

Waverton Precinct Meeting 7 April 2026 Minutes

The meeting commenced 7:35pm, Waverton Uniting Church Hall, and was closed at approximately 9:30pm.

Chair: Ian Grey
Minutes: Shelley Kirkwood
Attendance: 22

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 that the advertised agenda order would be slightly revised. Please note: the minutes below have been ordered as per the agenda order.
- Apologies received from: Bronwyn and Rob Muir; and Joan Smiley

2. Previous meeting minutes (March 2026)

Moved by Kevin Alker, and Seconded by Wendy Pryor

"That the March 2026 minutes be approved"

Carried unanimously

3. Matters arising from the March minutes

None advised

4. Combined Precinct Meeting (17 March 2026) update

4.1 The Council has distributed annual funding to Precinct committees.
In our case, this is \$1500

4.2 Kevin Heys advised topics discussed at the March meeting included:

- housing development (low-, mid-, and high-rise) and applications
- the Bridge cycleway end at Milsons Point, with cyclists making their own route once they are off the ramp
- Western Harbour Tunnel and buses
- water leaks within our neighbourhood
- Clean up Australia Day and work done at Waverton Park.

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

5.1 Why is NSC breeding termites at Balls Head? (March item 7.2)

- *Council response:* Bushcare Management works with Sydney Wildlife Zoo (Darling Harbour) and helps to provide them with live termites for their echidna and numbat enclosures. The plastic tubs contain slivers of hardwood that the termites infest within the mulch pile. These buckets are periodically harvested and replaced by zoo staff.
- Question raised – would the termites relocate and infest nearby dwellings?
Attendee noted that the buckets do have lids.
- Question raised – is this a commercial enterprise, when the zoning is not this classification?
Attendee noted that the harvesting is carried out by volunteers.

5.2 Demolition of the Coal Loader wharf by TfNSW (February item 5)

- The Precinct reluctantly urged the Council to support demolition but suggested that a heritage assessment be undertaken before (rather than after) the demolition phase commences.

Council responses summarised:

19 March 2026 Request forwarded.

24 March 2026 The value of the wharf is well known. TfNSW has received approval from the NSW Heritage Office to demolish the wharf and will “consult stakeholders as to the reuse of salvage materials in due course.”

- Ian is to meet with Mayor Baker
 - Waverton Precinct (WP) position is that unfortunately the wharf should be removed
 - The Heritage Council are of the same position to WP
 - North Sydney Council's position is still to reconstruct the wharf.

5.3 Noakes fire safety order to install a fire control system

- The Precinct has repeatedly asked the Council to enforce development approval requirements and to enforce fire safety and other standards.

Council responses summarised:

May 2025 Council issued a Fire Safety Order on 27/07/2021 to carry out twenty-eight fire safety upgrades to the existing buildings, including in respect of the fire hydrant system. The number of fire safety items has been substantially reduced. There remain some outstanding matters.

December 2025 Most major components are now in place, with installation continuing before the commissioning tests and submission of final documentation to Council for review.

19 March 2026 The fire hydrant system has been commissioned. Documentation to finalise the fire hydrant system installation and fire hose reel system is to be provided to Council. There is a clear scope of works to finalise the last remaining fire safety upgrades.

- Noakes has completed the installation of the fire mains and fire protection system. A test has been carried out and deemed adequate to deal with a Noakes site fire.
- There are fire hydrants on John Street, and also midway across the site.
- The unit block opposite, in John Street is still concerned. Council advised that the fire mains and protection system are installed and working, so as to control a site fire. Should a fire spread beyond the site to neighbouring buildings, then it is the neighbouring building's own fire protection systems that will need to control the fire on their specific site.

6. Existing business

6.1 Berrys Bay foreshore project design

- As well as writing to Acciona with the resolution approved at the last meeting, WP put in a last-minute extra submission—changing the current proposed orientation so that the building looks towards the Sydney Harbour Bridge (the same orientation as Woodleys Shed, and as the original building design).
- Ian suggests WP has had its last chance for significant input; however, there may be opportunities along the construction process for small amounts of further refinement and input.
- WP has been advised that the building design will proceed as per the designs we were shown at the March meeting.
- The park's design has been made less formal, and with softened edges
- To note:
 - The advised amount of parking has been reduced
 - In regard to the WP lighting suggestion—'*we value your contribution*' was the only response from Acciona
- Concerns were again raised about the limited availability of nearby parking, with the view that this could reduce use by both the local and wider community, particularly during the evening.
- WP recommends a flexible/multi-purpose use of the space.

