

Hi Neighbours - a little late with this month's "brief" update as there were some ongoing discussions on an issue - more detail below. The on-line meeting was well attended with 30 residents.

At last Tuesday's meeting, we had two guests - the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore and the Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich. They were both very generous with their time (we managed to make Alex late for his subsequent appointment) and they answered all the questions asked of them by residents on a variety of issues. Apart from the Fort St Public School Mod 1 issue which I delve in to below, a most interesting suggestion, which Clover and Alex took on board, was using the current lack of cruise ships to do an air quality study, which when the boats return can be used to demonstrate the detrimental effects of burning bunker oil while they are in port. Thank you John and Maureen for that suggestion.

We also touched on the final stages of the community consultation process in our heritage neighbourhood by the Heritage Council. The MP CRAG submission, based on our website survey, should be published this week.

The latest on the Harry Jensen Centre is that we are putting in for a grant to reopen the HJC to the community (although with 633 community infections reported today, that may be a little way away). More to come on that.

And on 87 Lower Fort St (the Older Women's Network building), we have a happy ending. Our neighbours from Lower Fort St, Mel and Jules, have bought the property with a view to build their dream home - congratulations. I am sure it will be fabulous. The neighbourhood will be watching keenly - so no pressure guys.

Finally, on Fort St Public School Mod 1 application - Education has responded to the scores of objections submitted - effectively dismissing any concerns residents or the National Trust have with what is proposed. Representations by residents were made to the City of Sydney on the issue, questions were asked of Clover on the night (thank you Harold) and the City has responded with some options to alleviate/minimise the impact of the Mod 1 changes. We had a Zoom session with the City of Sydney Heritage and Planning people yesterday and we invited the National Trust as well. The City will now speak with DPIE (the consent authority) about these proposals with the hope that Education may modify its application. Will update more when we know. Attached is the correspondence the Lord Mayor sent to Planning Minister Stokes with the letter also sent to the Education Minister.

Thanks for reading this far. Stay safe.

Regards,

*Bernard*