

PLATEAU PRECINCT MEETING

Tuesday 22 April 2025, Start 6.30pm

St George Community Housing Common Room

Amherst Street Cammeray

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE: 8 people attended the meeting:
KB, PT, JG, AR, MR, SWm,

GUEST SPEAKER: NSC Manager Parks and Reserves

ABSENTEES: KM, LK

VISITORS: S Wright, Secretary of Anzac Precinct

1 WELCOME TO ATTENDEES

2 GUEST SPEAKER INTRODUCED:

David Manson NSC Manager Parks and Reserves

DM gave a brief outline of working history including 13 years with Parks and Reserves at NSC.

Parks and Reserves employ 45-50 people to look after trees, parks, and sports fields in the council area as well as contractors for mowing. The workforce is divided into eight teams including a tree planting team who plant at least 350 trees planted every year, a proactive teams for maintenance work inspecting trees every 18 months, a sports field team for North Sydney Oval, Trunks, Primrose, Cammeray Waverton, Forsyth, and Anderson Parks and a reactive teams who respond when needed eg after storms. The primary work of Parks and Reserves is to care for Council's park assets, including sheds and toilets, with a limited role in providing capital works such as drainage, seat repair and playground equipment.

Questions

MR: Q: Water from the northern end of Colin Street flows down the stairs and onto the path near the demolished house on Pine Street making the area very slippery and unsafe. The path in front of the demolished house has been removed and replaced with synthetic matting over uneven ground, making it unsafe for pedestrians. Why has it been left in this state for so long? What can be done about the drainage?

DM: A: Works that have stopped or that block Council paths are compliance issues. Council's project engineering team manage drainage. Please send photos of affected areas to Council engineers.

KB & SWm: Since the completion of the Ausgrid project water has been seeping over a large area of road in front of No 10 Morden Street. At one stage a sink hole developed causing a car to be trapped. Sydney Water, Council and Ausgrid have not accepted responsibility.

DM: A: Ausgrid is responsible. Council should chase Ausgrid.

SWm: Path at the top of Echo Street is also wet and mossy.

DM: A: Email photos to Council.

KB: Q: Who decides the use of parks eg Green Park? Can Green Park include a community garden?

DM: A: Use of parks is a planning issue. P&R generally maintain these areas. Council Sustainability Team is responsible for community gardens (CG). No money has been allocated for Green Park other than renovation of the tennis courts.

General discussion about community garden in Green Park - location, how to start process eg door knocking for interest, pass motion at meeting, who to contact, soil profile.

SWm: Council has advised there are two CGs nearby at Anzac Park and Young Street Cremorne.

DM: Anzac Park CG is large and has reduced playing space for children from Anzac Park PS and locals.

SW: A: There is plenty of space to play and kick balls at Anzac Park. Anzac Park CG, located in low wet section of the park, does not reduce play space.

SW: Q: Does DM go to meetings with TfNSW and Council?

DM: A: Yes, but the parameters for participation are very limited, eg where to plant 3000 trees.

SW: Q: Who will employ the tree planters?

DM: A: TfNSW is employing contractors. 3000Trees must be planted within 500m of WHT/WFU project. As this will not be possible, they will have to find locations outside 500m boundary. This in turn will require changes to the planning approval. TfNSW may use some of Council's 350 new tree planting locations.

SW: Q: When will planting start?

DM: A: There is no set date.

MR: Q: Street trees are often not suitable for the area. The Frangipanis planted in Pine St drop leaves that become a slip hazard when wet. Can they be replaced?

DM: A: Not aware of the problem.

SWm: Q: How will the net green space in Cammeray (as part of the WFU/ WHT projects) be achieved?

DM: A: The required Green Space will be nominated in the Cammeray Master Plan, to be released possibly in 2026. Money has been allocated to review the development of the whole park.

DM: Plan by TfNSW for an exercise park near the skate Park has been abandoned.

MR: Q: How much land will be returned?

SWm: & DM: A: About 1.8 Ha to be returned. Date to be confirmed.

SWm: PDLP Part 2, to be released later in 2025, will provide landscaping details for Cammeray Park. Work will start in northern section near the overpass later this year with the remainder at the completion of WHT project.

SW: Q: is Council ready for TfNSW to start tree planting?

DM: QA: Yes, especially as North Sydney has lost a lot of tree canopy since 2008.

SW: Q: Where will TfNSW get trees of sapling size from?

DM: A: They won't be saplings; they are too vulnerable. The issue is finding suitable spots.

SWm: Q: Are monthly meetings with TfNSW minuted?

DM: A: Yes by TfNSW. About 10 people attend.

SWm: Q: Where can Council start tree planting? On Department of Education sites?

DM: A: These sites are too busy for more planting. Council will plant Berrys Bay site in the next twelve months.

SWm: Berrys Bay will not meet the ministerial condition as green space. As well the area can not include any of the 3000 plants required for the project.

SWm: Q: Does Council receive grants for new green projects?

DM: A: Council pays for most tree planting with occasional grants and subsidies.

TfNSW pays for new green space and planting associated with their projects.

SWm: Q: Who decides what should be planted eg plants of the area or exotics?

DM: A: Council may select plants that enhance existing landscaping or they may ask local residents to select suitable plants.

MR: Q: Who decides when trees need to be cut or pruned?

DM: A: Ausgrid for street trees. Trees that have to be removed are replaced with a more suitable species eg that are less allergenic or require less pruning.

SWm: Q: Does Council use heat mapping?

DM: A: Yes. That's where the canopy target of 3.46% is important, especially to shade paths, roads and hard surfaces.

MR: Q: Raleigh Street trees obstruct footpath. Should they be pruned?

DM: A: They will be pruned if they are a nuisance or unsafe.

AR: Q: What are the goals and systems of P&R?

DM: A: P&R have a hierarchy of parks that are resourced according to their size with maintenance on a weekly, fortnightly, monthly or yearly basis. Every team within P&R has targets to meet each year.

MR: Q: How much influence do residents have?

DM: A: Council responds to problems and suggestions.

SWm: Q: Are high value areas, eg North Sydney Oval, given priority?

DM: A: Yes. In the case of NSO, Council will try to recover ¼ cost of maintenance from the user.

JG: Q: How are fees for park use calculated and revised?

DM: A: Fees charged depend on the park and their use. For sporting use, fees are comparative with other Councils in the region. Amateur sporting events are charged less than corporate events. Proposed rate variation may affect the amount of money allocated for parks.

3 General discussion about waste and recycling

TOPICS FOR NEXT MEETING: Waste.

4. 34C Pine St Cammeray:

Land and Environment meeting with Council and developer on 28 April 2025 9.15am regarding Council refusal of application to build four storey block above carparking. Plateau Precinct has submitted a letter supporting the Council refusal of the application.

3 PREVIOUS MINUTES – 25 February 2025

MOTION: The minutes of the general meeting held on 25 February 2025 were confirmed as read and correct.

MOVED BY: KB

SECONDED BY: SWm

Meeting ended 6.25pm

4 NEXT MEETING: Annual General meeting: Tuesday 24 June 2025