

Neutral Precinct

North Sydney Council's Community Precinct
System



Minutes of Meeting: Tuesday 8 September 2026

Commenced at 7.00 pm
Chair: TM (Co-Convenor)
Minutes: CP (Secretary)
Attendance: 15
Apologies: KS,JA
Concluded: 8:35 pm

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1. The August minutes were endorsed by GC and seconded by CB.
2. Council's response to Precinct's motions was not received before the meeting.
3. Updates:
 - i. Neutral Bay to Mosman Cycleway

CB presented a set of slides and videos demonstrating traffic/pedestrian conflicts at the Yeo Street/Wycombe Rd intersection and in Bydown Street at the Neutral bay Public School designated drop off and pick up area.

Discussion:

Residents do not oppose cycling infrastructure but remain stridently opposed to the design of the proposed cycleway. Concerns were raised about traffic flow, safety and the inadequacy of Council's consultation and traffic assessment. The key concerns raised were:

Criticism of traffic study conducted in 2023

- Observations were undertaken during school holidays rather than representative peak periods.
- The assessment relied on limited data.
- Current and proposed development under the Low to Mid Rise Planning Policy resulting significant increases in traffic, particularly from multiple apartment developments proposed for Barry Street has not been adequately considered.
- The proposed cycleway contains multiple intersections and driveways where vehicles cross the cycle path without traffic-light control.
- Yeo Street is considered a significant local access route carrying cars, buses and heavy vehicles, rather than simply a minor local road.
- The proposed changes would reduce parts of the road to a single traffic lane, potentially increasing congestion and delays.
- There are numerous potential conflict points involving: Bent Street, Premier Street, Barry & May Lanes, multiple residential driveways, bus and fire truck movements, turning vehicles.
- 10 conflict points were identified within approximately 600 metres between Bent Street and Wycombe Road. Barry Lane was specifically highlighted as not being addressed in the traffic report.
- Traffic queues already occur during school drop-off and pick-up, and members believe the proposed design could make these worse, particularly around the Neutral Bay Public school. Observations were undertaken during school holidays rather than representative peak periods.

- The proposed cycleway contains multiple intersections and driveways where vehicles cross the cycle path without traffic-light control.

Safety Around Neutral Bay Public School

- The potential interaction between the cycleway, vehicle traffic and children around the school. Residents said the design would redirect additional traffic into the school precinct and create conflicts during school drop off and pick up times.
- Residents expressed concern that the development proposals for three new high rise apartment buildings in Barry St. would also direct demolition/construction trucks/vehicles into the school precinct.
- Resident JN spoke to a letter she has written preliminary to speaking at the upcoming Neutral bay PS P&C meeting to raise concerns, particularly cyclists and pedestrians interacting with vehicles.
- There was strong support for formally recording the concerns of parents and other stakeholders rather than accepting the report of consultation to Council that suggested there was little community opposition.

Consultation and Transparency Concerns

- Another significant issue was the way the project has been consulted on.
- Residents highlighted that the revised plan released on 30 July 2026 contained a material change involving the proposed closure of Harrison Street, which they believe was not properly exhibited to the community in accordance with requirements for closing a road.
- Residents also questioned:
 - Why the community had not been given adequate opportunity to comment on the revised design.
 - Why Council submissions had not been publicly released.
 - Why there was no community representative working group unlike proposed closure of part Edward Street North Sydney and probable sale to Shore School.
 - Whether Council had properly considered traffic, safety, utilisation and future development.
- A resident advised that a Freedom of Information request has been lodged with Council for the relevant information.

Next Steps

The Meeting agreed to:

- Maintain the Precinct's overall stated objective not to oppose cycling infrastructure itself, but to seek a safer and better-designed solution.
- Actively support the Community Action Group established by resident JC and to increase public awareness by posting the Group's contact details and traffic/cycleway analysis on the Precinct's Facebook Page and Website.
- Support resident JN's letter to the Neutral Bay Public School P&C.
- Collect additional photographs, observations and traffic information.
- Continue discussions with councillors and State Government representatives and potentially raising concerns to the media.
- Write to State Government representatives requesting a new comprehensive and independent traffic assessment before the project proceeds.

ii. State Significant Development (SSD-122143490) 3 and 5 Yeo Street

TM advised that the Precinct has made submissions to The Heritage Council of NSW and Planning NSW seeking an interim heritage order on 'Highmoor' 5 Yeo Street to prevent potential imminent harm to the dwelling and to allow for an independent heritage assessment before a decision is taken on the SSD.

