

Note: I am permitted to speak twice at the public forum as a result of the Code of Meeting Practice, under 5.5 which states:

"A person may apply to speak on no more than two (2) items of business on the agenda of the Council meeting."

Item 9.5 - Heritage Bus Shelters renewal works - Tender 6/2026

Thank you, Madam Mayor.

I'll keep my second contribution brief.

The North Sydney Transport Association supports the recommendation to proceed with the Heritage Bus Shelters Renewal Works under Tender 6/2026.

We think these shelters are an important part of North Sydney's transport identity. They are recognisable pieces of our streetscape, and where heritage protections apply, we fully support preserving the features that give these shelters their heritage significance.

However, we also think it is important to remember what these structures are: bus shelters.

They are heritage assets, but they are also pieces of public transport infrastructure used by people every day.

So, as these shelters are renewed, NSTA encourages Council to make the most of the opportunity to improve the passenger experience wherever this can be done without compromising their heritage character.

In particular, we encourage Council to consider clear, consistent and legible passenger information — including route information, destinations, stop names and timetable information — so that these shelters remain easy to use for both regular passengers and people who may be unfamiliar with the network.

We aren't suggesting that Council compromise the architectural character of these shelters. Quite the opposite. We believe that good heritage conservation and good transport design can coexist.

The report identifies 22 shelters as being in critical condition, while the current program prioritises 12 for renewal.

We recognise that Council has finite funding, but we encourage Council to maintain a clear pathway for the remaining ten critically deteriorated shelters. If they have already been identified as requiring significant intervention, they should not simply fall off the radar once this twelve-shelter program is complete.

Finally, we encourage Council to consider the maintenance regime that follows these works.

The report notes that the current deterioration is partly the result of age and a lack of maintenance and renewal. We don't want to see Council undertake a substantial investment now, only for these shelters to gradually return to the same condition over the coming decades.

Renewal should therefore be accompanied by an ongoing program of inspection, maintenance and asset management.

NSTA supports the recommendation before Council.

We simply encourage Council to ensure that, while preserving the heritage character of these shelters, it also preserves their most important function: providing a safe, useful and understandable place for people to catch a bus.

Thank you.