



MINUTES

The Minutes of the **Access and Inclusion Committee** meeting held in the Ros Crichton Pavilion, 200 Miller Street, North Sydney on Tuesday 26 August 2025.



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1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting opened at 5.40pm.

In Attendance

Chair:	Councillor MaryAnn Beregi
Councillors:	Mayor, Zoe Baker Councillor Godfrey Santer
Committee Members:	Jaci Armstrong, Community Member Judy Harwood, Community Member Alistair Lee, Community Member Paul Miskin, Community Member Lynnette Dowd, Community Member Laura Osweiler, Community Member Jillian Christie, Community Member (remote) Kate Wilson, Community Member (remote) Amanda Reston, Community Member (remote)
Council staff:	Therese Cole, Chief Executive Officer Gabrielle Rennard, Service Unit Manager Community Resilience and Sustainability George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator Neil Shotter, Production Coordinator, Communications and Events Lara Watts, Event Operations Team Leader, Communications and Events (remote) Peita Rose, Minutes Secretary
Visitors:	Deborah Metcalf, Communications and Community Engagement Manager - Acciona Western Harbour Tunnel/Berrys Bay team Liz McMillan, Interface Manager - Acciona Western Harbour Tunnel/Berrys Bay - Western Harbour Tunnell/Miller Street/Walsh Bay Meagan Schlecht, Project Manager Wendy Yeung, Project Engineer Transport for NSW Cass Looever, Production - Orbit

2. Apologies

Councillor Shannon Welch
Marcelo Occhiuzzi, Director Planning and Environment
Gary Parsons, Director Open Space and Infrastructure
Kate Hooke, Community Member

3. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 27 May 2025, copies of which had been previously circulated, were taken as read and confirmed.

4. Disclosures of Interest

Nil.

5. Reports

Items 5.2, 5.3 and 5.5 were brought forward due to presentations on these items.

5.2. Acciona/TfNSW Presentation- Berrys Bay Place, Design and Landscape Plan

AUTHOR George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Access and Inclusion Committee with information on the Berry's Bay Place, Design and Landscape Plan currently open for public exhibition.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Over the past 24 months Council officers have been working with Transport for NSW (TfNSW) and delivery partner Acciona on the development of the Masterplan for Berrys Bay.
- The Masterplan will include a foreshore parkland at Berrys Bay that will be redeveloped and returned to Council's care and control upon its completion.
- The area will be reshaped with accessible open spaces, community facilities and improved connection to the water's edge and harbour views.
- Transport for NSW are currently engaging in community consultation on the Western Harbour Tunnel Place, Design and Landscape Plan, which will inform the Berry's Bay Masterplan.
- Transport for NSW and Acciona are seeking feedback from the Access and Inclusion Committee to ensure the provision of safe, inclusive and accessible community spaces, assets and infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee note the contents of this report.
- 2. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback and input to Transport for NSW/Acciona to support the provision of safe, inclusive and accessible community spaces, assets and infrastructure in the Western Harbour Tunnel Place, Design and Landscape Plan.

Deborah Metcalf Communications and Community Engagement Manager from the Acciona Western Harbour Tunnel/Berrys Bay team and Megan Schlecht Project Manager, presented to the committee on the current consultation taken on the Berrys Bay Precinct.

Acciona representatives agreed to extend by seven calendar days, further opportunity for the Access and Inclusion Committee to provide feedback on the Masterplan for Berrys Bay. It was agreed that the AIC members provide Council's Access and Inclusions Coordinator with feedback by Sunday 24 August to form the AIC submission.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Ensure that there is accessible play equipment such as universally designed equipment so that all kids can play on it.
- Ensure that the playground has some equipment that is accessible to wheelchairs.
- Ensure that at least one of the accessible toilets is big enough for an accessible changing space for adults that might need that extra space and support.
- Ensure an easily managed distance from the amenities to the playground.
- Ensure accessible wayfinding across the foreshore area so that people in each location know where the accessible facilities are.
- Ensure the playground is fenced in, especially for those with children with autism. Install one-way gates to the current walls.
- Crushed sandstone pathways are difficult for a wheelchair as it can puncture a tyre. TfNSW should explore other materials that are more accessible for wheelchair users.
- Utilise pavers that are non-slip.
- Ensure no fragranced products are used in the amenities blocks as these may trigger asthma or other respiratory or sensory issues.
- Ensure a hoist and change table are provided in the accessible bathroom.
- Suggest that it be possible for wheelchair users to access the beach from the foreshore.
- Ensure accessible use of unpowered watercraft is possible.
- Inclusivity of the picnic tables. People with wheelchairs might need lower seats and tables to sit with their families at the picnic tables.
- Ensure the playground design adheres to the 'Everyone Can Play' design guidelines provided by the NSW Department of Planning to ensure best practice accessible play equipment.
- The amenity within Woodleys Shed needs to be larger and there needs to be other spaces that people can work in with activities, crafts etc.
- Consider working with the Harbour Trust as they are doing some similar projects. They might have materials to share with you as they are doing some similar work as in accessibility along the foreshore.

