeting.

The Waverton Precinct **July 2026 meeting** is:

Tuesday 7 July, 7:30pm

The Uniting Church Hall, 75 Bay Road, Waverton

wavertonprecinct.org | precinctw@gmail.com

Waverton is unceded land of the Cammeraygal people of the Eora nation — always was and always will be.
In keeping with truly ancient protocols, we acknowledge Cammeray himself,
and Cammeraygal leaders past, present and future.

Waverton Precinct Committee
First report of the working group for the former Waverton Bowling Club (WBC)

Overview

The WBC working group has held two well-attended meetings.

Members of the working group who were travelling or otherwise unable to participate joined us in email exchanges. The discussion of this complex and sensitive issue has been well informed and wide-ranging.

Our **first meeting** was in person on 12 May 2026. The record of this meeting is appended.

Our **second meeting** was on Zoom on 25 May 2026, with Aubrey DeSouza, Neil Lanceley, Genia McCaffery, Denise Moore, Denise Salvestro, Shelley Kirkwood and Jeremy Dawkins.

At this meeting we adopted the **report** that follows this overview -- we are keen to update the Precinct on this issue. We encourage all members to read the documents.

We are beginning to develop a fairly clear view of our task. We will:

- continue to research and explore the complex cultural and legal issues;
- develop a campaign strategy that recognises that this may be an issue for many years;
- maintain a sense of urgency, trying to anticipate the actions of the parties;
- identify the most immediate issues and be ready to respond to them;
- explore ways to present, graphically, the most serious impacts of development;
- invite volunteers to help with investigating whether (i) the boring of the Western Harbour Tunnel beneath the site and (ii) contaminated fill might prevent the site being developed.

The focus for our **next meeting**, in June, will be on:

- any matters raised by the Precinct;
- ways to work with the Council and the relevant institutions;
- ways in which the Precinct and the Council might be involved in the interim management of the WBC land.

The following is a draft motion. It is intended:

- to convey our initial consensus;
- to facilitate discussion; and
- to help the Precinct Committee to decide on what to do next.

Draft motion for discussion

THAT the Precinct Committee:

- 1 **Expresses** its support for the aims and principles of the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act.
- 2 **Recognises** that the ownership of the crown land formerly occupied by the Waverton Bowling Club has been transferred to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council for economic self-determination and for social, economic and environmental benefits, and recognises the justice of this general process.
- 3 **Believes** that crown land should not be 'claimable' as 'unused and unneeded' when it is integral to an area (a) that is highly valued and used by the local and regional community and (b) that has long been seen (and legally zoned) for public recreation.
- 4 **Understands** that issues related to the definition of 'claimable land' are the subject of current negotiations between the NSW Government, NSW Aboriginal Land Council and others, and that the case of the formerly crown land formerly occupied by the Waverton Bowling Club (WBC) should be considered in those negotiations.
- 5 **Requests** the WBC working group to work with the North Sydney Council and confer with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council, the Minister for Planning and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure to seek an outcome for the WBC land that recognises the legitimate and competing rights of the general community and the owners of the land.
- 6 **Will list** the issue as a standing item on the Precinct's agenda, and each month will request the Council to provide an update on any information received and actions taken in relation to the former Waverton bowling club site.

Members of the working group: Kevin Carter, Jeremy Dawkins (Convenor), Aubrey DeSouza, Neil Lanceley, Genia McCaffery, Lisa Middlebrook, Denise Moore and Denise Salvestro
Ex officio: Ian Grey, Shelley Kirkwood and Kevin Alker

The working group met on 12 May and 25 May 2026. We discussed the many ramifications of the issue, exchanged thoughts through 'email brainstorming', and now present this first **report** to the Precinct.

Proceed with caution

We are very aware of the complexities of this issue.

- We in the Waverton community generally know little about the law and procedures of Aboriginal land rights, even though they have been exercised with bipartisan support for over forty years. Our first task, therefore, is to *gather and share information* that may be the basis for any actions that the Precinct takes in the future. This report is the first instalment.
- We are aware of conversations in the community about an imminent DA or rezoning application for an apartment tower of 18 or 30 storeys. This appears to be a misreading of speculation. We are also concerned about talk of compensation and special treatment of the kind we heard during the Voice referendum. We will all need to avoid flying kites.
- We realise that *perceptions* of Waverton will be a significant factor in any policy-making debate and in the assessment of any development proposals. We are in one of only five adjoining Sydney suburbs that enjoy both (i) the highest level of transport accessibility and (ii) proximity to the best harbour foreshores. We must be aware of how this good fortune will affect the way in which our demands and suggestions may be interpreted.

Advice

Initial discussions quickly confirmed our intention to fight (i) to retain the present zoning as Public Recreation and (ii) for the incorporation of the former Waverton Bowling Club (WBC) into Waverton Park, although its legal status as 'claimable crown land' demonstrates that it has never been part of Waverton Park (which is not 'claimable crown land').

