



MINUTE OF THE MAYOR

Dated: 24 August 2006

Wakelin Reserve

Waverton residents have recently been advised that RailCorp is planning to build a new substation in the Wakelin Reserve at Waverton Station. RailCorp has advised Council that this project is necessary to meet electricity supply needs when the Chatswood-Epping rail link opens.

Residents have expressed their concern to me that RailCorp is being allowed to build on North Sydney's open space. In fact, the reserve is owned by RailCorp and is zoned as railway land under our LEP. Residents have also, understandably, expressed concern about the safety issues related to substation emissions.

For the past 20 years, RailCorp has allowed Council to maintain this land as a reserve providing public access between Bay Road and Carr Street. RailCorp leases many other areas along the rail corridor to Council to use as open space, but reserves the right to reclaim the land at any time.

Council was advised of the proposed substation earlier this year and was assured it would have minimal impact on open space. However, it now appears that because of the proposed location of the substation, its impact will be greater than we had understood. I have arranged a meeting this week with RailCorp and Council's planning staff.

At this meeting we will:

- ask RailCorp if there is any other suitable location for the substation that is not as close to a residential area;
- ask if the substation can be built closer to the rail-line so that the building does not infringe on the area currently used as open space and known to the community as Wakelin Reserve;
- seek assurances that any new building will be adequately screened from view;
- seek assurances that all Australian safety standards will be met;
- seek written assurances that if project goes ahead any damage to the reserve will be fully restored by RailCorp; and
- seek details of public notification

In the meantime, I urge residents who are concerned about the proposal to contact RailCorp directly. The council will liaise with Waverton Precinct about the proposal. A report on our meeting with RailCorp will be given to Council and to Waverton Precinct.

It is therefore recommended -

THAT Council negotiate with RailCorp to protect Wakelin Reserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Genia McCaffery'.

GENIA McCAFFERY
MAYOR