Community research undertaken with assistance from the North Sydney Heritage Centre has identified potential local cultural significance associated with the existing dwelling and possible State heritage significance associated with the architect and former owner Frederick Moorhouse.

Resident, NB, advised a local neighbourhood group has been established, with approximately 15 particularly active residents involved and additional residents submitting objections to the SSD. Concerns include: loss of a potentially significant heritage property, the bulk and scale of the proposed development removing sunlight and privacy from adjacent dwellings; the cumulative impact when combined with other nearby proposed development and the proposed cycleway.

iii. Warringah Freeway Upgrade

Noted that the resealing of road surfaces scheduled for the 6/7 September was postponed due to the Sydney Marathon on 7 September commencing in Miller Street and proceeding across the Sydney Harbour bridge.

4. Cammeray Parklands

GC provided an update on the State Government proposal to transform part of the former golf-course area into approximately 2.5 hectares of parkland. The proposal includes establishing: 'Ernest Park' near the existing skate park; a lunch/picnic area; an artwork space; basketball/pickleball court; synthetic grass soccer area for casual use; eight-space car park; new pedestrian/cycle connections.

Discussion:

- It is mainly a passive recreation space apart from the basketball/pickleball court
- It is disappointing that a large part of the area being 'given back' contains a new access road to the new Western Harbour Tunnel facilities.
- The additional active transport link to Miller Street is welcome.
- Disappointing there are no toilet or change facilities are being provided

Residents were encouraged to [review the proposal and provide feedback to the State Government](#)

5. Council consultations: "Have Your Say"

i) Draft Debt Recovery Policy.

Noted the key elements of the draft policy. Residents were encouraged provide their feedback by 16 September 2026 through ['Have Your Say'](#)

- ii) Proposed Kerbside Electric Vehicle Chargers. [More Information](#)

Feedback closes 17 September 2026

Noted Council is proposing dual-port EV chargers be installed and managed by installed and maintained by the charging provider, with no installation or operating cost to Council. at 27 locations in the LGA, with eight locations in Neutral Precinct area. The proposal would: use existing poles; service two adjacent parking spaces per charger; reserve spaces for EVs while actively charging; retain existing parking restrictions; be

Discussion:

Residents expressed support for the concept but;

- identified that the loss of two parking spaces at each location will impact already tight residential parking availability particularly in Barry Street; and
- would like more information on why particular locations were selected, how parking restrictions will be enforced and the practical impact on existing parking availability.

MOTION:

The Precinct requests clarification from the Council on the criteria used to select the proposed locations for EV charging installation and any considerations given to lessening the impact of losing 2 general parking spaces at each location.

VOTE: For 15; Against Nil; Abstain Nil

- iii) Land Swap between the Neutral Bay Club and North Sydney Council. The meeting discussed and provided unanimous support for the proposed arrangement between the Neutral Bay Club and North Sydney Council, involving small portions of adjoining land and renewal of lease arrangements for a five-year period.

The Precinct Committee will provide this feedback to Council by 23 September through [‘Have Your Say’](#)

- iv) Public Exhibition: Cammeraygal Montessori School, Forsyth Park and North Sydney Council – intention to renew the lease and licence. The Precinct discussed and provided unanimous support for the proposed renewal of the lease and licence involving Cammeraygal Montessori School, Forsyth Park and North Sydney Council.

The Precinct Committee will provide this feedback to Council by 6 October through ‘Have Your Say’

6. The following upcoming meetings were noted: [Neutral Precinct](#) – 13 October 2026; [Council](#) – 14 September, 28 September