We also can offer the following initial findings.

- It makes sense to begin with the present reality. The land is a privately owned development site. The land was transferred to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council (MLALC) for economic self-determination and for social, economic and environmental benefits.
- A second reality is that MLALC works closely with the NSW Aboriginal Land Council, a substantial and competent organisation with a great deal of experience in managing its own community, interacting with politicians and the media, engaging in legal, legislative and consultative processes, commissioning leading advisers and consultants, and undertaking urban development.
- The most likely reason for lack of information from MLALC is that the WBC site is on the back burner while much larger and more pressing matters take precedence.
- The NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act provides unused crown land for social, economic and environmental benefits and removes certain impediments to the use of the land. If the project for the WBC land takes the form of a planning proposal, the LEP is amended at the conclusion of the process when the proposal is approved.
- MLALC's large urban development project at Belrose, known to the planning department's Planning Portal as Petyegarang, has taken about seven years to come close to approval. The initial plan was subject to a full exhibition process. The planning proposal itself (ending in an amendment of the LEP) will also go through the standard exhibition process.
- At its first meeting, the working group agreed to state the goal as retaining the land as public parkland, and the zoning as Public Recreation.
- The working group recommends that the issue be a standing item on the Precinct's agenda, and that the Precinct, each month, requests an update from the Council on any information received and actions taken in relation to former Waverton bowling club site.
- Decisions about the site are probably a long way off. The first phase might be private discussions between MLALC and the planning department (DPHI) to prepare a development delivery plan which provides a pathway for the development of the site. We need to look for signs that will indicate when this has begun.

This means that the interim use of the site is even more important.

Our next report will update the Precinct on our latest findings. It will also present our thoughts on how the Precinct and Council might be involved in the interim management of the WBC land.

Appendix: Meeting No1 of the WBC working group

Appendix

Meeting No1 of the former Waverton bowling club site (WBC) working group

12 May 2026

[Emailed to the members of the working group on 13May2026.]

Thank you for coming to our kick-off meeting (see Meeting Notes below).

1 We agreed that the next meeting could be at 5 pm on Monday 25 May, in the hall.

- Please let me know
 - if you would prefer an alternative time and/or
 - if there are times when you are not normally able to come to a meeting.

We had a productive conversation in the time available at our first meeting and I would propose that we agree to brisk meetings of up to an hour, and focus on what we collectively produce between the meetings.

2 In my next email I would like to list the members of the working group, with name, email address and phone number.

- Please let me know if you would prefer I didn't do that.

3 Email brainstorming

Denise M somehow found time while in 'departure mode' to send us thought-provoking ideas to initiate some collective brainstorming by email. Please respond with some quick reactions.

4 Another important document that I mentioned, the Planning Systems SEPP:

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/epi-2021-0724>

You'll see in **Chapter 3** (also attached [to the email] as a Word doc) that, with the approval of NSWALC, MLALC can draft a 'development delivery plan' for the minister's approval. An adopted development delivery plan opens a specific pathway for approval of proposed development of specific Aboriginal land.

This means that negotiations over the future of the WBC site will begin in private in the Department of Planning, and that ultimately the minister will decide. There is however a protracted process with formal and informal public consultation stages.

Presumably:

- MLALC/NSWALC will take this path, given the significance of the site and given the primary purpose of the NSWALR Act (economic self-determination and compensation).
- Any rezoning of the land will be by ministerial executive action at the end of a protracted approval process, followed by a formal LEP amendment.
- We need to shape our thinking and strategy in response to these realities.

Btw, here's a link to the NSW Aboriginal Land Rights Act 1983:

<https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/act-1983-042>

4 A real-world example of the process

"A development delivery plan (DDP) forms part of a suite of planning mechanisms to assist Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) achieve economic self-determination for their communities and deliver social, economic and environmental benefits as compensation for the loss and dispossession of their land" (page 8 of the Patyegarang Post-Exhibition Report).

The state's first full **development delivery plan** – the Northern Beaches DDP – was prepared under this framework and approved by the Minister in August 2022. It includes six MLALC sites in Frenchs Forest and Belrose, in an LGA where MLALC has 621 ha of freehold land.

One of the six sites, now called Patyegarang, is 71 ha of disturbed bushland in Belrose containing the Lizard Rock graffiti and zoned (in effect) for agriculture. A proposal to allow the development of Patyegarang for 450 dwellings is making its way through the many stages of the planning system for Aboriginal land, delayed not so much by 3,665 formal submissions (98% opposed) as by the RFS in relation to bushfire risk. The process has so far found that all of the specific concerns can be managed, and that the proposal should be approved if negotiations with the RFS can achieve an acceptable level of bushfire risk.

The **Patyegarang Post-Exhibition Report** (attached [to the email]) is a good entry point into this story for those interested in seeing how MLALC has successfully shepherded a sophisticated and contentious proposal through a high-level and planning process (so far).

