

## **Committee for North Sydney**

Meeting of 29 June 2018

The meeting commenced at 4 pm in a conference room at 99 Walker Street North Sydney.

### **1 Election of Chair**

The meeting elected Ian Grey to Chair of the meeting.

### **2 Attendance and apologies**

The meeting was attended by Kevin Alker, Iain Bartholomew, Terry Byrnes, Jeremy Dawkins (Convenor), Bruce Donald, Angus Finney, John Hancox, Ian Grey, Genia McCaffery, Jan McCredie, Margaret Petrykowski, Lynne Sheridan, Bernard Smith, Peter Webber, Diana Wyndham and John Wyndham.

Apologies were received from Geoff Driscoll, Sid French, Geoff Hanmer, David Hensher, Jon Lang and Warren Marsh.

### **3 Commencement**

The Chair welcomed members to the inaugural meeting of the Committee for North Sydney and asked for any declarations of conflicts of interest.

### **4 General discussion**

The Committee:

- a) Requested it be given a briefing from NSC staff on the current state of planning and key development proposals in the North Sydney CBD (and later, around the Sydney Metro station and surrounding areas in Crows Nest).
- b) Noted that much of the key decision making lies with the State Government more than the Council and so the attitude of the Government and its key instrumentalities – Department of Planning, Transport, RMS... - needs to be understood as well
- c) There is a need to broaden the meaning of ‘value capture’ as it is currently being used by the Premier, the Treasurer and Sydney Metro from straight “make the most money possible” to “produce significant public benefit and also make a decent return”, and for the community to start to use that same term but with this broader meaning in its campaigning
- d) Noted the framework of planning controls in NSW makes discussion of broad, integrated approaches to redevelopment of whole areas or districts very difficult. This may mean the Committee has to also advocate changes to the framework as well
- e) Identified the common sense in suggesting the site at 65 Berry St might be included into whatever is being done above the new Metro station
- f) Considered that the immediate situation requires both a lobbying campaign against the Metro OSD as well as the need to start articulating some vision terminology for North Sydney CBD which can be used in opposing the Metro plans as well as in creating a broader vision to guide the ongoing long term development of this area
- g) Suggested independently that all the tenderers for the OSD above the North Sydney Metro station and the State Government be asked to halt the current approval process to allow all to reconsider the approach after more discussion with the community. This should be raised with the State MP as soon as possible – noting that NSC voted that same way as its meeting earlier in the week
- h) Supported strongly the idea of a ‘3D approach’ to linking up railway stations and bus terminus, so that pedestrians can connect up ‘at level’ as much as possible and without having to go up to street level and cross major roads or highways to move around. It was

noted that the existing exit routes from North Sydney station are a good example of this and already go under and over the Pacific Highway – and provide excellent opportunities for viable retail shops as well

- i) Commented that nobody has talked to the Greater Sydney Commission and that is an oversight. Additionally, we should ask them to consider the North Sydney CBD as a discrete area not just an overflow of the main Sydney CBD.
- j) Recognised the merit of having a prominent person to Chair the Committee meetings and asked members to think about possible candidates.

## **5 Immediate tasks**

Kevin Alker, Jan McCredie, Jeremy Dawkins, Margaret Petrykowski and Lynne Sheridan volunteered to draft an initial set of principles to apply to the long term development of the North Sydney city centre.

Terry Byrnes, Jeremy Dawkins, Angus Finney and Margaret Petrykowski volunteered to consider the issues raised by the development of the metro station site.

The results of these two activities would inform the submission that the Committee will make on the on the SSD concept DA for the Sydney Metro Victoria Cross over station development.

Iain Bartholomew, Bruce Donald, Angus Finney and Ian Grey volunteered to seek meetings and contacts with political leaders (relevant Ministers and the Premier) and key senior bureaucrats in the relevant agencies.

The committee thanked the foregoing members and endorsed these activities.

## **6 Next meeting**

It was decided to meet again at 1900 hours on 9 July to review progress on the above tasks and to finalise preparations for the public launch of the Committee on 11 July.

The meeting closed at 1835.