



WOLLSTONECRAFT PRECINCT - MINUTES OF MEETING

Wednesday 10 August 2022

1. **Welcome and Attendance:** Nineteen (19) residents and two (2) Councillors attended. Councillors present were Zoe Baker (St Leonards ward) and Shannon Welch (Cameraygal ward).
2. **Apologies:** Ten (10) apologies were received: JM, JC, BDG, AF, Cr William Bourke, Cr Godfrey Santer, PW, JF, NB and AB.
3. **Confirmation of minutes of meeting held on 8 June 2022: Motion:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2022, having been circulated be taken as read and are hereby confirmed. Moved EY, Seconded TG. For 19 Against 0
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - **Planning Proposal 7/21 - 378-390 Pacific Highway Crows Nest (Cnr, Hume Street - Opposite Metro Site A):** Council resolved on the recommendation of the SNLPP, not to support the proposal for Gateway Determination at its meeting on 23 May. Sydney North Planning Panel met on 3 August and determined that the proposal proceed to Gateway Determination subject to certain conditions as outlined in Council's assessment report. Copy of the decision by SNPP is attached (note there was one member of the Panel who disagreed with the majority in regard to site specific merit).
 - **PP 3/22 Fiveways Site Crows Nest.** The Council officers' assessment report endorsed by the NSLPP considered that on balance the PP to have strategic and site-specific merit and recommended it be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) seeking a Gateway Determination, subject to certain conditions which highlighted the many deficiencies in the proposal.

Council resolved not to support the proposal for Gateway Determination on grounds that it failed to meet several important criteria of the 2036 Plan. The applicant has asked for a zoning review, but a date has not yet been set.
 - **Planning Proposal 9/21 at 360 Pacific Highway (opposite the Metro site B):**

The assessment report stated that whilst the planning proposal site is located within a block considered appropriate for increased height and density given its proximity to the future Crows Nest Metro, the planning proposal as submitted did not adequately demonstrate satisfactory strategic and site-specific merit. Council subsequently resolved at the meeting of June 27 not to support the proposal for Gateway Determination. There is no news of a request by the applicant for a zoning review.
 - **Public Exhibition: PP 1/21 – 270- 272 Pacific Highway Crows Nest:** Advice has been received from North Sydney Council (copy attached) that the proposal including a Voluntary Planning

Agreement will be placed on public exhibition from 17 August until 28 September. It is important that we all make submissions to Council so that they can complete a recommendation to the Department.

- **Crows Nest Post Office:** Australia Post has confirmed their position not to currently consider relocation. Instead, they advised that early discussions with Sydney Metro are underway to have an unmanned parcel delivery/despatch facility in the Crows Nest station. It was agreed we should support this as a starting point and attempt to do better.

The site they currently occupy is part of the SLCN 2036 Plan and will inevitably be rezoned for up to 30 storeys. At that time, we can expect to have the opportunity again to relocate somewhere within Crows Nest. It was agreed that the NSW government be requested to help find a suitable site which can be reserved for this eventuality. The Chair will raise this Ms Wilson and also Kylea Tink member for North Sydney.

Council support: The meeting considered the recommendation of the Chair and resolved:

“That Wollstonecraft Precinct write to the North Sydney Council, thanking them for their support to date of Precinct’s campaign and requesting that it be formalised by a resolution (at the next available meeting) that Council endorses the actions taken by Precinct to date and fully supports further action by Precinct to have the Crows Nest Post Office returned to Crows Nest. Council further agrees to continue to actively assist Precinct in this regard.”

Moved John Hancox Seconded Kerrie Tarrant. For 19; Against; 0

5. **Draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP) and Draft Delivery Program 2022-26:** Precinct commented that whilst the CSP had been thoroughly workshopped and was an excellent high-level plan, we were not happy that Berry Street traffic management had not figured more prominently in the CSP. Precinct also mentioned the stark difference in the Delivery Program which appeared to have been rushed in its preparation and lacked detail sufficient to make meaningful comments.

Cr Baker responded and thanked Precinct for its criticism.

Councillors had workshopped the CSP to provide clear directions for the long term linked to strategies and masterplans for the LGA.