The Motion was moved by Jaci Armstrong and seconded by Alastair Lee.

The Motion was put and carried.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee note the contents of this report.

2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback and input to Transport for NSW/Acciona to support the provision of safe, inclusive and accessible community spaces, assets and infrastructure in the Western Harbour Tunnel Place, Design and Landscape Plan.

5.3. Accessible New Years Eve Event

AUTHOR George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Access and Inclusion Committee (AIC) of the provision of a dedicated accessible viewing area and event on Milsons Point Wharf, for the 2025 New Year's Eve fireworks celebrations and to seek input from the AIC on how to best enhance access and inclusion at this event.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The City of Sydney funds a New Year's Eve (NYE) fireworks display which is operationally supported by multiple State and Local Government agencies. Up to one million people view the fireworks live from the Sydney Harbour foreshore, with many viewing the display from North Sydney.
- Council manages three primary vantage places - Bradfield Park/Mary Booth Reserve, Lavender Bay Parklands (incorporating Clark and Watt Parks and Quibaree Reserve), and Blues Point (incorporating Blues Point and Henry Lawson Reserves).
- Council has engaged consultancy firm Orbit to manage these vantage places
- Council is partnering with Orbit to deliver an accessible vantage point at Milsons Point Wharf in the Bradfield Park/Mary Booth Reserve site.
- A representative from Orbit will be present at the AIC August meeting to provide further information.
- Council is seeking input and feedback from the AIC to ensure the accessible vantage point is as safe, inclusive and accessible as possible.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT The Access and Inclusion Committee note the contents of this report.

2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback and input to Orbit and Council staff, to support the provision of a safe, inclusive and accessible vantage point for the 2025 New Years Eve fireworks.

Cass Looever from Orbit who is the consultant company that council is working with to develop all our advantage points that are accessible for our New Years Eve event presented to the Committee.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- The inclusion of a proposed dedicated space for people living with disability to view the NYE fireworks from a vantage point in North Sydney was a positive addition.
- Prioritise the groups that would most benefit from access to this event for tickets.
- Seek to ensure people are not taking advantage of the tickets: Is there a carer's ticket or family tickets, for example if there are 5 or 25 applying is that okay?
- Ensure adequate communication in the lead up to ensure all potential users are aware of the event.

- Ensure strong crowd management procedures for the event.
- Ensure people with disabilities can easily access the event regardless of the size of the crowd.
- Suggest there be a dedicated wheelchair accessible taxi drop off point.
- Guide Dogs go to have access to the quiet tent while fireworks are going off.
- Suggest doing a test run of the cars between modes of transport and getting to the site, including on the day, to ensure they are viable.
- Special access modes and contact with traffic control.
- Ensure accessible bathrooms are within easy distance of the event.
- Seats with arm rests are required. Warning people what is available in seating, to bring a cushion if need be.
- Ensure there are both visual and non-visual way-finding cues.
- Provide an accessible entry point for guests and volunteers.
- Brief security on the concept and ensure they are provided with training on disability.
- Full audio description during fireworks. You can use ABC listener which has specific instructions for people that require the description.

A Motion was moved by Alastair Lee and seconded by Paul Miskin,

- 1. THAT** The Access and Inclusion Committee note the contents of this report.
- 2. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback and input to Orbit and Council staff, to support the provision of a safe, inclusive and accessible vantage point for the 2025 New Years Eve fireworks.
- 3. THAT** the Committee thank Cass Looever for presenting at tonight's meeting and for taking on the committee's feedback.

The Motion was put and carried

Resolved to Recommend:

- 1.THAT** The Access and Inclusion Committee note the contents of this report.
- 2. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide feedback and input to Orbit and Council staff, to support the provision of a safe, inclusive and accessible vantage point for the 2025 New Years Eve fireworks.
- 3. THAT** the Committee thank Cass Looever for presenting at tonight's meeting and for taking on the committee's feedback.

