

Waverton Precinct Meeting 1 September 2026 Minutes

The meeting commenced 7:40pm, Waverton Uniting Church Hall, and was closed at approximately 9:00pm.

Chair: Ian Grey
Minutes: Shelley Kirkwood
Attendance: 15

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 advised there are additional items to discuss compared to the sent agenda.
- It was noted that the attendance sheet completion has two purposes:
1/ North Sydney Council requirement to note meeting attendance
2/ to maintain an up-to-date Waverton Precinct mailing list. If you have already provided your details; email, contact phone, and address, we only request that you note your attendance. If you haven't previously provided your details, your email address is ideal, so Waverton Precinct can send the meeting minutes and information, and your address and phone is a 'nice to have'.
- Apologies received from: Bruce Donald and Genia McCaffery

2. Adoption of previous meeting minutes

Previous meeting minutes (September 2026)

Moved by Kevin Alker, and Seconded by Kevin Heys

"That the August 2026 minutes be approved"

Carried unanimously

3. North Sydney Council (NSC) Summary of Actions

- **Coal Loader cafe**

WP / That the Council be asked to investigate and approve the opening in the rear stone wall, to give the cafe a shop front and a presence on the main access to Balls Head, greatly increasing its reach to passers by.

NSC / Feedback forwarded to Open Space Director. In September the Coal Loader Strategic Plan of Management will be open for community feedback. This will be under the *Have Your Say* section on NSC website. <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/>

4. Existing business

4.1 Former Waverton Bowling Club site (update)

- Council has resolved to keep the Precinct informed of future development proposals on the site, and welcomes the Precinct's input into the site's future, at the appropriate time.
- Ian and Jeremy met with NSC. NSC advised there has been activity on this matter however previously were unable to reveal. They now can advise as the issue has been finalised.
- The Metropolitan Aboriginal Land Council made a submission for a 20-storey building on this site. This submission was rejected by the 'filtering' committee and did not proceed to the formal assessment pathway.
- Both Waverton Precinct and NSC suggest there will be further movement.
- There is also action happening at a higher level. The current legislation surrounding the acquisition of land by Aboriginal Land Councils suggests it was not intended to facilitate sites that sit within the urban landscape, such as the former Waverton Bowling Club site, or Paddington Bowling Club. For the latter site, the suggestion is that there needs to be concessions on both sides to meet settlement. The state government's focus is on more housing to meet demand; however, public open space and recreational space are also needed.
- To date, Councils are not involved in this potential change in legislation, and no details, timeline or information can be provided.
- The Waverton Precinct working group for this project is meeting in September and will provide a detailed update at the October Precinct meeting.

4.2 Possible new foreshore walk between Milsons Point and Wollstonecraft Stations and beyond (update)

- Ian noted that Council is excited about this project, and the next stage is to meet with Council and show the proposed route and ideas.
- Mayor Baker has mentioned this project to the Lane Cove mayor, and with a positive response.

4.3 Sports facilities for teenagers (update)

- John and Ian met with NSC. Since the pool opening there appears to be a more positive response to this issue, with advice that capital works have been considered for the upgrade of the current amenities building at Waverton Park.
- Suggestion that the current amenities' building refurbishment be delayed (as the building is in working order), and a portion of these funds be used for a basketball hoop.
- The suggested locations for the hoop are below Merritt's playground; north-west or north-east corners of the park, which is away from the water.
- Kevin noted that safety by design is integral to the solution. Are the above noted locations suitable? Can it be viewed by all?
A/ This area is well lit at night. This location is accessed by many residents; dog walkers, and those playing sports.
- An alternative location that was proposed was at the far end of the Coal Loader platform, however, it was noted that this is within the children's learning to cycle pathway and would therefore cut into their space. Also, this area is currently zoned as a passive recreation.
- Jeremy suggested expanding the proposal of a basketball hoop to a full basketball court and including other sports.
- Kevin suggested that the Basketball Association be contacted, to request funding.
- Along with the formal motion below, Ian will write to the Mayor.
- A motion was raised at the meeting:

THAT Waverton Precinct supports the construction of a basketball multi court at either the north-west or north-east corner of Jack Rennie Oval and also see options for the southern end of the Coal Loader Platform park. We agree to the funding for this initiative to be created by deferring for the moment the current budgeted work to design a new amenity building in the Waverton Park area, and indeed we consider, if possible, a refurbishment of the existing amenity building near the oval preferable to an entirely new building in a separate location. We expect that this new active sport facility can be constructed in the near future.

Moved by John Bohane, and **Seconded** by Kevin Alker

Carried unanimously

4.4 Kelly's Place Children's Centre (update)

- Jeremy advised the meeting that the issue of the proposed closure of Kelly's Place Children's Centre at its current Hume Street location is moving fast. The Precinct received an email from Katie Newton, Director, Kelly's Place Children's Centre, providing an update:
 - Paul Scully MP presented on 24 August to Parliament advising that:
 - one of the Hume Street Park design concepts will include the existing building and childcare centre
 - work on the Hume Street Park project will not commence before the next election.
 - North Sydney's Council's 29 June 2026 decision is:
 - to terminate the current lease at the end of this year, 2026
 - not to endorse the retention of the Kelly's Place building within the design and construction of Hume Street Park Stage 2.
 - The final design decision remains with North Sydney Council and so it is very clear from their 29 June Council meeting, resolving to terminate the lease, that without urgent intervention, Kelly's Place will be lost forever.

