



# GREENWICH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

Our next public meeting is on **Wednesday, 19 February at 7.00 pm** (half an hour earlier than usual) in the Greenwich Community Hall, 46 Greenwich Road, Greenwich. We are starting earlier to give the time to representatives from ferry operator Transdev to explain the proposed changes to ferry timetables, which have provoked such enormous community outcry. For those readers who were away over January and did not see our flyer and have no idea what has happened, here is a brief summary:

**IT HAS BEEN PROPOSED THAT FROM MID 2021 FERRIES FROM GREENWICH POINT WILL NO LONGER GO TO BALMAIN OR CIRCULAR QUAY**, but terminate at Barangaroo instead. This means that those of us who appreciate the advantages of CQ – the quick and pedestrian friendly access to bus, train, light rail, Opera House, Dendy cinema, Macquarie street doctors, museums and airport rail link - will no longer have those benefits so easily. Commuters will face at minimum **a 10-minute walk from Barangaroo** to Wynyard Station, much of it without weather protection and with four flights of stairs or escalators.

There is even more walking if you want to catch buses or the light rail on George Street. A tough ask for those who are less mobile and families with young children.

This first came to our attention in mid January, although there had been press notices in the North Shore Times in December. Since then, our phones have been running hot with enquiries from concerned residents, which is why we decided to invite Transdev to please explain.

Other river communities have also been invited to the meeting as the outrage seems to be fairly universal.

### THE GCA IS MAKING THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

Consultation should have started well before this, given the mid-February deadline.

The consultation platform is woeful

– there is no obvious mechanism for making submissions and we are directed to ‘Ask a Question’, to complete a survey or comment on a route map that does not include Barangaroo.

The site states that Barangaroo is a major transport interchange but offers no detail of the transport options available or time to connect to them.

While there certainly is a case for adding Barangaroo as a regular stop for all the North Shore commuters who work there (and locals and tourists may also appreciate a direct link) - **that should not be at the expense of Circular Quay**. Why not either continue the ferry to CQ after the Barangaroo stop, or dedicate a Barangaroo ferry for peak periods?

The Barangaroo Metro station is not due to open until 2024, and it will be part of the future vision of making Barangaroo an important transport hub and interchange. But to direct the ferries there in 2021 is premature. The issue should be revisited only when the interchange is up and running.

Unfortunately we have been given little time to state our views, as Transdev has confirmed that it cannot extend the submission period as it must report to Government by end of February, so it's important that you **get in your submission by 14 February, before the public meeting**. But at least in the meeting you can let Transdev know how you feel.

The ‘Have Your Say’ process is not particularly user-friendly, but please persist and register your views on <https://yoursay.transdev.com.au/>

## AGM

There will lots to talk about at this meeting, after the Transdev segment, but we will squeeze in the AGM as it's important to set up the new committee asap. All positions will be vacated so nominations are open for: president, two vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and seven committee members.

Nominations for the positions may be submitted beforehand in writing to Merri Southwood ([southwood@bigpond.com](mailto:southwood@bigpond.com)) or may be offered from the floor at the meeting. Please note that nominees must have accepted the nomination, be seconded and be 2020 financial members of the GCA. Only financial members are entitled to vote, so be sure to renew your subscription before or on the night. Sub slips are included with this newsletter and contain details of how to join or renew. Please email our treasurer, John Southwood ([j.southwood@spectrafin.com.au](mailto:j.southwood@spectrafin.com.au)), if you need to check your membership status.

Note that there is an option to be active in GCA without necessarily joining the committee, and that is to join a sub-committee, or even start one, if there is an issue you feel particularly strongly about.

## ST LEONARDS SOUTH UPDATE

Late afternoon of 7 February, the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) issued its long awaited and much anticipated report on Council's St Leonards South Planning Proposal. This report follows the design charrette held on 11 November 2019.

