

**NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL**

**NEUTRAL BAY SHOPPING AREA STREETScape COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF THE 158<sup>th</sup> MEETING HELD ON  
TUESDAY, 4 OCTOBER 2022 AT 5.00 PM IN THE  
ROS CRICHTON PAVILION, COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**Present:** Councillor Bourke and Councillor Gibson

Rick Doran, Co- President Neutral Bay Chamber of Commerce  
JoEllen Henderson, JoEllen Design Studio  
Nicole Robertson, Concept Events

Council:

Duncan Mitchell, Director Engineering and Property Services  
Diana Mejia, Project Manager, Engineering Infrastructure  
Paul Yang, Project Manager, Engineering Infrastructure  
Miranda Shoppee, Meeting Administration Co-ordinator  
Peita Rose, Governance Officer (Minutes)

**1. Meeting opened** at 5.00pm, with Duncan Mitchell in the chair

**2. Apologies**

Councillor Baker, Councillor Beregi, Richard O’Grady and Christina De Polinsky.

**3. Confirmation of the Minutes**

The Minutes of the 157th Meeting held on 28 June 2022 were adopted.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

Nil.

**Young Street Plaza was brought forward for discussion at the beginning of the meeting**

**Young Street Plaza and the Re-Opening**

Councillor Gibson advised that she wanted to know what happened at the meeting in relation to Young Street Plaza where the Mayor was going to look to keep the money for the Plaza. She also mentioned that there was a meeting with Transport for NSW.

The Director Engineering and Property Services advised that there has been a meeting with the Mayor and the Acting General Manager.

It was advised by a Mr Doran from the Chamber of Commerce that at the last committee meeting the Mayor mentioned that they were looking at diverting some funds into three other projects. One was the upgrading of May Gibbs Place as well as Cremorne Plaza and there was another one but he wasn't sure where that was. He also mentioned that this has no benefit to Neutral Bay whatsoever.

Councillor Gibson advised that they cannot divert the money from the plaza to those projects, and she wanted to know if that was the intention.

The Director Engineering and Property services advised that this would only be the case if Council were allowed to do that through the grant. Council would need to ask for permission from Transport for NSW to divert that money.

Councillor Gibson stated that she put in a rescission motion to Council with a foreshadowed motion that there be a sub-committee formed with the Mayor, Councillor Beregi and the Deputy Mayor Godfrey Santer, and that they look at progressing the Young Street Plaza, and that it be delegated to them to make any necessary changes to address things they might have been concerned about.

Councillor Gibson advised that she would put forward another motion to Council to do community consultation about re-opening the road.

Mr Doran from the Chamber advised that when they had the public meeting there was general community consultation that the plaza stay. The community didn't like the extra traffic in Grosvenor Lane but they were happy if diversion of the extra traffic in the Lane to go to Grosvenor Street.

Mr Doran advised that they had gone to the independent commissioner and reported Council over the matter because they feel they have been treated fairly harshly. He advised that it was the first time they have ever had to raise a problem in 158 meetings that the committee has had at Council.

Councillor Gibson stated that she is going to raise another matter as the road has been officially closed and proper process now goes to duty of care, and that Council renotify and do another consultation about whether they want the road open. She advised that there hasn't been any consultation to re-open the road and that Council has decided on the floor of Council without consultation. Now that time has passed Council should go out to consultation and ask the public do they want the road opened or closed.

Mr Doran suggested it go to a separate body and let them have a look at it without the heat of the issue. It was stated that the Chamber of Commerce is extremely irate.

Councillor Bourke advised that there is some very good feedback from the community on this. There are a few things to note and firstly being that it is an ongoing issue that Councillor Gibson and others are raising in a democracy. Secondly, there are ongoing discussions through the Mayor. Councillor Bourke's personal preference, and he has reiterated this to the Mayor, is that any funds kept are spent in Neutral Bay. The third is that they want a holistic plan for open space in the whole area.

He mentioned in the documents and in the motions put forward some months ago several options were left open for Young Street, and the Mayor will look at the options and put different options out there.

