

## **Milson Precinct Meeting - MINUTES**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2025 @7.30pm – 10.30 pm**

**The Church by the Bridge**

### **AGENDA**

- 1. Chair Welcome(s)**
  - a. Acknowledgement of Country**
  - b. Cr. Angus Hoy / Loretta Busby (ED) & Mark Kilmurry (Artistic Director) Ensemble Theatre**
  - c. Community – Introductions - 34 Present**
- 2. Apologies and Thanks**
  - a. Apologies – (5) JN, RL, AB, MS & CML**
  - b. Ongoing Community Engagement – special thanks MB**
  - c. Thanks - Mailbox Circulation (Val/Judy/Rob/James/Janelle)**
- 3. Confirmation of Minutes – Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> December 2024**  
**moved by DB Seconded WL**
- 4. Guest Speakers from Ensemble – Loretta Busby & Mark Kilmurry – Artistic Director, Sophie Kelly – Outreach & education, & Sarah spoke about the Ensemble Theatre**

Mark, who has been with The Ensemble since 2002, outlined the history of Ensemble, from 1958 under Hayes Gordon from NYC, using 'The Method', and moving into the 'old boat shed' in 1960, with the likes of Don Reid, a founding member, Reg Livermore and Loraine Bailey practicing their trade and coming up thru the ranks. Sandra Bates joined in mid 80's, bringing in the concept of 'subscription' seasons, getting up to 12,000 pa.

David Williamson's plays have 99% sales vs other plays 70-75% .

Ownership is limited company Ensemble Foundation.

Sophie – Education and Community Engagement outlined The Ensemble strategy and priority to give back to community through dedicated schools performances twice per year for students from poorer social economic areas, who may never have had an opportunity to attend a live performance.

The ensemble is the oldest continuous independent theatre in Australia.

Literature was made available for attendees.

**Motion: MP thanks Loretta, Mark and Sophie for coming to the precinct to inform us of the role that Ensemble plays within our community.**

**Proposed : JC**

**Seconded :**

## **5. Guest Speaker – Cr Angus Hoy**

We would welcome your sharing with us a little about yourself and talk to the following questions that the Community sees as both critical and current. (29 present for this section).

1. Why did you want to be a Councillor and what do you want to achieve during your term on Council?

AH – supporter and believer in the importance of grassroots democracy and the proximity to the community, which you get at council level.

Representative of the Greens Party on Council – originally active for the Greens on the Northern Beaches area

Major focus and concern with the environment, disability rights and inclusion.

Has a background in journalism, Trade Unions, and currently works in Policy Development and Writing

2. What role do you see Precincts playing in the function and operations of NSC Council going forward and how would you like this role to evolve?

AH – precinct play an important role in democracy and precincts are integral to Council.

Need to increase awareness of Precincts to renters and younger people vs them feeling dislocated from the community - as more than 66% of the LGA are renters.

Encouraged Precincts to source help from NSC to engage with people with letterboxing and information sharing.

3. What do you see as the 3 major priorities for NSC over the next 5 years?

NSC has new leadership management and elected persons, need more transparency and accountability.

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NSC needs to have eyes wide open, vs jus getting 'little sugar hits! – plan for the long term.

4. What are the critical priorities and steps NSC should adopt to rebuild the NSC finances to a sustainable position for the future?

Encourage community to attend NSC meetings.

NSC Council Success will depend upon Councils ability to listen to community, answer the tough questions being asked by the community and be transparent at all times.

Floor was opened for questions to Cr Hoy.

Questions from the Floor:

Solar & batteries are not available for high rise apartments, as well as not having gardens – need to change that; Solar panels on Heritage properties; waste

Polystyrene- not available to drop off at Artarmon.

FOGO food waste – when will that be implemented?

Plague Bush Turkey population – concerns around health risks, traffic safety and cleanliness. Cr Hoy recognised this matter was challenging given BT's are a protected species and responsibility does not sit with NSC.

**Motion: MP Thanks Cr Hoy for join our meeting and sharing his ambitions, insights and views. Milson Precinct acknowledges Cr Hoy was the only Ward Councillor who accepted our invitation to attend - we thank him for that.**

**Proposed: JC**

**Seconded: MB**

**6. Lime Ride-Share Bike**

**a. Background** – Trial of 12 months – but till what end date?

**b. Community Comments/Input x 4** – Concerns of older residents with bikes spread out and left on footpaths, impeding access, food delivery people riding on footpaths.

**Motion: Milson Precinct** request that NSC formally write to Felicity Wilson concerning the trial of Lime Bikes – advising that bikes should only be found in 'designated' spaces with bike racks, all bikes should be registered; NSC

should publish the business case practices and any monetary remuneration to NSC for these bikes littering the LGA.

**Proposed: MB Seconded: WL**

## **7. e-Vehicle Charging Stations in Council Parking Facilities**

- a. **Background** – Hipwood Street charging point – concerns about the loss of parking spaces for residents – but then likely to be providing a service for residents without off street parking to be able to change their EV car.
- b. **NSC Response** – NSC received a royalty fee from the supplier of the charging stations – no information on terms, value etc.
- c. **Discussion.** – This is a public amenity that is losing NSC revenue. How can NSC recover revenues on this amenity in the future as charging stations are expanded across the LGA?

**Motion:** Milson Precinct request details of NSC Charging Station Policy and Business Case and specifically address how NSC can preserve Parkign Revenues in situations where parking spots are converted to eV Charging locations.

**Proposed: MB Seconded: JC**

## **8. NSC Proposed SRV and Community Engagement ‘Your Say’**

**The following are comments from the floor around the proposed SRV by NSC:**

Noted - the results of the ‘Have your Say’ Community Engagement were:

75% responses opted for Option 1 or NO increase.

11% responses for Options 2(a), 2(b) and 3

78% said NO to paying extra for Informing Strategies at this time.

Noted – concern expressed that NSC has ignored Community Voice the NSC decision to adopt the revised Option 2(a) SRV proposal and proposal to adopt the Informing Strategies program.

Noted - Low interest Government Loans were not considered, now T-Corp \$10m loan at market rates.

Noted - Neutral Bay Committee concerned about the Neutral Bay Car Park and future developments into the future and time frames;

Note - rate revenue plans are in place for a mix of finances.

Noted – a concern that renters will decline as landlords will make decisions based on investment to recover increased rate costs. Some observations that rents will not increase as the SRV is only a small proportion of annual rent costs.

Noted - Informing Strategies are worthy attributes but question decision to spend \$60mm over 3 years and \$157mm over 10 years.

Noted – NSC has adopted the Informing Strategies investment on front of any IPART decision. Question what NSC will do if iPart either modifies or rejects the SRV proposal. Cr Hoy stated some tough decisions will need to be made.

Noted – embarking on ten major new Informing Strategies in a time of financial crisis is more than ambitious. It will be extremely challenging for NSC to execute this program on top of the challenges currently being faced – completion of NSOP, reparation of deteriorating assets, need to correct the financial erosion.

Noted – the program to implement a new ERP system upgrade is a major undertaking – concerns on plans and costings included in the Informing Strategies.

Noted – process for iPart to undertake consultation not known at this stage. MP will advise community upon receipt of this information.

Noted – MP will seek community views on the appropriateness of MP making a submission to iPart and may seek an out of cycle Precinct meeting in advance of the iPart deadline to give community an opportunity to discuss this consideration.

Noted – there is no transparency on how much has been spent to date on the development of Informing Strategies

**MOTION:**

1. Milson Precinct requests transparent detail on the costs incurred to date on the development Informing Strategies – IE the third-party consultants and advisors?
2. Milson Precinct seeks to register to NSC the community's concern with regard to NSC's proposal for the adoption of 2A modification for SRV of 87% over 2 years vs option 1 or no increase, as per the responses; as well as the proposal to adopt the 10 Informing Strategies prior to IPART decision on SRV.
3. Milson Precinct may hold an out of cycle Precinct meeting to consider whether community seeks MP to make a formal community submission to iPart on the NSC SRV proposal.

**Moved : MB      Seconded: MB Voting : 22**

**9. General Business / Comments from the Floor**

**10. Maree (resident) – approved plan to establish a pedestrian crossing for Jeffrey & Fitzroy St.**

Noted – Maree's concerns were shared with MP through MB

Noted – plan has been approved by NSC Traffic Committee, with T4NSW and will proceed.

Noted – issue remains on the conduct of St. Aloysius students not following basic pedestrian road rules and short-cutting across Fitzroy St

Noted – Maree has proposed an alternative solution to NSC and the Traffic Committee

**MOTION:**

1. Milson Precinct request NSC formally write to the St. Aloysius principal highlighting the community concern on student pedestrian conduct request, and

2. St. Aloysius ensure that students use the designated pedestrian crossings by resourcing manned supervision at crossings at appropriate times during school hours.

**Moved :    JC    Seconded: FH.**

**NEXT Scheduled Meeting: 3 April, 2025 -**

**Guests: Representatives from Greenway Mens Shed**

**Hon. Zali Steggall MP – Federal Member for Warringah**