



**North Sydney Local Government Area**  
**Edward and Union Combined Precincts Committee Meeting**  
**Minutes: Wednesday, 5 October 2022, 7:30pm**  
**Delivery: Face-to-face at McMahons Point Community Centre & Zoom**

**Chair:** KR  
**Secretaries:** JC Edward Precinct  
CT Union Precinct  
**Agenda:** JC  
**Minutes:** CT

**1. Welcome / Apologies/ Attendance/ August Minutes**

- (a) Apologies 2
- (b) 16 present face-to-face plus 2 via Zoom.
- (c) Minutes of the 7 September 2022 meeting were accepted without objection.

**2. Development Applications**

**Edward Precinct**

- [DA 130/20/3](#) 46 Edward St. Modification to approve DA 130/20 to insert an additional window. Closes 29 September. The meeting noted this application
- [DA 262/22](#) 52 Crows Nest Rd. Dual occupancy and strata subdivision. Closes 7 October. The meeting noted this application

**Union Precinct**

- [DA 47/20/7](#) 2 Blue Street North Sydney. Modifications to the consent to enable removal of six trees. Application approved. The meeting heard this was a notification of approval of the removal of trees at 2 Blue Street, the former social housing apartments.
- [DA 47/20/7](#) 1 Blue Street, North Sydney. Alterations and additions comprising a pedestrian bridge and an accessible amenities room in the Shore School. Closes: 21 October. The meeting noted this application.

For more details on Development Applications visit:

<https://apptracking.northsydney.nsw.gov.au>

**3. Council meetings and notices**

The following matters were shared with members at the meeting:

- (a) Living Futures Festival was approved at a recent Council meeting for a sustainability-focused festival to be held at the Coal Loader in April 2023 with funds drawn from the LGA's environmental levy.
- (b) Street Play trial in the LGA. Expressions of interest are open for the next 6 months. The initiative was part of a motion that was put forward to Council.
- (c) Council voted for incentives for landlords/property owners in the LGA to make their unoccupied dwellings available for rental to alleviate the rental shortage in the LGA.
- (d) Council voted to negotiate with TfNSW for the possibility of disabled parking spots adjacent to the North Sydney Service NSW site in North Sydney. Precinct(s) appreciate this matter has been escalated for consideration.
- (e) Councillor Godfrey Santer has been elected Deputy Mayor for a period of 12-months.
- (f) New Year's Eve bookings will open on 1 November via the Council website for the vantage points in the LGA. Tickets are free. All sites will be alcohol free with no pass outs.  
Bookings can be made at: <https://www.sydneynewyearsve.com/vantage-points/>

- (g) Fox baiting is taking place at Balls Head between October 10-28 with the area closed to dogs until November 25.

#### 4. State Government Updates

##### (a) *Western Harbour Tunnel/Beaches Link*

###### Discussion:

- A motion was moved at the last Council meeting to not enter into any contracts with the State government for Stage 3 (prior to the state election to be held in 2023)
- Precinct members have noticed works have stopped on the electricity roll out. Some members have heard the contractors have been let go. No information has been given/is available as to why these works have stopped.
- There is a pattern of lack of communication, transparency, or regard for community opinion from TfNSW including the Harbour Bridge Linear Cycle ramp, the Western Harbour Tunnel, Tree Removal and we need to be vigilant.
- The community has questions around what is proposed, the quality of consultation/communication and what role Council has.
- Precinct members and motivated community members are encouraged to write to the Premier, Opposition leader, Local member etc. about the significant impacts on the local community because of TfNSW's multiple simultaneous major works in this LGA.

###### Motion

Edward and Union Precincts support the motion passed by Council to not enter in to any contracts with the State government for Stage 3 (prior to the state election to be held in 2023)

Unanimous.

##### (b) *Draft Master Plan for Berrys Bay TfNSW*

TfNSW recently letterboxed local precincts with a 'Masterplan' brochure for Berrys Bay land being transformed into usable public open space and are seeking feedback. The plan is on exhibition until October 23. Two information sessions are taking place at the Coal Loader Thursday the 13th 4-7p.m. and Monday 17 11-2 p.m.

