

## 8.1. Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study - establishment of a Community Consultation Group

On 21 February 2023, the Combined Precincts Committee resolved as follows:

*Motion: That Council establish a formal body, to be modelled on Lane Cove Alive comprising community representatives to work in association with Council to drive the plan for Neutral Bay Village. Moved by MTJ (Willoughby Bay), Seconded by LS (Brightmore)*

This call for the establishment of a community consultation group to augment Council's adopted community engagement strategy is timely. This month, Council commenced preliminary community engagement on the revised Neutral Bay Town Centre Study.

Part of the community concern and rejection of the previous Military Road Corridor Planning Study (repealed by Council on 24 January 2022) was that it did not properly address community concerns in relation to height, scale, and character of the Neutral Bay Town Centre.

It is vital that our community drive and embrace the future vision, strategy, and policy for the Neutral Bay Town Centre, and to inform any final adopted Study.

Lane Cove Council and Willoughby Council established similar groups for the revitalisation of the Lane Cove Centre (resulting in The Canopy) and Castle Crag (resulting in The Quadrant project) to great success and with strong community support.

### **I therefore recommend:**

- 1. THAT** Council establish a community consultation group titled "Neutral Bay Alive" as part of the revised Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study, modelled on the "Lane Cove Alive" group set up by Lane Cove Council to inform the revitalisation of Lane Cove town centre.
- 2. THAT** Council notes that the community consultation group is not a decision-making group and the group will augment the adopted community engagement plan for the study.
- 3. THAT** Council call for Expressions of Interest for members and delegate selection of group members to the General Manager consistent with the process Council adopts for local planning panels.
- 4. THAT** Council note that the establishment of the group will be funded by the existing budget allocation for the Planning Study.

**COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER  
MAYOR**