

## ITEM 13.2 NORTHERN BEACHES COUNCIL MEETING, FEBRUARY 17, 2026

### NOTICE OF MOTION 1/2026 - INVESTIGATE OPTIONS FOR PROTECTION OF INGLESIDE WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

SUBMITTED BY: COUNCILLOR MIRANDA KORZY

#### MOTION

That Council:

1. Engage with relevant State agencies, including the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), Transport for NSW and NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), to identify potential options for protecting and maintaining State-owned land parcels forming the wildlife corridor between Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park, Katandra Bushland Sanctuary and Ingleside Chase Reserve.
2. Write to the State Member for Pittwater, Jacqui Scruby MP, to request her advocacy and support for this initiative.
3. Receive a further report on the potential options following responses from the relevant State agencies.

#### BACKGROUND FROM COUNCILLOR KORZY

The Ingleside escarpment forms the beautiful green backdrop to Pittwater and Narrabeen Wards and is remarkable for its large tracts of undeveloped bushland with high biodiversity. This bushland extends from Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to Ingleside Chase Reserve, which then connects to Garigal National Park, Irrawong Reserve, Warriewood Wetlands and Narrabeen Lagoon.

Its environmental significance was recognised in a 2016 Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (then the Department of Planning and Environment) draft Land Use and Infrastructure Strategy for Ingleside.

The draft strategy was supported by a number of environmental studies relating to fauna and flora, riparian corridors and land to be proposed for conservation. Those studies contained records of native fauna species recorded in Ingleside Chase Reserve and nearby bushland, including the Eastern Pygmy Possum (*Cercartetus nanus*), Rosenberg's Goanna (*Varanus rosenbergi*), Southern Myotis Bat (*Myotis macropus*), the Giant Burrowing Frog (*Heleioporus australiacus*) and Red Crowned Toadlet (*Pseudophryne australis*), all listed as vulnerable in NSW.

Other native mammal species recorded in Ingleside Chase Reserve and surrounding bushland include Swamp Wallabies, Long-nosed Bandicoots, Echidnas, and Bush Rats.

In response to these studies, the Ingleside Precinct Structure Plan, which accompanied the Draft Structure Plan, identified land to be protected from development. This included the fauna corridor to connect Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park to Ingleside Chase Reserve. This land was to be zoned for Environmental Conservation.

For this fauna corridor to be effective, Transport for NSW (then Roads and Maritime Services) agreed

to construct a wildlife bridge across Mona Vale Road east.

In 2018, plans for residential development in Ingleside were abandoned due to severe bushfire risk and high land servicing costs.

However, the fauna bridge was built as agreed, to connect the Ingleside wildlife corridor with Ingleside Chase Reserve. Costing close to \$10 million, it was completed in 2023, and fencing along Mona Vale Road installed to prevent collisions between animals and vehicles.

Since then, a fauna monitoring camera has recorded wildlife using the fauna bridge, including, within months of its completion, a swamp wallaby and bandicoot.

However, the status of the adjacent fauna corridor land has been left undecided.

The future of the land for the wildlife corridor has recently been imperilled by a change of zoning in the draft Northern Beaches Council Local Environment Plan, currently under consideration. The zoning has been changed to C3 which allows residential development. Downzoning to C2, necessary to protect biodiversity in the corridor, would not be possible without Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure agreement.

Should housing be built on the fauna corridor land, the overpass will be rendered ineffective, cutting the link between Ku-ring-gai Chase National Park and Ingleside Chase Reserve. Ecologists tell us this would result in the decline and possible extinction of local native fauna, which the bridge was built to protect *at great expense*.