The meeting noted:

- What was distributed is in fact a landscape plan not a Masterplan. The landscape design in the brochure is consistent with the community's desire for open space, however there are still many unanswered questions about what commercial operations, if any, would be allowed to operate in the three 'Precincts' indicated on the plan

###### The meeting discussed the following:

- Woodleys shed and questions around its status. What are the plans for it?
- No planning control were included for the site. TfNSW's 'Masterplan' gives no detail on how the site will operate.
- The 'Masterplan' does not factor in activities and operations within the bay and there is concern about the lack of details, planning controls in relation to extent as possible jetties and marina development.
- This Precinct(s) asks the Chair (KR) to liaise with the Waverton Peninsula Working Group for information and prepare a submission on behalf of Edward/Union Precincts.

###### Motion

Precincts(s) note *The Berrys Bay Draft Master Plan* is not a Master Plan. It is a landscape plan and Precinct(s) feels there is a lack of planning control attached and no indication re what is going to happen to the buildings along the Harbour foreshore.

Passed without objection.

The full Landscape Plan prepared by Context Landscape Architecture can be accessed at: <https://caportal.com.au/tfnsw/berrys-bay/library?hview=media-b60ef3-community-update>

Individuals are encouraged to make their own submissions via one of four ways:

1. Online consultation: 30 September 2022 to 23 October 2022  
<http://nswroads.work/bbportal> launch
2. Survey: 30 September 2022 to 23 October 2022  
<http://nswroads.work/bbportal>
3. Email: 30 September 2022 to 23 October 2022  
[berrysbay@transport.nsw.gov.au](mailto:berrysbay@transport.nsw.gov.au)
4. Phone: 30 September 2022 to 23 October 2022, 9:00am to 5:00pm  
Phone: [1800 931 189](tel:1800931189)

The meeting continued the discussion:

- The lack of transparency from TfNSW on communication/consultation on numerous major works projects taking place in the LGA simultaneously such as **the Harbour Bridge cycleway, the Western Harbour Tunnel/Northern Beaches Link, the removal of trees at Cammeray Park and Berrys Bay open space plans**, means we have to be vigilant.
- Questions:
  - i. What is actually being proposed for Berrys Bay?
  - ii. What other commitments are there?
  - iii. What role, if any, has council been given in any of these projects?
- Current approach of this government is very different to how things have been done previously
- Concern Council will end up picking up the pieces and having to pay using ratepayer's funds to complete unfinished projects.
- Council has been forced into a reactive role as the state government has taken over planning.

## 5. General Business

### (a) Merger Edward and Union Precincts: Discussion

The meeting heard from the Chair the likely steps should we decide to formally merge Edward and Union precincts:

- The procedure will involve resolving boundary changes, if any, and coming up with a final decision on whether to merge the two precincts.
- If we choose yes, a formal motion is to be on the agenda for the next meeting in November.
- Councillors will be notified
- The two precincts will then be dissolved as individual precincts through AGMs held in December.
- The new entity will be created to begin in February 2023.

The meeting discussed:

- Benefits of merging; Wider range of views expressed at Precinct meetings, more people to draw on as office bearers, more people in attendance
- Precinct(s) could choose to wait until the Precinct Review is completed in the middle of 2023
- Hybrid meetings need appropriate equipment and sound is the most important. If Council provides the right equipment consistently the same experience can be had across the LGA
- Edward and Union Precincts have a similar demographic, interests, and character. If we merge, we will continue to be the local voice for our neighbourhoods. Some indicated that southern parts of Union had more in common with Lavender than Edward.
- Reiterated the CBD is not a good fit to be incorporated into either Edward or Union Precincts

### Motion

Precincts(s) resolve to proceed down the path of merging now. A formal motion will be included on next month's joint Edward/Union Precincts meeting.

Passed without objection.

- (b) Carradah Park gathering to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October at 2pm to mark the success of the refusal of the Noakes Floating Dry Dock in Berrys Bay.
- (c) Seeking updates for progress on the following:
  - (i) Noakes Fire Order and lack of compliance still waiting for an update
  - (ii) The still 'unbuilt' jetty at Berry Bay that was promised as a public benefit following the approval for development at the Noakes boatyard
  - (iii) Commodore Hotel noise/non-compliance. The meeting heard from local residents that the live music on the outdoor terrace on Friday and Saturday nights ceased after it was raised at this Precinct meeting, however volume levels of sporting events on the outdoor TV screens are still incredibly loud.