- The recent Hume Street Park community consultation information and survey presupposed the demolition of Kelly's Place without possibility for its retention within the upgraded space.
- Despite the community consultation survey and information presupposing Kelly's Place demise, the survey results show overwhelming support for its retention--95 per cent of the 421 submissions. That result is almost four in five who support the integration of Kelly's Place within the expanded park. This information was obtained via GIPA (Government Information Public Access Act) as the report has not yet been published.
- Kelly's Place has written an open letter to the NSW Government and to North Sydney Council urging them to work together to secure the future of the community-run childcare service, before it is forced to close at the end of 2026.
- Kelly's Place questions the Council decision to close the centre at the end of 2026, when work is not due to commence until after the next election, March 2027, as advised by Minister Scully to Parliament.
- Kelly's Place would be grateful to the Precinct and its members if they could write directly to: Minister Paul Scully; other relevant MPs; North Sydney Council Mayor; and individual councillors on this matter.
- Waverton Precinct has previously submitted a motion supporting the retention of Kelly's Place Children's Centre and is concerned about Council's reported view, which is not to support, but to terminate their lease. Waverton Precinct questions this decision.
 - Does the Council want to be involved in community services?
 - With the increase in housing density within our LGA why remove a valuable community facility and service? Kelly's Place has a long and successful history, and a working model which should be valued, that is, a parent-led service.
 - Is this Council decision, a decision that is based purely on a business approach. Is it a budgetary-influenced decision, rather than a community-service approach? Engaged communities should also be a focus.
 - Is it a backward step to decrease services when population density is increasing?

4.5 Edward Street sale and Shore School expansion (update)

- 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 the 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.
- North Sydney Council has organised for a consultative committee, and Ian Grey will be a part of this, in consultation with Angus Finney, a resident.
- Waverton Precinct has previously written to NSC, proposing that access to the School basketball courts on Edward Street be provided to residents, when the courts are not in use by the School,
- Waverton Precinct is mindful that a proper plan will need to be formed, covering such issues as insurance.

4.6 Removal of decaying and derelict vessels

- Save our Sydney Harbour and TfNSW are to review the local bay waters to note decaying and derelict vessels that should be removed.
- Waverton Precinct is aware of the Aquacube (formerly Flannagans Afloat) in Berrys Bay, and an insect-infested vessel located off Berry Island.

4.7 Query re Acciona reply on water entry at the new park (update)

- Acciona provided an update on the Berrys Bay project at the August meeting. They noted that people could use the slipway into the water from Woodleys. Waverton Precinct questions this, as the water in this area is known to be toxic. Kayaks could be entered

here however this could stir up the lead-based toxins in the water, and swimming would be highly discouraged. Waverton Precinct therefore suggests there is no water access at the end of this slipway.

- Can a periodic sand placement be made? Would this alleviate/remove the toxic waste?
- Waverton Precinct rejects any suggestion that a fence be built to stop water access, and previously suggested that a pier/pontoon be built to provide safe water access. This was rejected. Waverton Precinct are reproposing this suggestion.

5. New business

5.1 Have your say, Waverton Village

- A Have your say, Waverton Village – helping to shape Waverton's future, is on the NSC website
<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/waverton-village-public-domain-improvements>
- Advertised close-off is 30 September 2026

6. Development Applications

- DA 172/2026/1 15A Ross Street was rejected by NSC
- DA for a new hotel and gaming centre in Clarke Street Crows Nest. Waverton Precinct is overwhelmingly not in favour of this concept.

7. Community activity and other updates

7.1 Coal Loader wharf dismantle

- Work has commenced with the dismantling of the wharf.
- Question raised as to whether timber collected could be used by organisations such as the Men's Shed. Council advised that salvaged materials would be set aside on site for collection, and then moved offsite.

7.2 Proposed kerbside Electric Vehicle chargers

- North Sydney Council is seeking community feedback on proposed locations for new public electric vehicle (EV) chargers across the Council area.
- Council has received an application from EVX Australia to install 27 dual-port EV chargers on existing Ausgrid electricity poles in locations across the LGA. The proposal aims to improve access to EV charging for residents, workers, and visitors. This will greatly assist those who do not have access to off-street parking and charging facilities.
- Before making a final decision, the Council would like to hear from the community about the proposed locations and any local considerations that should be taken into account.
- Submissions close 17 September 2026
<https://northsydney.engagementhub.com.au/kerbside-ev-chargers>

7.3 Change in community consultation

- This link provides information <https://urbanconsultants.com.au/nsw-community-participation-plan-1-september-2026/>.
- The change is effective 1 September 2026

7.4 Various community items

- Kevin Heys noted the Sydney Marathon held Sunday 30 August, starting at North Sydney. With 120,000 applications received, entry was capped at 40,000.
- The pool opened on 7 August with 10,000 visitors in the first week.
- Census which is held every five years was on 11 August 2026.
- Noted the now effective 20 per cent rate increase.
- At the last-held Combined Precincts Meeting discussion items were:
 - pocket parks
 - transfer of funds from WHT to Berrys Bay project
 - Cammeray Park
 - Bradfield Park South and the push to relinquish TfNSW from the site and to clean the land around so it is befitting of a heritage listed area.

The meeting closed at approximately 9:00pm.

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

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

Tuesday 6 October, 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.