The report identifies the DPIE's recommended approach to the planning of St Leonards South, and may be viewed in full at:

[http://ecouncil.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/TRIM/documents\\_TE/757970119/TRIM\\_St%20Leonards%20South%20SLS%20Design%20Charrette%20Outcomes%20and%20Recommendations%20Report%20by%20DPIE\\_1402243.PDF](http://ecouncil.lanecove.nsw.gov.au/TRIM/documents_TE/757970119/TRIM_St%20Leonards%20South%20SLS%20Design%20Charrette%20Outcomes%20and%20Recommendations%20Report%20by%20DPIE_1402243.PDF)

If this link doesn't open you should be able to access the report under 'Hot Topics' / St Leonards South on Council's home page.

Whilst the report includes some obvious changes to Council's original proposal – an expanded open space in the centre of the site, reduced building heights in some locations, increases in others- there is much work to be done to assess the implications of the DPIE's proposals, particularly in relation to FSR and dwelling numbers.

Councillors now face a decision about how Council will respond to this report. It looks like Council will have to start the SLS master planning process again, with updated infrastructure agency reports and widespread consultation with adjacent LGAs.

We will complete a more detailed analysis of the changes proposed in the report for our 19 February meeting but hope that many of you will take the opportunity to read the report beforehand.

The future of SLS is far from resolved but Council clearly wants to ensure that alternative locations for high density are ruled out – that SLS is seen as the one and only solution for the dwellings that Lane Cove must create by 2036. It has said this in its Local Strategic Planning Statement approved at an extraordinary meeting on 3 February.

Let's hope the Greater Sydney Commission asks Council to explain its position when the Statement is put through its assurance process.

## THE COMMUNITY FIGHTS BACK

### Crows Nest Metro Over Station Development Deferred

SLS is not the only site to have attracted strong opposition to inappropriate development. In a heartening move, and following active resistance, the powers that be have decided to suspend the new Metro Over Station part of the development which was to include two 27-storey residential towers, a 17-storey hotel and an 8-storey commercial building. While the Metro itself is going ahead there will now be no action on the OSD until zoning and heights for the site are decided after details of the St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan are finalised. This could happen as early as March or April this year.

In the same vein, Top Spring and Greaton planning proposals for the SLS properties they have acquired are on hold until the overall plan for SLS is clarified.

## VIVA GORE BAY

We have been in contact with Council over the holidays to clarify a few issues of community concern, most importantly **the fuel pipeline that runs under Greenwich Road and Shell Park**. We noted the amount of debris and fuel load adjacent to the exposed pipeline and, worried about the potential for bushfire risk, asked Council for this to be cleared. This was done.

The pipeline is covered by a licence agreement with Council. It is well due for renegotiation as it was signed over 30 years ago. Council has advised us that it is in the process of reviewing the licence and we look to Council to ensure that it covers the public health and safety issues associated with the operation of a refined product pipeline, including adequacy of insurance cover and emergency services response.

## 'CLIMATE ACT NOW' RALLY

The GCA has always maintained its non-partisan, non-political stance, so we wondered if the following is appropriate for this newsletter. Then we decided that it is too important not to be circulated. The rally is to take the politics out of climate change and show support for the 'Climate Change Bill 2020'.

Sunday, 1 March 2020 @ 11 am  
**Music Shell, St Leonards Park, North Sydney (near North Sydney Oval)**

Speakers:

**GREG MULLINS**

Emergency Leaders for Climate Action  
Former NSW Fire & Rescue Commissioner

**ZALI STEGGALL, OAM**

Independent, Member for Warringah

**OTHER SPEAKERS TBA**

## THANK YOU

To: Council's officers, who responded smartly to our concerns about how local traffic was not coping well with the enormous construction vehicles from building sites in St Leonards / Crows Nest, which used to rumble down Greenwich and River Roads and cause blockages on turning intersections. The vehicles are now adhering to their approved route.

From: Santa to: the community, who raised \$250 from the sale of tea and coffee on Christmas morning, which has been donated to the RFS.

To: Harbourline and associated people / organisations, who ran Carols in the Park early in December, and raised \$1519.15 for Youth Off The Streets.

And finally to: you, the community, who rallied so magnificently to our call to help our GCA volunteers and joined, renewed and donated to the Committee, with the result we are back (cautiously) in the black.

## STAY IN TOUCH

Please visit our website regularly to keep up to date, and sign up to receive electronic postings.

**Merri Southwood,**  
President 0412 361 331