**Question:**

**Could Council please provide an update on these outstanding matters?**

- (d) Kylea Tink has accepted the invitation to attend the February meeting.  
<https://www.kyleatink.com.au/contact>
- (e) Street works (footpath repair and reheating) in the lower end of Union Street/Euroka streets recently took place with no notice or opportunity to provide feedback/input by affected residents. Streets Alive were contacted afterwards who provided good support/solutions.

**Discussion:**

- Could there be a presentation from Council at a future meeting to inform and educate how/what the process is for this type of work to avoid finding out too late?
- Precinct should invite Mayor Baker to one of our meetings.

**Action:**

Union Secretary will invite Mayor Baker to the December meeting.

- (f) Local resident raised the overflowing rubbish bins in Precinct parks, dumped hard rubbish on streets not collected by Council workers, fishing detritus left in parks, event detritus left in precinct parks, lack of street sweeping in Precinct streets, not enough rubbish bins in key areas.

**Action:**

Local resident will draft a letter to be forwarded to Council by Precinct [Attached pp6-8]

- (g) Cycleway announced for West Street from Pacific Highway to Ridge St. is pleasing
- (h) Burton/Bligh Street Kirribilli Permanent Closure /Shared Zone plans are on exhibition closing 14 November. Encourage members to have their say as it sets a precedent for other Precincts in the LGA.

<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov/burton-bligh>

- (i) Wind tunnels in the CBD article worth reading  
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/how-the-sydney-cbd-s-wind-tunnels-came-to-be-20220920-p5bjjl.html>

- (j) Cultural notes: (i) Vale local visual artist and icon Peter Kingston (ii) Note the walk organised by Council to acknowledge Henry Lawsons Birthday.

**Discussion:**

- Precinct can do a lot more to recognise the extraordinary residents of this area.

**MEETING CLOSED 9:20pm**

## LETTER FROM UNION PRECINCT RESIDENT

Dear North Sydney Council

This letter represents discussions that were initiated at the combined Union and Edward Precincts meeting on October 5, 2022 and an undertaking that the combined Precincts would formally write to Council.

It has been observed by multiple community members and business owners that there has been an exponential increase in the amount of refuse to be found in the streets of McMahons Point and more specifically over the last three years. This includes (and not an exhaustive list) large amounts of leaf and other green compostable matter, household items, take away food containers including large numbers of disposable coffee cups, masks, tissues, filled nappies, fishing paraphernalia and dog excrement (bagged and unbagged).

There are community members that are regularly picking up rubbish and have been doing this for many years in the proximity of their homes and in the public parks and harbour foreshore, however the constant presence of rubbish despite their best efforts is disheartening.

This is having a profound effect on the suburbs milieu and more importantly on the storm water systems ultimately playing out in the Sydney Harbour and the collective enjoyment of the same.

Unfortunately the Precinct meeting heard from community members present at the above meeting that they have been advised that when calling Council about the rubbish they have directed callers to the Precinct meetings which whilst appropriate has raised concerns about the ability of Council to directly take on and address community members concerns.

There appear to be a number of significant contributors to the issue – please find below examples that have been raised (with a small number of photos attached at the end for Council information -0 there are many more available):