5 Meeting Notes

Present: Kevin Alker, Kevin Carter, Jeremy Dawkins, Aubrey Desouza, Ian Grey, Neil Lanceley, Genia McCaffery, Denise Moore and Denise Salvestro.

Apologies: Lisa Middlebrook.

Bruce Donald has advised that he will be unable to participate in the working group.

This was the 'kick-off' meeting and a chance to meet in person.

The initial purpose of the group is expressed in the motion carried by the May meeting of the Waverton Precinct Committee:

THAT Waverton Precinct calls on North Sydney Council to work with the Waverton community to retain the current Public Open Space / Recreation zoning of the former Waverton Bowling Club site, and to protect the land for current and future community use.

THAT Waverton Precinct forms a committee with skills appropriate to the issue, to progress and implement the above resolution.

The group agreed:

- to state the goal as retaining the land as public parkland, and the zoning as Public Recreation;
- to document the legal and planning context, the history of the site, any development constraints;
- to identify decision makers and how to reach them;
- over the next two weeks, to keep in touch by email, sharing ideas and information, and sharing our thoughts about the aims and actions of the group;
- more specifically, to engage in a form of email brainstorming on strategies, tactics and actions;
- to meet again in (approximately) two weeks, to finalise the first report, to be presented to the June meeting of the Precinct Committee;
- to ask the Precinct Committee to include the issue as a standing item on the Precinct's agenda;
- under that monthly item, to request an update from the Council on any information received and actions taken in relation to the future of the former Waverton bowling club site.

Numerous interesting comments and suggestions were made at the meeting.

- Now is the time to share them again in an email, please.

Jeremy

Jeremy Dawkins
0413 021 100
13 May 2026

TO: All Precinct Committees
FROM: Sam Clark – Engagement Specialist, North Sydney Council
DATE: 25 05 2026
RE: NSW Planning Reforms and Proposed Statewide Community Participation Plan – Community Consultation

Dear Precinct Committee Members,

Following the Combined Precinct Committee meeting on Tuesday 19 May the committee requested Council send this memorandum to advise all Precincts of the NSW Government's broader planning reforms and the public exhibition of the [Proposed Statewide Community Participation Plan \(CPP\)](#). These changes form part of a [wider program of reform to the NSW planning system](#) and may have implications for community participation, consultation processes and notification of development in the North Sydney Council area.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure has placed the [Proposed Statewide CPP on public exhibition](#), with **submissions closing on 3 June 2026**.

The Draft CPP seeks to introduce a single, statewide approach to notification and exhibition of planning matters, replacing more than 100 individual council Community Participation Plans. Once implemented, the Statewide CPP would prevail over Council's existing notification and exhibition requirements for planning-related matters contained within Council's Community Engagement Strategy.

All submissions must be made through the [NSW Planning Portal](#).

KEY ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE NORTH SYDNEY COMMUNITY

- Reduced exhibition timeframes for major projects
- Development types with no public exhibition or notification
- Reduced advance notice for Complying Development Certificates (CDCs)
- Increased reliance on master plans to limit future consultation
- Online-only submission requirements
- Potential override of Council's current engagement framework

BROADER NSW PLANNING REFORMS

- Further information is available via NSW Government resources including:
- Proposed Statewide Community Participation Plan (Planning Portal)
- NSW Planning Reforms webpage
- Reforming the NSW Planning System discussion paper
- NSW Government ministerial release on planning reform
- Planning Portal listing of plans and policies on exhibition

COUNCIL REPORT AND DRAFT SUBMISSION

Council is considering its formal submission at the meeting scheduled for 25 May 2026.

[The draft submission](#) raises key concerns including:

- Use of a standardised statewide model that may not reflect local contexts
- Reduced notification and exhibition requirements
- Increased compliance burden on councils without system reform
- Limited detail on implementation and transitional arrangements

The report and submission are available here:

<https://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/ecm/download/document-11942139>

NEXT STEPS

Precinct Committees are encouraged to:

- Review the Draft CPP and supporting materials
- Discuss impacts at upcoming meetings
- Consider implications for local participation
- Lodge submissions via the NSW Planning Portal by 3 June 2026
- Share submissions with precincts@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

OTHER RESOURCES

Community members can also view other planning proposals currently on exhibition via the Planning Portal:

[Plans and policies currently on exhibition](#)

Further information on the broader reform program is available at:

[Planning reforms](#)

Additional detail is provided in the NSW Government's reform discussion paper:

[Reforming the NSW planning system](#)

The reforms have also been outlined in a recent NSW Government ministerial announcement:

[Planning system reform to help build NSW's future](#)

Further updates will be provided following Council consideration.

Kind regards,

Sam Clark

Engagement Specialist

North Sydney Council

Electronically generated letter - no signature required