



MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Access and Inclusion Committee** meeting held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday 27 May 2025.



Table of Contents

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Opening of Meeting | 3 |
| 2. Apologies | Error! Bookmark not defined. |
| 3. Confirmation of Minutes | 3 |
| 4. Disclosures of Interest | 3 |
| 5. Reports | 4 |
| <i>5.1. North Sydney Bike Plan 2025-2045</i> | <i>4</i> |
| <i>5.2. Young Street Plaza Upgrade</i> | <i>5</i> |
| 6. General Business | 7 |
| <i>6.1. 2025 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards</i> | <i>7</i> |
| 7. Closure | 7 |

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at 5.35pm.

In Attendance

| | |
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| Chair: | Councillor MaryAnn Beregi |
| Councillors: | Mayor, Zoe Baker Councillor Nicole Antonini |
| Committee Members: | Jaci Armstrong, Community Member Jillian Christie, Community Member Judy Harwood, Community Member Kate Hooke, Community Member |
| Council staff: | Therese Cole, Chief Executive Officer Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Planning and Environment Gabrielle Rennard, Service Unit Manager Community Resilience and Sustainability George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator Eoin Cunningham, Manager Traffic and Transport Operations Diana Mejia, Engineering Project Manager Peita Rose, Minutes Secretary |
| Visitors: | Group GSA designers, John Holland and Moh Shahzaib Lucy Alderson, Access Consultant from Philip Chun. |

2. Apologies

Councillor Shannon Welch
Alistair Lee, Committee Member
Kate Wilson, Committee Member

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 25 February 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated, be taken as read and confirmed.

Moved by Judy Harwood and seconded by Jaci Armstrong

4. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

5. Reports

5.1. North Sydney Bike Plan 2025-2045

AUTHOR: | George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the North Sydney Bike Plan 2025-2045, which is currently open for community consultation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The Access and Inclusion Committee (AIC) has been identified as a key stakeholder for community consultation, to ensure that the North Sydney Bike Action Plan adheres to the guiding principles of the Integrated Transport Strategy.
- A staff member from Council's Traffic and Transport Service Unit will present the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan at the May 2025 AIC meeting and provide committee members with the opportunity to discuss the draft plan and offer their input.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan 2025-2045.
- 2. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and guidance on how the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan 2025-2045 can best adhere to the stated guidelines of the Integrated Transport Strategy.

Council's Manger Traffic and Transport Operations updated the Committee on the North Sydney Bike Plan.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Are the new footpaths fit for purpose?
- Strategies to move cyclists/delivery riders off shared pathways/footpaths where people with disabilities are trying to get around the community.
- Concerns re the loss of three parking spaces in West Street which will be moved to the West Street Overpass and, difficulties for residents with disabilities who don't live close by.
- Request that Council write/advocate to the State Government for e-bikes to be registered with licence plates for identification, particularly e-bikes that are being used for a commercial purpose e.g. UberEats
- Pro-active education re the use of bikes and e-bikes on footpaths.
- More enforcement of e-bikes on footpaths.
- Concerns re lack of measures/warning for visually impaired members of the community as to when they are going to be crossing a bike path from a road or footpath.

A Motion was moved by Jaci Armstrong and seconded by Judy Harwood

- 1. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan 2025-2045.
- 2. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and guidance on how the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan 2025-2045 can best adhere to the stated guidelines of the Integrated Transport Strategy.
- 3. THAT** the Committee thank Council's Manager Traffic and Transport Operations for the presentation, and that any further feedback from the committee on the draft plan be directed to Council's Access and Inclusions Coordinator.

The Motion was put and carried

Resolved to Recommend:

- 1. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan 2025-2045.
- 2. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and guidance on how the draft North Sydney Bike Action Plan 2025-2045 can best adhere to the stated guidelines of the Integrated Transport Strategy.
- 3. THAT** the Committee thank Council's Manager Traffic and Transport Operations for the presentation, and that any further feedback from the committee on the draft plan be directed to Council's Access and Inclusions Coordinator.

5.2. Young Street Plaza Upgrade

AUTHOR: George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Committee

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide an opportunity for the Access and Inclusion Committee to receive an update on the Young St Plaza upgrades following their prior engagement on the project in October 2024.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The 75% construction issue plans and preferred concept design are now available.
- Council has engaged an Access Consultant to support the development of these plans. The consultant will be present at the May 2025 AIC meeting to provide further information on how the AIC's feedback was implemented, and to respond to further queries.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note the Young Street Plaza Preferred Concept Designs.

Group GSA designers John Holland and Moh Shahzaib, as well as Lucy Alderson, Access Consultant from Philip Chun Building Compliance, updated the Committee on Young Street Accessibility Design preview.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Make sure circulation and turning points are adequate for the use of wheelchairs in the Plaza.
- Ability for larger mobility scooters to access tables, needs to be horizontal.
- Tactile indicators on the stairs.
- Overhang from plantings to be high enough to allow for adequate clearance for people to walk underneath.
- Need for arm rests on the seats.
- Provision of areas for assistance dogs to go to toilet as in grassed area, garden beds or soft pine bark, and not 1 or 2 metres off the ground.
- Drinking station/bubbler for assistance dogs to drink from.
- Need for canopy to provide shade as pavers get hot and dangerous for assistance animals - shade cloth may be needed until plantings provide sufficient shade.
- Light pavers as dark pavers absorb the heat.
- Soft base surfaces as not so slippery.
- Signage in Grosvenor laneway for cyclists to slow down.
- Consider playground equipment that is suitable for children with disabilities.

A Motion was moved by Kate Hooke and seconded by Jaci Armstong

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee note the Young Street Plaza Preferred Concept Designs.

2. THAT the Committee thank the consultants for attending the AIC meeting, and that any further queries from the Committee regarding the Young Street Plaza be directed to Council's Access and Inclusions Coordinator.

The Motion was put and carried

Resolved to Recommend:

1.THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee note the Young Street Plaza Preferred Concept Designs.

2.THAT the Committee thank the consultants for attending the AIC meeting, and that any further queries from the Committee regarding the Young Street Plaza be directed to Council's Access and Inclusions Coordinator.

In light of the SRV outcome, the report associated with *Item 5.3 - 'AIC Consultation Schedule for Capital Works Projects'* was removed from the agenda and therefore no discussion was held at the meeting.

IPART Determination

The Chief Executive Officer, Therese Cole gave the Committee an update on Council's financial position following the IPART decision on Council's SRV application.

6. General Business

6.1. 2025 NSW Local Government Excellence Awards

Council's Access and Inclusions Coordinator advised that the Committee has been nominated for the 2025 Local Government Awards in the Community Development category and have been announced as finalists. The Awards will be held on 6 June 2025.

6.2 Access and Inclusion Committee (AIC) membership

Council's Access and Inclusion Coordinator advised that applications for new members to the AIC closed last week and submissions are currently being assessed. There were 15 to 20 applications for membership.

It is proposed the next AIC meeting focuses on the development of the new Disability Inclusion Action Plan (DIAP) which will allow new members to engage from the start of the DIAP process.

7. Closure

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.