It was stated by Mr Doran that there are no other spots in the area for this closure.

The current status is that the Mayor is in discussions with Minister Stokes about the funding and what can be done with that.

## 5. Projects Update

### 5.1 Proposed Military Road Intersection Improvements Program - Neutral Bay and Cremorne

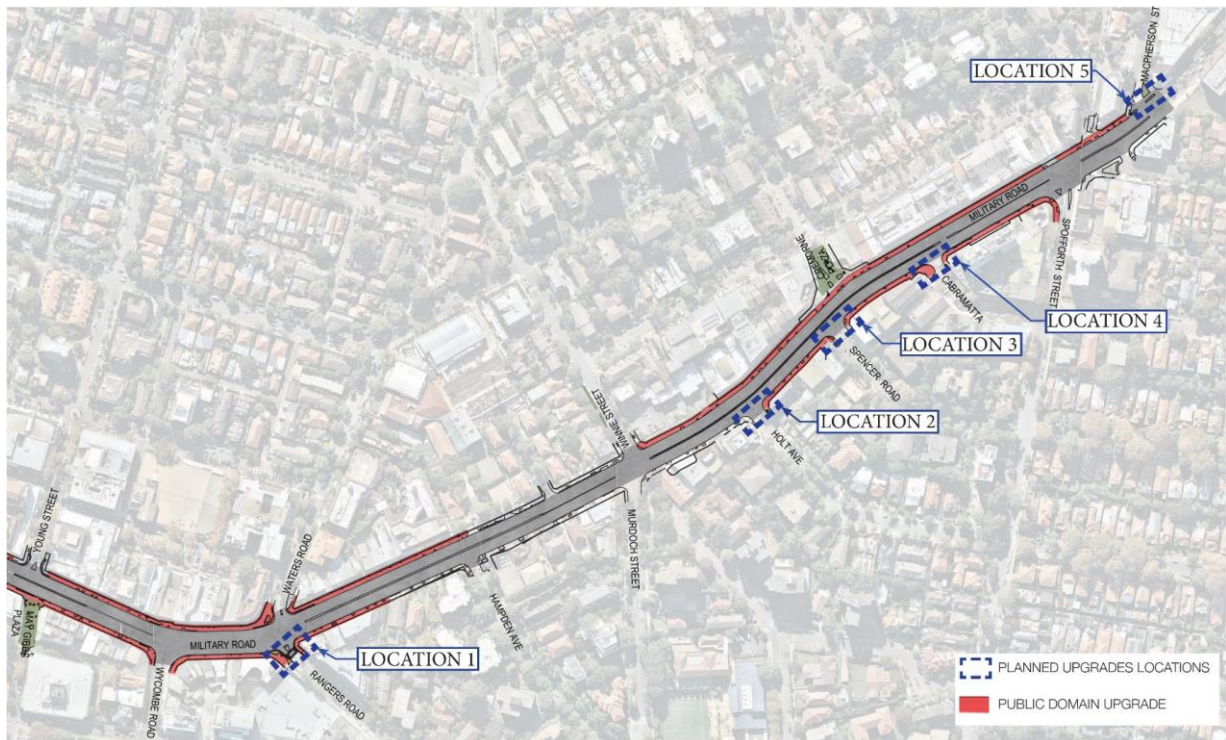
Location 5 - Macpherson Street intersection with Military Road, Cremorne

Council's Contractor commenced planned improvement works at the intersection.

These works include pedestrian crossing upgrade, kerb build outs and landscaping to improve pedestrian safety and access.

The works are partially funded by TfNSW and Council's LATM Action Plan budget.

Estimated completion date – the middle of October.





## 5.2 Streetscape upgrades for Neutral Bay Planter Boxes

Council is working at changing the planting variety in the planter boxes to something more hardy and perennial, not the cottage style. These are some of the planters Council is looking at which should be less maintenance. The change over for the planting will begin in the next two weeks. Images below show some examples of the planting intent and species to be installed.







Cordyline 'Rubra'



Crassula 'Gollum'



Carex 'Everest'



Hebe diosmifolia

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that Council still has money in this year's budget for Neutral Bay Public Domain upgrades, and Wycombe Road streetscape will be upgraded and works are planned to begin in early 2023, the works will include:

1. New footpath paving
2. New street furniture
3. Beautify outdoor dining areas.

These works will compliment streetscape works finished in Military Road.





## 5.2 Streetscape upgrades for Neutral Bay Site Investigations – Cheal Lane

Investigation and concepts for the streetscape upgrade of Cheal Lane will begin this financial year within with the available streetscape funding from this year's financial budget. Concept designs will be brought back to this committee for consultation.

It was asked if May Lane could be looked at as it needs some maintenance.

It was advised that Council is planning on getting some concepts first to scope and stage the work and establish the extent of the project, and that Council needs to be mindful of the budget, and the project will need to be staged over a few financial years.

It was asked if lighting could be looked at in Cheal Lane as it gets dark in the lane at night.

### Site Investigation and Concept Development in Cheal Lane





### 5.3 Neutral Bay Banner Program

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that the banners have all been changed over recently and that we now have a calendar from the Chamber.

It was stated by the Chamber that the banner are the shorter ones and not the longer ones.

Council will look into why they are the shorter banners.



**Shop local banners will be installed in the next few weeks.**

### 5.4 Cremorne Plaza and Langley Place

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services advised that Cremorne Plaza is funded separately from the B-line. Council wants to revitalise this part of Cremorne and is looking at doing up Cremorne Plaza. At present Council are in the initial stage of getting consultants on board to obtain some concept designs. This design will be bought to the committee for consultation.



Additionally, Council is currently trialling 30 minutes parking in Parraween Street. As far as the parking meters as a general help indicator, Council still has 2017/18 street parking utilisation levels across the whole LGA, this indicates there isn't as many people returning to the village centres as well as the North Sydney Centre as a lot more people are working from home this being a permanent change in the culture. Council are looking at the parking meters as to what we were doing in 2017/18, and it seems we have gone back five years. Parking meters are a good indicator to measure people coming in the area to our village centres and North Sydney CBD.



**Project Locality Plan**

## **6 Town Planning**

### **6.1 Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study**

Council's Project Control Group has been established.

The Study area remains the same as the Military Road Corridor Planning Study but focuses on Neutral Bay Town Centre.

Council will engage with key stakeholders in due course, and the Committee will be kept up to date through the Streetscape Committee meetings.

It was asked by Mr Doran what is happening with height levels as there is no incentive with 5 levels.

Mr Doran suggested that there needs to be at least 8 or 9 levels which is where development starts to become economically with mixed used, where there can be residential and commercial space. He also mentioned that 30% of commercial space has been lost in the last 30 years.



## **7 Chamber of Commerce**

### **7.1 Chamber of Commerce Coordinator Update**

It was advised by the Chamber of Commerce that a number of their old banners have been taken to Council to be turned into bags, and that the new Community Centre is working well.

The Chamber of Commerce has asked for some space in the Neutral Bay Community Centre where they can keep everything they need, and if they want a meeting, they can hold it there.

Council's Director Engineering and Property Services has said he will speak with the Director, Community and Library Services.

It was stated that three or four streetlights in Grosvenor Lane outside Enoteca 128 Italian Restaurant need fixing as they have been flashing. They are currently red and they are meant to progressively change colour.

Council's electrician will inspect, and repair and Council's project manager will contact the restaurant manager to inform them of the progress and timeline of these works.

It was asked by the Chamber of Commerce that these meetings be held quarterly.

## **8. General Business**

Young Street Plaza and the Re-Opening – this was addressed at the beginning of the meeting

## **9. Next meeting: TBA**

It was suggested that another meeting be held this 2022 calendar year. Council's governance division is to check the Councillor's diary availability.

Since the meeting it has been confirmed that the Councillor's diary is at capacity for the rest of 2022. The date for the next meeting will be confirmed in early 2023.

## **10. Close meeting:**

Meeting finished at 6.05pm