

NEUTRAL PRECINCT MINUTES
Tuesday 9 September 2025, meeting commenced at 7:00 pm

1. Apologies – GC

2. Additional items added to the Agenda

- Pedestrian crossing Merlin Street North – lighting. See Item 4(v)

3. Business from August minutes:

- i. August 2025 minutes endorsed by CB and seconded by PW.
- ii. Council responses to Precinct motions
Have Your Say – Review of Council Services to meet current budget
Council has noted the following August meeting motion:
Neutral Precinct recommends the Council pare back to deliver essential services only and reduce or put on hold non-essential services until finance is available. If the Council can provide costs against individual services then the Precinct will review and provide further feedback.

4. Updates:

- i. Warringah Freeway Upgrade.
WFU will work all four weekends in September. Work commences 22.00 Friday and ends 05.00 Monday. Impacted residents have been offered \$150 for this weekend and then \$50 for the following weekends.

Discussion:

- The value of the offer seems insufficient for a resident/s to move out each weekend. GM asked how to claim the offer. TM will follow-up with GC regarding how residents in Merlin St can claim the offer.
- It was noted that the proposed bus lane turn from Military Road onto the new WF ramp appears overly sharp and could cause issues particularly for the B1 buses.

- ii. PP4/24 Arkadia 166-188 & 198-214 Military Road

CP spoke at the North Sydney Local Planning Panel on 26 September to confirm the Precinct's objections to the proposal.

The Panel has now recommended to the Council that the Planning Proposal, in its current form, not be supported to proceed to Gateway. The Panel is of the view that the following amendments to the Planning Proposal are required:

- *The proposed height and FSR controls should apply to 180-182 Military Road, Neutral Bay;*
- *A mechanism be included to exclude additional heights above 8 to 12 stories through the application of Clause 4.6 or any bonus provision in other planning instruments.*
- *The reference document be amended to resolve key issues raised in the assessment report including the inconsistencies with the Neutral Bay Village Planning Study(NBVPS):*
 - *The location, width and form of the proposed through-site links.*
 - *Compliance with the ADG building separation requirements and reliance on blank walls.*
 - *The location and size of the proposed Community Centre.*
 - *The building setbacks generally on the ground floor.*

Discussion:

- The Panel's report and recommendations will be considered at a future Council meeting, possibly 22 September.
- The amendments sought by the Panel mirror those issues previously raised by the Precinct and included in our submission to the Panel.
- The public benefit offer of a small, poorly located community centre and narrow walkways from Military Rd to Grosvenor Lane is insufficient for this multi-million dollar project.
- The proposed use of public land for vehicular access to private parking is also unacceptable.
- Residents were encouraged to write to Councillors and support the proposal not proceeding to Gateway. Also to ask Councillors' request the developer revise the proposal to take account of the Panels concerns. Agreed the Councillors' email addresses be included in the minutes.

Motion:

Neutral Precinct requests the Council accept the NSLPP report recommendations that PP4/24 not to proceed to Gateway and that the Council requires Arkadia to revise the proposal to take account of the NSLPP's and residents' concerns.

Vote: Unanimous (11)

Councillors Email addresses:

mayor@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.Godfrey.Santer@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.James.Spenceley@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.maryann.beregi@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.Shannon.Welch@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.nicole.antonini@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.chris.holding@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.angus.hoy@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.jessica.keen@northsydney.nsw.gov.au
cr.efi.carr@northsydney.nsw.gov.au

iii. Barry Lane & Yeo Street corner – traffic blister

TM updated the meeting on his actions to have a traffic blister installed in a no stopping area where you turn left out of Barry Lane into Yeo St. Neutral Bay.

If a vehicle is stopped/ parked, it's very difficult to turn left without driving onto the wrong side of Yeo Street because Yeo street is quite narrow. It's also difficult to turn right, particularly if there's a large vehicle parked in the no stopping zone.

The Council Rangers do book vehicles sometimes but they aren't there all the time. TM has put forward a motion based on a petition he established on Change.org that received 55 signatures. TM did a letterbox drop to about 70 residents in Barry St and Wycombe Rd who have their car entrances off Barry Lane. The flyer had the QR code and web address to the petition.

A motion for the proposal to go to the Traffic Committee of Council is going to be presented to Council by Councillors Keen and Carr soon.