1. Morning garbage truck collection runs appear to leave significant amounts of items on the road that have missed the truck during the exchange from the bin to the truck. Community members advise that there appears to be limited culture within the collectors to pick up these items that have missed the truck.
2. COVID and the significant foot traffic that eventuated through the suburb (most notably during the 5km limits) increased the number of people visiting the suburb including those who took up fishing which resulted in a marked increase in rubbish being discarded and left behind including masks/tissues.
3. There has been a significant increase in dog numbers in the community. It has been advised by community members that owners could improve the management of their dogs excrement noting bagged and unbagged excrement discarded regularly in public places.
4. There appears to be an increase in household and trade rubbish left on the streets and in other areas like park land. There has been a large number of renovations and certainly an increased movement of residents through the suburb during these three years. Whilst the Precinct Meeting appreciates the council tape stating the item/s is/are illegally dumped it is not assisting with the removal of the same, it sits there for weeks and is often joined by other items that need removal.
5. Community members report that it is a long time since they have observed the Councils street sweeper or Council staff cleaning the streets. Both of these strategies are greatly appreciated by the community.
6. The lovely parkland that abuts the harbour has attracted quite a number of event management type companies some of whom clearly obtain Council permission/permit for their gathering and many that don't. These events generate considerable rubbish including fake flower petals, food and beverage waste inclusive of the receptacle that they are served in and management of the rubbish appears to depend on the individual moral compass. The quantum regularly exceeds the receptacles capacity and then attracts vermin and our ever increasing bush turkey community who then distribute the rubbish widely.
7. There are a number of commercial premises which have regular smokers on the streets. I draw your attention to the corner of Victoria Street and Blues Point Road and the extensive number of cigarette butts on the ground. Community members advise that they have messaged the building Manager to no avail.
8. It has also been noted that a number of commercial premises are leaving their bins out on a Friday often well over capacity and again attracting our busy turkey community who is redistributing the items onto the road way.
9. Limited bins, although the Precincts are not really an advocate for these and note some recent increase in these, however refuse in highly utilised childrens playgrounds like the Victoria Street one including full nappies and large number of wipes in the gutter adjacent to the playground and bushes would indicate that a

rethink about no bin in some of these areas may be required.

10. Litter breeds litter – a community that appears that it does not care – the NZ Tidy Towns project showed this. Unfortunately it is a self-perpetuating problem.

11. There has been disturbing reports pertaining to Bus Drivers and Taxi Drivers unable to easily access the Public Toilets in the Blues Point Reserve secondary to the bollards in place urinating in public places on Blues Point Road. Members of the community have also reported on their dogs rolling in human excrement in Sawmillers Reserve. Whilst it is noted that this is a temporary issue at Blues Point Reserve - consideration of additional public toilet facilities at Sawmillers Reserve would be appreciated.

The Precinct Committees would like to request Councils consideration in working with the McMahons Point community to codesign a plan with solutions to address this very significant community problem. There are interested parties that would happily give up their time to be involved in this. Potential solutions to date for consideration included the following:

1. Mapping what is currently in place and identify any gaps leveraging off the good will of the community members, business owners and organisations in McMahons Point.
2. McMahons Point in partnership with the Council gets behind Clean Up Australia Day – usually the first weekend in March to develop a whole of suburb strategy and to include the ocean fronts. There is plenty of time between now and March 2023 to rally the suburb and get local business owners engaged too.
3. Council review its current street cleaning schedule in McMahons Point with a view to assessing options to reinstate or increase it.
4. Council consider the development and implementation of a Council 'hot line/email' and identified response when members of the community identify illegally dumped items.

Signage identified is unable to be followed secondary to the degradation of the signs. Council consider a strategy that goes beyond the taping of illegally dumped items to assist in the removal of these items.

5. Consider what has been successful elsewhere in relation to change via a review of the evidence base etc. A cultural piece is drafted from this information and via the codesign process and consulted upon for implementation for McMahons Point – along the lines of a Tidy Town Project – maybe a Tidy Suburb Project. It is the considered view of the Precinct Committee that the Lavender Bay Precinct maybe interested.

6. There is a need to consider options around the management of dog excrement. Bags are appreciated, bins are appreciated however not all partake in these opportunities leaving offensive piles all across the community. Consider the extension of bag availability to Blue Point Reserve and around the McMahons Point Ferry Wharf and a cultural piece on speaking up about this when it is observed.

7. Council and precinct increased promotion on the household waste pick up dates and what is and is not appropriate.

8. Consider the trial of Council bins in some of the heavily utilised childrens play grounds.

The Precinct Committee looks forward to further and timely discussions with Council to urgently improved the immediate community management of litter/other items and the flow on effects to our beautiful harbour.

Yours Sincerely

Date:  
October 17, 2022