The Western Harbour Tunnel is a NSW government project that provides no benefit at all for North Sydney yet has serious negative impacts in many areas. Traffic is forecast by Transport for NSW to be grid-locked at intersections affecting local suburbs including at the Pacific Highway and Berry Street.

Councillors and staff are doing everything possible to mitigate those impacts, but it is a NSW government project and they have the final say.

In regard to the Delivery Program, it was a decision of the NSW government that all planning documents be finalised by 1 July 2022 even though the election for the new Council had been delayed by three months to December 2021. This led to a shortened program and inevitably less detail than desirable.

The meeting acknowledged the difficulty which Councillors and staff had faced in the preparation of the planning documents and thanked Cr Baker for the detailed explanation.

6. **Weighting (Importance) of Precinct submissions:** The meeting considered the report from the Chair and resolved:

“Wollstonecraft Precinct urges North Sydney Council to adopt a formal system of weighting of Precinct submissions on exhibited proposals that recognises numbers of votes in favour of a resolution and the number of votes against that resolution as each being one submission when counting numbers of submission received”

For 19 Against 0

- 7. NSOP – Progress and Freedom of Information:** Report from Precinct Chair: The Chair spoke to his written report and summarised his assessment from information provided from the GIPA, Council management and Council meeting minutes, that the best estimate of the final project cost is likely to be ~\$70 million (~\$8 million over-run) and completion date December 2023 (13 months late, 8 months of which is due to approved EOT claims for inclement weather etc to date)

Cr. Baker responded:

That Council is continuing to determine the estimated final cost and completion date of the project.

That Council is establishing a new governance structure including the appointment of an independent probity officer

That Council is carefully reviewing the business case with a view to delivering the best outcome for the community including having a revenue stream to support the investment and the best use for the facilities, some of which may change.

- 8. Local Area Traffic Management Plan:** The meeting noted the report from the Chair and the request of Council to update and to reinvigorate the LATM to provide clarity and priorities with appropriate cost budgets to the program.

Cr Baker responded:

That Council is aware of the issues surrounding the implementation of the LATM since its first inception and is working to ensure that the plan is updated and as far as is practical the guiding document for traffic management across the LGA.

- 9. Council responses to Action Items:** Council’s response to our SOA was received on the morning of the meeting and provided no new information. The list includes three items that were raised first in February this year, two of which - Items (b) and (c) were included in the LATM from 2016:
- a. Line markings on Shirley Road.
 - b. Intersection at Bay Road, Carr St and McKye Street which has been the subject of an application for funding under the black spot program last year but rejected. A new application is proposed for 2022/23.
 - c. Intersection (roundabout) at Shirley Road, Belmont Ave, and Milner Crescent waiting advice on its priority and timing. This was first raised by Precinct in 2017 as a concern but was apparently objected to by bus drivers – see note attached to minutes.

9. General Business:

- **Cycle Paths for Wollstonecraft:** Precinct sent copy of the initiative for [Safe Streets to Schools](#) to the CPC for consideration at its meeting on 21 June. Council’s response was not supportive.

- **RAT Runs through Wollstonecraft:** The meeting decided to request Council to investigate ways in which traffic could be discouraged from rat-running through Wollstonecraft local roads. Much of this emanates from the right turns off River Road into Shirley Road and then into Gillies Street. The Chair will take this up with Council traffic management personnel.
- **Hume Street Park Stage 1:** Cr Baker advised that the official opening of this new open space in Crows Nest will be Thursday September 1 subject to confirmation by site inspection. Invitations will be sent out for the public to attend.
- **Other:** EY raised the matter of a request from Transport for NSW via letterbox drop of leaflets for feedback on artwork to be placed on platform 1 at Wollstonecraft station. Details are attached.

10. Meeting Close: 9:10 PM. The next meeting will be on 12 October

Attachments:

- SNPP Zoning Review Decision Planning Proposal 378-390 Pacific Highway Crows Nest
- Nth Sydney Council - PP1/21 - 270-272 Pacific Highway Crows Nest - Public Exhibition
- Transport for NSW art work for Wollstonecraft Station
- History note – Wollstonecraft Precinct