6.2 Former Waverton Bowling Club site

Moved by Jeremy Dawkins

THAT Waverton Precinct:

- (i) plans for a public meeting in May or June to gauge interest and gather ideas;**
- (ii) letterbox drops residents of Woolcott and Larkin Streets proposing the public meeting and inviting interested residents to contact Ian;**
- (iii) forms a subcommittee to inform and advise the Precinct.**

- There was much discussion on how WP should proceed on this project.
- Michael Stevens provided the following update: (Michael and Doug Anderson have been involved in this project since the site was awarded to the Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council [MLALC]) three to four years ago and are the current nominated people keeping an eye on this for WP).
 - Michael is familiar in ways of working with indigenous communities
 - MLALC owns the land.
 - The land is in disrepair.
 - MLALC appears to not want to currently operate from this site.
 - The current zoning is public and open space.
 - MLALC can seek to change the zoning. If the zoning is changed, it can then be leased or sold to a developer. An application for rezoning is made to Minister Paul Scully, and the community would then have 14 days to respond.
 - The risk of rezoning is that it could change to high-rise zoning.
 - The communities' response would be best served as an objection to the loss of open space. Once open space is lost, it can't be regained. Open space is much needed within North Sydney LGA, especially with the freeway construction and the reduced Cammeray Golf site.
 - Woolcott Street and Larkin Street are natural boundaries to the foreshore bushland.
 - Any mid- to high-rise development on this site would result in the loss of iconic views for the local and broader community.
 - Mayor Baker has made numerous attempts to meet with MLALC, and unfortunately, they have not attended those scheduled meetings.

- Various Aboriginal Land Councils own many land sites: example Paddington Bowling Club (La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council); and Newcastle Bowling Club (Awabakal Local Aboriginal Land Council).
- Part of the indigenous culture is to retain land.
- NSC has requested the MLALC to clean up the Waverton site.
- Michael is meeting with a MLALC contact, who he is hoping can advise on how to proceed.
- Michael sent a letter to Felicity Wilson, asking if there had been an application for rezoning. This request was passed onto the MLALC. (Felicity Wilson is Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs).
- Michael suggests waiting to see if there is a rezoning application submitted.
- Michael responded to the motion noted in the agenda, and suggests a public meeting only draws attention and could antagonise and be considered aggressive. (Note: Michael has misinterpreted the term of public meeting as noted in Jeremy's motion – see later).
- There have been complaints about site trespass and vandalism. This site is owned by MLALC, and it's their site to do as they want.
- NSC or state government could offer to purchase the land, however to note; does NSC have the funds to do this?
- Doug Anderson advised the site in the 1940s was filled and levelled with material from the Wondakiah site. It was a rubbish tip, so there would be contamination and would require remediation = increased costs.
- Suggested that WP position is, to retain the public open space.
- Q/ Is it that the MLALC can't publicly state its intentions for the space because, internally, it hasn't yet determined what those intentions are?
A/ Ian hasn't noted any internal disagreement and suggests that as the various Aboriginal Land Councils are 'winning' a lot of these land cases, they currently don't have the resources to manage them all.
- Michael requested the motion be put aside.
- Jeremy however spoke to the motion.
 - Many people are concerned about what will happen with the site and what can be done as an interim measure for it: use the land now.
 - Suggest action is taken now. It's not about protest; it is about collective community thinking.
 - If it is for public open space—what are the options?
 - If it is for residential use—what are the options?
 - Suggests the motion is still considered so that residents can indicate an interest, and collectively put together ideas for both short-term and long-term, and bring these ideas to a Precinct meeting.
- Kevin noted the site has spectacular views and when the state government is saying 'we want more residential', this site if rezoned would be worth a large sum of money. It is not beyond the possibility that this will happen. And noting the earlier comment of site contamination; a residential proposal would likely include basement carparking and therefore excavation of the contaminated material.
- Kevin noted the site is currently owned by a corporation and is rezoned to public recreation.
- Lisa suggested deferring the motion vote to the May meeting and using the lessons learned from Wondikiah development.