5.5. Let's Talk: Services and Infrastructure

AUTHOR George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to provide background and context of the current 'Let's Talk-Services and Infrastructure' community engagement, Council is currently undertaking.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Since 2020, Council has been facing significant financial pressures which have significantly impacted its long-term financial sustainability.
- In 2024, Council carried out a community engagement campaign to better inform and articulate the community's vision for the future.
- Based on the outcomes of the community engagement campaign and assessment of Council's financial sustainability, Council submitted an application to the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) seeking an increase in annual rate revenue.
- IPART declined the application in full, recommending that Council undertake further consultation with the community, to better understand expectations around service levels and infrastructure condition, and to explore alternatives to a rate increase.
- Council has recently commenced the '*Let's Talk- Services and Infrastructure*' community engagement project to help inform Council of the community's service and infrastructure level expectations and assist Council to determine how this community feedback impacts on Council's long term financial planning.
- Council is engaging with the Access and Inclusion Committee as part of this engagement process.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee consider the current '*Let's Talk- Services and Infrastructure*' Council engagement process and provide input and feedback on the levels and types of services and standard of infrastructure maintenance that Council should prioritise to support a connected, active and inclusive community.

2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee share the '*Let's Talk- Services and Infrastructure*' engagement resources with their communities and encourage others to provide input.

Council's Chief Executive Officer, Therese Cole talked through with the Committee the '*Let's Talk*' Survey.

The Motion was moved by Jaci Armstrong and seconded by Paul Miskin.

The Motion was put and carried.

Resolved to Recommend:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee consider the current '*Let's Talk- Services and Infrastructure*' Council engagement process and provide input and feedback on the levels and types of services and standard of infrastructure maintenance that Council should prioritise to support a connected, active and inclusive community.

2. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee share the '*Let's Talk- Services and Infrastructure*' engagement resources with their communities and encourage others to provide input.

5.4. Disability Inclusion Action Plan- Project Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan

AUTHOR George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Committee

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Access and Inclusion Committee of the draft project plan and draft community engagement plan for the development of the Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- The plan period for Council's current Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2022-2026 ends in mid-2026.
- North Sydney Council is required under the NSW Disability Inclusion Act 2014, to develop and implement a new four-year DIAP.
- Council is committed to ensuring that its Disability Inclusion Action Plan 2026-2030 (DIAP) is co-designed in collaboration with people with disability.
- The Access and Inclusion Committee is Council's primary stakeholder in the development of the DIAP.
- The attached draft Project Plan and draft Community Engagement Plan outline key considerations for the DIAP's development, including objectives, risks, benefits, strategic context, stakeholders, actions and deliverables.
- Council is seeking input and feedback from the Access and Inclusion Committee on the attached plans to ensure the development of the DIAP is created by and for people with disability.

RECOMMENDATION:

- 1. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and feedback on the attached plans to ensure the development of the DIAP is created by and for people with disability.
- 2. THAT** a special meeting of the Access and Inclusion Committee be held on Tuesday 9 September at 5:30pm.

The Motion was moved by Laura Osweiler and seconded by Jaci Armstrong.

The Motion was put and carried

Resolved to Recommend:

- 1. THAT** the Access and Inclusion Committee provide input and feedback on the attached plans to ensure the development of the DIAP is created by and for people with disability.
- 2. THAT** a special meeting of the Access and Inclusion Committee be held on Tuesday 9 September at 5:30pm.

5.1. New Members of the Access and Inclusion Committee

AUTHOR George Carrick, Access and Inclusion Coordinator

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to inform the Access and Inclusion Committee of the recruitment of four new members to Council's Access and Inclusion Committee and to welcome new members.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

- Council's Access and Inclusion Committee (AIC) is an advisory group, comprised of local residents with lived experience with disability, that provides guidance and expertise on how to enhance accessibility and promote inclusion within Council's infrastructure, facilities, events, services, systems, and processes for people living with a disability.
- Following the departure of two committee members from the AIC, there are only six current members of the AIC.
- The AIC Terms of Reference state that the quorum for meetings will be six members, with a maximum of 10.
- To ensure the AIC has enough members so that meeting quorums are met, Council has recently undertaken a recruitment process to seek new candidates for the AIC.
- Through the recruitment process, four candidates were selected for inclusion to the committee.
- New AIC members will complete an induction session on 19 August ahead of the next meeting of the AIC on 26 August 2025.

The new members introduced themselves to the committee members.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee welcome the new members of the committee.

The Motion was moved by Judy Harwood and seconded by Jaci Armstong.

The Motion was put and carried

Resolved to Recommend:

1. THAT the Access and Inclusion Committee welcome the new members of the committee.

6. General Business

Nil.

7. Closure

The meeting closed at 7:52pm.