

8.1. MM01 Miller Place initiative – Local Infrastructure Contributions

For many decades, Council has planned to give the North Sydney CBD a public “heart” at Miller Street between the Pacific Highway and Berry Street.

Council first formalised this plan with the adoption of the *North Sydney Public Domain Strategy* in 2018.

“Miller Place” seeks to transform Miller Street from a busy four lane street to a new high grade activated public space providing a space to gather, host events such as outdoor concerts and markets and a place for public art. With large canopy trees, lawns and access to sunlight for most of the day, this new “place” will establish a much needed civic heart for the North Sydney CBD.

It will also accommodate tens of thousands of commuters, students and visitors arriving via the new Victoria Cross Metro Station and the North Sydney Train Station portal from Greenwood Plaza each morning.

Under Transport for NSW’s (“TfNSW”) *Interchange Access Plan* for the Victoria Cross Metro station (February 2023), the Miller Place initiative was being investigated as part of the *North Sydney Integrated Transport Program*.

However, in order to be realized, the project requires support and funding from TfNSW as it requires network and bus route changes around the CBD.

TfNSW has been considering the initiative and the required changes for some years. Given that the Metro Stations and the overstation development helmed by Lend Lease are currently under construction, there is a finite window in order to ensure that the Miller Place initiative is delivered with the least additional cost, disruption and inconvenience to the CBD and Miller Street, in particular.

Miller Place should be delivered at the same time as the Metro development. If the project is delayed until after Victoria Cross Station and overstation development is completed and operational it may be delayed indefinitely as construction will be significantly more expensive and disruptive.

It is, therefore, timely that Council support this project and seek to ensure that it is delivered in parallel to the completion of the Victoria Cross Metro station and overstation development.

The NSW Government is due to make a decision on transport project priorities soon.

Council’s Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan (LIC) includes public domain projects for the North Sydney CBD. Consistent with the LIC Plan, I propose that Council approach the NSW Government and pledge a contribution of \$9M towards the delivery of Miller Place concurrent with the Metro, as Council’s commitment to the project.

I therefore recommend:

1. THAT Council advise TfNSW that it will pledge \$9M under Council's Local Infrastructure Contributions Plan to support the delivery of Miller Place concurrently with the completion of the Victoria Cross Metro Station and overstation development.

COUNCILLOR ZOË BAKER
MAYOR