

WAVERTON PRECINCT MEETING
3 June 2025
MINUTES

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm at the Waverton Uniting Church Community Hall.

Chair: Ian Grey

Minutes: Jeremy Dawkins

Attendance: 11

Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting.

There were no apologies.

Guest: Engagement Specialist, North Sydney council

The Chair welcomed Sam and thanked him for accepting an invitation to speak to the Precinct about the Council's work to engage with the community, and specifically on two current issues:

- The Council's Revised Draft Delivery Program 2025-29 and Operational Plan 2025-26
- The Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2029.

Both documents and related information are available on the NCC website.

Sam explained the Council's priorities in engaging with the community, and outlined the purposes of the above two documents.

The delivery program and the operational plan have been drastically revised since the Council's application for a special rate variation was refused. New projects and initiatives have been deferred, and infrastructure renewals have been cut by \$12.5M.

Submissions on the Delivery Plan close on 24 June, before an extraordinary meeting of the Council on 30 June.

The Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2025-2029 includes the Community Participation Plan and will replace the previous North Sydney Community Engagement Protocol which was adopted in November 2019. Council is seeking feedback on the draft to ensure that engagement with the local community is undertaken in the most effective way possible.

Sam noted that there are suggested to be 8 advisory groups to be formed as part of the proposed Community Engagement Strategy

Submissions, by filling in a survey, close on Wednesday 11 June 2025. Members of the Precinct are encouraged to do the survey and make submissions as soon as they can.

Previous minutes

The Chair summarised the business of the May monthly meeting and read out the decisions. The minutes will be posted on the Waverton Precinct website.

The meeting resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting of 6 May 2025.

NSC reply to previous resolutions

The Chair summarised responses from the Council.

The Council will send a monthly note to the Precinct listing DAs in Waverton.

Existing business

The Chair updated the meeting on the following issues.

- **Save our Sydney Harbour campaign**
 - The organisers advise that they have succeeded in establishing direct communications with NSW Maritime, with a senior officer assigned to liaise.
- **Larkin Street at Carradah Park**
 - NSC has advised they are preparing a revised plan for discussion, for the last section of the Park next to the road and south of Wood St.
- **Woodleys boatshed**

- Transport for NSW will report on their plans in the near future. It seems likely there will be some sort of community space and toilets and a place to escape the rain constructed in this area, as part of the new Park ... but the details are still vague and contentious.

New business

The meeting discussed the implications of the refusal of the Council's application for a special rate variation.

The meeting requested the Chair to send a preliminary response to the Council.

A submission will be prepared on services and programs. It was noted that -

- Meaningful choices cannot be made by the community without concrete examples and details: all of the options in the draft delivery program and operational plan can be supported and opposed depending on the specifics.
- Better asset management should mean that cuts to services and programs should not be necessary – specifically minor activities that enhance amenity at low cost.
- The Precinct urges the Council to increase funding for Precincts, since community engagement in this way is low cost and brings many benefits and efficiencies.
- It was noted any changes should be regarded as short term because that is the nature of the problem – it is all driven by the Pool renovation project being so over budget.

The submission will be prepared by also including options for increasing income.

- In general, the Precinct believes that there have long been opportunities to raise revenue in the ways outlined and in other ways, primarily through better and more creative ways of managing property assets.
- The Precinct is disappointed that better asset management was not a priority in recent years.
- All aspects of better asset management should have been explored before resorting to an excessive rate increase.

DAs

There were no local DAs for consideration by the Precinct.

General business

The meeting shared news and updates.

Next meeting

The July meeting will be held on 1 July at 7:30 pm in the Uniting Church Community Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm.