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State Labor pressed to match NSW Liberal pledges on North Sydney Oval, High Line

By Grahame Lynch

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North Sydney Council unanimously resolved last week to write to the Leader of the Opposition and Shadow Ministers for Sport and Women inviting them to a tour of North Sydney Oval and seeking a commitment that, if elected, they will match the promised funding.

A leading advocate for the High Line, North Sydney councillor Ian Mutton, said he would be seeking similar assurances from NSW Labor.

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clude improvements to community and stakeholder spaces, public toilet amenities and broadcast media boxes.

MP for North Shore Felicity Wilson told the North Sydney Sun that "What we'll do is, if we're re-elected, the \$11 million funding will be contributed to council almost immediately. And there's co-funding. North Sydney Council's putting a \$2.5 million as well. And a couple of codes are putting in some funding, too. So once that money goes to North Sydney Council, they'll then help manage that for the process. They're on board and as you know, they've been working hand in glove with us to try and get this project up. And so I imagine they'll do it as quickly as they possibly can."

Mayor Zoe Baker confirmed that North Sydney Council had a master plan in place for the Oval that was ready to go whenever funding was provided.

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Earlier this month, the NSW government promised to form a Lavender Bay Rail Corridor Delivery Group which will include representatives from North Sydney Council, the Transport Asset Holding Entity, Sydney Trains, Transport for NSW and the Sydney Harbour High Line Association to develop options for converting the 3.3km rail corridor between Milsons Point and Waverton into a walking trail.

It also promised \$11 million to upgrade North Sydney Oval, primarily to entrench its position as the home of women's cricket in Australia.

At a press conference held at the venue, NSW premier Dominic Perrottet said that the upgrades would improve playing surfaces, spectator seating, food and beverage outlets, and player and officials' rooms. Other upgrades in-

clude improvements to community and stakeholder spaces, public toilet amenities and broadcast media boxes.

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Mayor Zoe Baker confirmed that North Sydney Council had a master plan in place for the Oval that was ready to go whenever funding was provided.

"The next step is we're working closely with Cricket New South Wales and the other codes to make certain we have a fit for purpose oval, in particular for sportswomen," she told the Sun. She added that the arrival of the Metro station at McLaren St, just one block from North Sydney Oval, would enhance its status as the home of women's cricket.

"That's a connection between north, western and south western Sydney. People can come here from all over. I think one of the best things

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MP Felicity Wilson, Premier Dominic Perrottet and Emily at North Sydney

World Pride to make its mark on North Sydney

By Hannah Wilcox

Kicking off on February 17, World

city and some surrounding residential streets.

Coalition pledges High Line, Wendy's expansion if re-elected

The Coalition State government will commit to the Lavender Bay High Line with the formation of a multi-stakeholder delivery group if it wins office again on March 25.

The Lavender Bay high line project would start with a 300 square metre expansion of Wendy's Secret Garden, followed by development of a strategic business case to canvas options for converting the 3.3-kilometre-long little used rail corridor along the Milsons Point foreshore.

Premier Dominic Perrottet said the project would return the Lavender Bay foreshore to the local community as a harbour front attraction.

"Sydney is home the world's most beautiful harbour, but for many years much of the foreshore has been left underutilised or inaccessible to the public," Perrottet said.

"We have made it a priority to transform our foreshore precincts so that Sydneysiders can make the most of the city they call home."

Minister for Infrastructure, Cities and Active Transport Rob Stokes said: "Once fully realised, this vision will result in a 3.3 kilometre linear park connecting some of Sydney's most iconic landmarks including the Sydney Harbour Bridge and Luna Park while traversing public spaces like Wendy's Secret Garden, Ball's Head Reserve and



What the High Line could look like

Lavender Bay Parklands," Stokes said.

"We've committed to working with the community, including the Sydney Harbour High Line Association and Wendy's Secret Garden volunteers to turn the vision into reality, starting with new landscaping, weed eradication and new tree plantings."

North Shore MP Felicity Wilson applauded the local community for their vision and pursuit of the high line, working to build on the legacy of Wendy Whiteley and the Secret Garden volunteers to expand public space from railway land.

"At a time where our cities are growing and more of us are calling apartments home, the shared vision of the

Sydney Harbour High Line Association and the NSW Liberals and Nationals will ensure we retain beautiful places with the open space and active transport we need," she said.

Transport for NSW and North Sydney Council intend to work together to facilitate the use of the Land by Council for community use as public open space and active transport connections.

There was some skepticism on social media about the announcement given the government first flagged its support some five years ago.

Councillor Ian Mutton told the Sun that he would keep the pressure up after the election to ensure that the commitment was upheld.

Labor pressed to match promises

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about this beautiful heritage brand is that it's got a capacity of 8000 and you can get really close to the players."

NSW Labor's candidate for North Shore Godfrey Santer told the Sun he was, in-principle, supportive of both projects.

Asked about the North Sydney Oval upgrade, Santer said: "We'll be in. For sure." He thinks the Oval is the most beautiful in Australia and a potential tourist drawcard, particularly for cricket fans.

He added that he was also supportive of the High Line proposal.

Santer wants to go one step further with the High Line and consider it as part of a holistic plan to unite waterfront parks and create an attraction to emulate the great parks of other cities such as New York City's Central Park.

"It should be a holistic approach to that area because if you combine them all and have a thorough going renovation, shall we say, of the entire area, you would have something which would put North Sydney on the map."

Indicative design by Sydney Harbour High Line Association