- Kate noted that the Waverton Bowling Club site was Crown land and regarded as being neglected. The Council lost the land as they had let the site go into disrepair. The MLALC took it on and won in court. Refer to Attachment A for a summary of acquisition—information generated using AI.
- Suggestion that the entire Precinct is involved, rather than narrowing down to Woolcott Street and Larkin Street residents.
- Question raised on whether a Precinct meeting with this project on the agenda should include an invitation to MLALC to attend?
- Suggestion of a working bee to clean up the site.
- Suggestion is that interim use of land be for basketball courts where schools pay a fee for use. Shared costs between the schools and Council.
- WP's next letterbox drop can include this item on the agenda, with the intent to gather ideas at the meeting—ideas for both short- and long-term use of the site.
- A revised motion was put forward
Moved by Jeremy Dawkins, and seconded by John Bohane
THAT Waverton Precinct
(i) gauge a process to gather ideas
(ii) letterbox drop all WP residents
(iii) invite interested residents to contact Ian Grey
(iv) form a subcommittee to inform and advise the Precinct.
- In the end, it was clear the meeting did not want to accept this resolution, and the suggested path forward and the consensus of the room—albeit not universal—was not to proceed to a vote.
- The Precinct, however, will try to generate ideas to maintain the site at least properly and seek to use some of the site for public activities on a without prejudice basis (such as a basketball hoop) until the MLALC decides what it wants to do with the site.

6.3 Fundraising activities and May trivia night

- Lisa Miller distributed a flyer advertising the May trivia night, Tuesday 17 May, 7:00pm, North Sydney Hotel on Miller Street.
- The Precinct:
 - thanks, Lisa, for her wonderful work
 - endorses a trivia night on 19 May 2026
 - endorses an entry fee of \$20, with payment via Lisa
 - endorses advertising the trivia night via a letterbox drop prior to the May meeting.

6.4 Foreshore walk, Milsons Point to Berry Island

The draft motion had been circulated, and was read out.

Moved by Kevin Alker, and Seconded by Wendy Pryor

THAT Waverton Precinct:

- (i) NOTES that a number of isolated foreshore projects are being undertaken independently between Milsons Point and Berry Island;**
- (ii) CONSIDERS this to be a missed opportunity to realise the full public, environmental and placemaking potential of this stretch of harbour foreshore; and**
- (iii) RECOMMENDS the development of a connected harbour foreshore system, with the following qualities:**
 - **coordinated and complementary visual landscaping treatments to establish a unified foreshore character across sites; and**

- **progressive extension of pedestrian access, with the long-term objective of creating an unhindered foreshore walking connection, located as close to the water's edge as is feasible and appropriate.**

Carried unanimously

Considerations to explore:

- Kevin Heys suggested aboriginal sites, and heritage be celebrated, being mindful there will be sacred sites that aren't to be publicly noted.
- Suggested that NSC can commercialise the new walking track to show businesses along the route.

7. New business

7.1 Brennan Park

- Kate Miller addressed the meeting on Brennan Park. As background, a recent storm destroyed the prominent fig tree, which was in the centre of the playground, and also destroyed the elements under the fig tree.
- Brennan Park is a special place within our community. Its layout is random and naturally invites imagination and adventure for those who visit; children; families; dogs and their walkers; Tai Chi practitioners.
- This randomness and uniqueness are qualities to preserve.
- It was noted that the leaf litter which accumulates under the tree had previously been removed, however this litter does provide tree nutrients.
- It was also noted that the cutting and removal of the damaged fig tree branches were done thoughtfully, and with some emotion at the loss.
- **WP invites the relevant Council officer to attend a future Precinct meeting to discuss with the Precinct the plans for the park and ways of involving the park users in its planning.**

8. Development applications

- There aren't any current applications that affect WP.
- Noted on the agenda that 68 Banks Street North Sydney DA 404/25, and 18 Larkin Street Waverton DA 424/25 are approved.
- Noted on the agenda that 47 Balls Head Road Waverton DA 471/25 is refused.

9. Community updates

- **Sydney Harbour Campaign**
 - Maritime NSW are pressing the owner of Aquacube (formerly Flanagans Afloat) to remove the vessel as it is leaking and water needs to be pumped out.
 - Maritime may need to determine where to move it to, to then break it up.
- **Lavender Bay Precinct meeting and Bradfield Park update**
 - Currently it is a building site and not yet vacated by TfNSW
 - Fishing activity is leaving lines and sinkers
 - Lights near the Bridge aren't working.

The meeting closed at approximately 9:30pm.

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

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

Tuesday 5 May, 7:30pm

The Uniting Church Hall, 75 Bay Road, Waverton

waverton.org.au | precinctw@gmail.com

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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.