

NIRAG Quarterly Meeting Minutes, 7 pm, Wednesday 1st November 2023

Bulli Community Centre Hall

Present – Cr Richard Martin, Ross Dearden, Neil Walker, Susannah Cavill, Margaret Hutchison, Kirk Bendall, Michael Crighton, Neil Hinds, John Zaremba, Ian McKinlay, Philip Clifford, Jo Page (Director Infrastructure and Works from 7.30 pm). Guest Speakers: Kirsty O’Connell and Matthew Theris (Sandon Point Anglicare).

Apologies – John Croker, Tony Horneman, Stephen Young, Edie Swift, Jill Walker, Maryanne Stuart (Member for Heathcote), Kerrie Anne Christian, Jane Morrison

Minutes of last meeting: 2 August 2023: Accepted by: Kirk Bendall / Susannah Cavill

ARV Presentation: Following acceptance of the minutes Kirsty O’Connell and Project Manager Matthew Theris gave an update on the planning and community consultation for the Sandon Point Anglicare project.

The Sandon Point Seniors Living Development site is between Wilkies Street and Tramway Creek, Bulli and it will include 229 apartments and a 41 bed “Care Hub”. This project will be developed and ownership retained by Anglicare. Community access will be encouraged with shared paths/ cycleways through the site. Many changes have been made after the first round of consultation and the Turpentine Forest now has additional curtilage. Flooding issues have been addressed and additional underground parking provided. There will be no gas appliances and a community battery was suggested to complement solar. The bridge connecting Geraghty St across Tramway Creek will have huge community benefits by providing *an alternative emergency link* from the eastern part of Thirroul to Bulli, but the timetable for the bridge was not provided.

NIRAG is liaising with the team to ensure that when the bridge is built the entire Geraghty Street is constructed as a **Local Area Traffic Management (LATM)** scheme, with a design speed of 40kph or less, to be safe for elderly and other vulnerable residents. It is vital that it is designed to limit the volume of additional “rat run” traffic generation through residential streets. It was noted that Google maps should not show this as a “short cut” as this could direct all through traffic that way at peak times or if LHD is congested.

ARV representatives will also hold information sessions in the Thirroul Club on 8th and 10th November.

Business arising:

1. **Ocean Park Woonona:** Plans to extend the Bulli Cemetery, at Owen and Carrington St, Bulli. No advice has been received. Cr Martin confirmed that there has been no advice. Noted
2. **Point St Footbridge :** Received advice (11/9/23) from WCC on scope of work that a new 3m wide steel truss bridge will be built estimated that work scheduled for the 2024 and take 4 months. Noted
3. NIRAG has had a follow up meeting **IDP** (Infrastructure Development Plan) discussion with Jo Page. About various outstanding local issues eg: Point St LATM linemarking is incomplete; Some fill next to the cycleway just north of the Sandon Point carpark has been placed recently, but not enough to eliminate ponding and more is required. Bulrushes are growing tall again at Tramway Creek cycleway crossing, and need cutting again. ACTION WCC required.
4. **Section 134 (5) of the NSW EP&A Regulation** requirement for Private Certifiers to notify neighbours prior to issuing Complying Development Certificates. Private Certifiers in Wollongong LGA are currently not required to give notice to neighbours. Maryanne Stuart agreed to follow up and ask Paul Scully, Planning Minister, to make a change to the EP&A Regulation. Update is requested, no further advice received.