Discussion

- There are different types of traffic blisters using concrete (permanent) and plastic (can be removed easily).
- It was agreed the proposal is a long overdue safety measure for both drivers and pedestrians at that spot.
- A resident suggested that Council could tap into available technology and put cameras up at these spots to catch illegal parking. It is understood some Councils have adopted the use of strategically placed cameras.

MOTION

The Precinct supports the proposed motion by Councillors Keen and Carr to install a traffic blister in the no stopping zone on the corner of Barry Lane and Yeo Street Neutral Bay be referred to the Traffic Committee of Council for consideration.

VOTE: Unanimous (11)

iv. Ilbery Reserve lighting

CP advised that as agreed at the August meeting, the Precinct Committee has written to the CEO of AUSGRID asking for a review of street lighting in streets along the boundaries of the Reserve. We have also asked AUSGRID to consider placing additional lighting focussed on Reserve entrances.

v. Pedestrian crossing Merlin Street North lighting

TP advised that there is inadequate lighting at the pedestrian crossing of Merlin Street North that connects with the new pedestrian bridge. In early morning and evening/night the crossing is dangerous as drivers cannot see pedestrians on the crossing.

It was noted that works are still underway in the area with possible upgrades to lighting proposed. It was agreed that the Precinct Committee will raise the issue with WFU Project team.

5. Have Your Say:

i. Proposed new policy: Commercial and Group Use of public Open Space

TM advised that the Council has drafted a policy to recognise the high demand for open space in the LGA with the aim to create greater equity between the community, commercial users and organised activities. Better management of shared use is proposed and to encourage fair contributions from all users towards the maintenance and up keep of the areas. The draft policy acknowledges that the long-term sustainability of the LGA parks and foreshores is essential for all users.

Feedback on the draft policy closes **6 October 2025**. Residents were encouraged to give feedback using this link:

<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/commercial-and-group-use-of-public-open-space>

Discussion

- The meeting again noted the increase use by large groups of local school children during class breaks. A resident shared a photo of streams of children crossing into St Leonards Park for class breaks.
- There was unanimous support for the proposed imposition by Council of an access fee to support maintenance of parks and reserves.

MOTION

Neutral Precinct supports the draft proposed new policy *Commercial and Group Use of public Open Space* and specifically the introduction of fair contributions from all users towards the maintenance and up keep of the areas.

VOTE: Unanimous (11)

ii. New Draft financial hardship policy

The Precinct noted that Council has reviewed a June 2005 *Financial Hardship Policy*. The review incorporates into the policy the need for greater clarity, accessibility, and relevance, particularly in the context of proposed rate increases and cost of living pressures.

Feedback closes **Wednesday 24 September 2025**. Here is the link:

<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/draft-financial-hardship-policy-2025>

iii. Draft Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging on Public Land policy

Council is seeking community feedback on their draft EV charging on public land policy. It has been developed as EVs are increasingly adopted in the community and demand for publicly accessible charging points is growing.

Residents with private driveways can charge their vehicles at home, but many North Sydney residents lack access to off-street charging options.

By adopting a policy on EV charging on public land, Council can ensure a consistent and strategic approach to support the roll out of charge points, promoting sustainability, preserving public amenity, and enhancing equity and accessibility for residents and visitors.

Feedback on the draft policy **closes tomorrow 10 September**. Please give your feedback using this link: <https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/ev-policy-2025>

Discussion

- EV charging stations on public land needs to be set up in a managed way
- A regulation should be included that drivers cannot just park there and retain the space when the charge to their vehicle is completed
- Power costs from charging EVs should not be incurred/subsidised by the Council.

MOTION

The Precinct supports the Council establishing EV charging spots on public land in a managed way. Restrictions should be put in place to require drivers to leave the EV charging spot when the charge to their vehicle is complete. Power costs should be fully incurred by the vehicle owner and not the Council.

VOTE: Unanimous (11)

iv. Draft Swimming Pool Inspection Program.

The meeting noted that the *draft Swimming Pool Inspection Program* specifies how Council conducts mandatory inspections of swimming pools located on private property.

The draft updates the existing 2013 program to reflect current regulatory requirements and operational practices. Changes have been made to align with the Swimming Pool Regulation 2018 and current legislative requirements.

Feedback closes next **Thursday 18 September 2025**. Here is a link for feedback:

<https://yoursay.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/draft-pool-inspection-program>

6. Upcoming meetings were noted:

- i. [Neutral Precinct](#) – 14 October
- ii. [Council](#) – 27 October, 10 November

The meeting ended at 8:10pm