5. **Old Bulli Hospital Community Group/** Landcom; Bulli Hospital WCC DA for ground remediation was on public exhibition (DA 2022/1364). The group's statement of claims was attached to the agenda emailed to members. Col McGuiness addressed the meeting and advised that additional services including Palliative Care were now at Bulli. Parking is a huge problem. A meeting held on 30 August, was told the "Dept of Health has a long term solution", but no further details. A public meeting with Ryan Park will be held at the Bulli Senior Citizens Centre at 7pm on Wednesday 8th November.
6. **Trinity Row:** Cycleway construction commenced in October. Jo Page advised that the existing shelter shed will be retained and that a short length of barrier fencing was required for compliance. It would be as low as allowable. Jo Page advised that the 4m wide path is being built in short sections to minimise the detour during construction. Noted
7. Workshop 2 for Wollongong Council **Integrated Transport Strategy**. The key aim of reducing dependence of car transport should be clearly stated. A report is yet to be received. Stephen Young attended a Wollongong City Centre Movement and Place Plan meeting on Friday 18th August and was told the State Gov is *not* using the Movement and Place framework for planning for Bulli and Thirroul. WCC and Councillors have been advised that this is unacceptable to the community and asked to have this reversed (email sent 19/8/2023).
8. **YES23 campaign for the Illawarra:** A Voice to Parliament is one of the key reforms Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities have called for through the Uluru Statement from the Heart. The August NIRAG meeting unanimously agreed to support the YES23 vote but the referendum on 14 Oct was not passed. Noted.
9. **Graffiti removal kit** from Council has been used on signposting at McCauleys and SPATE. Ross has the kit with chemical wipes which can be borrowed to remove graffiti on signs and smooth surfaces. Alternatively please advise Council using the "Report an Issue". Noted.
10. Proposal from a member that Council:
 - ban fossil-fuel gas connections in new developments
 - require Solar Panels for all new homes and apartments, commercial developments
 - require PV friendly electrical designs in larger developments with Shared Facility & Community batteries – similar to Community Parking in Shopping Centre Commercial Developments

An email letter to Council was sent (31/8/23). A response was received (19/9/23) the NIRAG submission to the Climate Change Mitigation Plan, CCMP submitted on 30th October, made these points. Follow up letters were written to Paul Scully (31 August) advising our committee endorses the action already taken in Victoria, Waverly and Parramatta Councils to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We ask for State Government assistance on the current and proposed State planning measures to address the issues raised above. Cr Martin informed the meeting the even if Council banned new gas connections it had no power to enforce this.

Treasurer's Report: ICU account (General A/c) Current Balance \$378.73
 2023/24 BPN Associate Membership Renewal, \$20 (1/9/23): and **Fair Trading** fee: \$54 (18/8/23). Noted

General Business

1. Consultation has been extended until **15th November 2023** for the **Offshore Wind turbines** proposal for a future renewable energy project. Information about this is available online at: <https://consult.dcceew.gov.au/oei-illawarra> . You can take the survey or email a submission to offshorerenewables@dcceew.gov.au.
 Note that if you take the survey and click "**Yes: you do have concerns**" it then opens up an additional part where you can insert your concerns. Also it has to be completed in one session - You can't save it

and then go back to it. If you have concerns about specific aspects it would be best to create a word document and when complete, attach it to the end of the survey or email it.

There is a lot of misinformation on social media and members were advised to read the UOW FAQs for additional research: <https://www.uow.edu.au/ancors/blue-energy-futures-lab/frequently-asked-questions/>

Members agreed to support the “Electrify 2515” response which can be found at <https://electrify2515.org/offshore-wind> (conditional on a thorough EIS process that considers all of the 13 DCCEEW identified impacts). The 13 identified impact pathways are listed on page 10 of the DCCEEW guide (and emailed with these minutes).

Moved Neil Walker/ Susannah Cavill

- 2 NIRAG and the Hewitts Creek Bushcare group participated in the **Spring Rise and Shine** with a successful cleanup of the Hewitts Ck / McCauleys Beach area on 9th October. Noted

Late Business

1. Cr Martin advised the meeting that Council was now publishing a Works Update to show the various projects in progress throughout the city. It will be available in hard copy and online.
2. Maintenance of the many swimming pools and rock pools throughout the city was becoming a concern with most of the pools constructed over 40 years ago and some now needing major maintenance.

Notices:

1. **Neighbourhood Forum 3** needs a Convenor; NIRAG is acting as the interim WCC community contact. Anyone interested could contact Jen Lysle-Van Dyk, WCC Engagement Coordinator.
2. **Thirroul Village Committee (TVC) meetings** are held at the Railway Institute Hall in Thirroul. The next TVC meeting is 4pm Sunday 26th November 2023.
3. **Our next NIRAG/NF3 quarterly** meeting, is February 2nd, 2024, at 7pm

Meeting concluded at 8.45 pm