

Dear Neighbours – a brief summary from our well-attended Tuesday night meeting.

Central Barangaroo Development

In the very near term, the CB developer, Aqualand, will commence community consultations prior to them lodging their application. The consultation process plus the subsequent “DA” process will require a substantial amount of community work – meetings, reviewing documents, writing responses/submissions to the consent authority, etc. As a consequence, the Executive Committee of the MPC RAG wish to share workload across the community. The meeting on Tuesday evening agreed to the establishment of a CB Working Group.

The Working Group will report to the Executive Committee of the MPC RAG and be directly involved in the consultation process, reviewing developer application documents (which will be considerable) and writing draft reports/submissions.

I am seeking expressions of interest from any resident in the precinct to be a member of the Working Group – the key criteria is sufficient availability to attend meetings, etc. and to have an interest and/or eye for detail in design and planning matters.

Please email me by next Friday, 23 July with your expression of interest. We will announce the Working Group membership early the following week with details about kicking things off.

PS: As I was about to send this email, I noticed the following article in the SMH this morning. A bit more detail about what is proposed at Central Barangaroo - <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/this-is-new-city-inside-the-plans-for-the-final-piece-of-barangaroo-20210621-p582rj.html>

Barangaroo Metro Station

The Contractor building the Metro Station interior and the external facilities and landscaping made a brief presentation – see attached Powerpoint. BESIX Watpac will commence later this year and finish late 2023. The key message the BESIX Watpac team wanted to leave with us is their desire to work closely with the community, to minimise resident disruption and to keep us well informed of their activity. It was a positive introduction.

Short Term Letting

As you may be aware, the NSW Government has enacted legislation to provide for one set of rules state-wide to regulate short term letting. I think most people in Millers Point would agree this is a poor outcome for our neighbourhood – there should be different rules for higher density areas such as our terraces and apartments, whilst the regional and country areas of NSW can accommodate something else. Councillor Linda Scott (ALP) has commenced a petition to have short term letting regulated by Local Government – review and e-sign the petition here - <https://www.lindascott.org.au/news/short-term-letting> We strongly recommend all residents complete it.

Heritage Council of NSW – Community Consultation in Millers Point & Dawes Point Heritage Precinct

The community consultation sessions with Heritage NSW and City of Sydney concluded in June. Many thanks to all those who contributed by attending the sessions, providing feedback to me and the

committee and for completing our on-line survey. Heritage NSW have committed to responding to our feedback in the near term. I propose to invite Heritage NSW and the City of Sydney to present to the community at our next RAG meeting on Tuesday 10 August (which will likely be via Zoom).

In the meantime, the Committee is reviewing our survey results and aims to prepare a report based on the survey findings which we will present to the key stakeholders to help reinforce the messages we gave as a community in June.

Parliamentary Review of the Heritage Act

The MPC RAG made a submission to the above last week. My thanks to John McInerney for preparing the submission for the Committee. The submission is attached.

Lord Mayoral Candidate Introduction

Yvonne Weldon, a candidate for Lord Mayor for the City of Sydney elections in September, presented to the group on her background and policies. Yvonne is running as an Independent candidate and was previously the running partner with Dr Kerryn Phelps who withdrew from the election last month. Yvonne, if elected, would be the first Aboriginal-Australian Lord Mayor for Sydney. Check out their website here - <https://www.uniteforsydney.com.au/>

I have invited the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore to present to the next RAG meeting in August. As the incumbent Lord Mayor, we will hear about her team's recent programs and initiatives in the broader LGA and her plans for the Millers Point Precinct around traffic calming, short term letting, Central Barangaroo development, the consent process for heritage homes, and general infrastructure renewal. We are awaiting confirmation from the Lord Mayor's office.

Harry Jensen Community Centre

The MPC RAG and residents have been in regular conversation with the City on the future of the HJC since its closure at the beginning of the Covid pandemic in 2020. The City has reiterated its intention not to reopen the HJC with paid City staff but revert to a more community-led and operated model. We will be seeking a grant from the City to allow the Centre to be re-opened, and re-commence offering past and new services to cater our community.

If you have any suggestions for how the HJC can be activated please forward them to me and we will include them in our Grant review. For those with pooches, a fellow dog walker suggested a dog grooming/washing service - great idea.

Older Women's Network Building – 87 Lower Fort Street

As no doubt you have seen in your lockdown walks around the neighbourhood, the NSW Government has abandoned their DA application - no doubt they received feedback about its problematic nature and likely rejection. So they have decided to sell it as is – no sub-division, no remediation, no indication of future purpose. Pretty much flogging it for the highest price they can get, leave the neighbourhood, never to be seen again.

I am sure prospective purchasers will do their due diligence and discover the community's attitude to how this property should be developed – sensitive to the heritage rich area of Millers Point, maintaining the privacy of neighbouring properties, ensuring the development fits into the low scale residential nature of the precinct.

To say we are interested bystanders would be somewhat of an understatement.

Fort St Public School

The Mod 1 application is now under consideration by DPIE. The list of organisations with objections and concerns was long – we are hopeful the outcome will be respectful of this important heritage site.

Construction (or more precisely, demolition) has commenced so we will start to see a lot more activity on our roads. The truck route for the project has been designed to minimise the impact on local residents – Argyle St/Dalgety St/Hickson Rd being the route into and out of the site. No truck layovers in residential streets, no detours around Argyle Place (which happened the other day). To report any concerns about truck movements (or anything else for that matter) to School Infrastructure (SI) please email schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au and CC the SI Project Director, Karissa Kendall Karissa.Kendall@det.nsw.edu.au

NSW Police Update

The local Police are now providing me with monthly figures on their activity in the area including speeding vehicles, anti-social activity, etc. They were planning an operation on the Saturday afternoon/evening but the lockdown commenced so it was postponed. They will reconvene after lockdown.

The June 2021 Police interactions in the Millers Point area;

- 8 x vehicles referred to the EPA for noise pollution, including one of the wedding Harleys.
- 11 x Parking Infringements, mainly in the Towns Place area.

If you have any traffic concerns or issues to report please email the Police on SYDCITYTRAFFIC@police.nsw.gov.au

Any feedback, comments or suggestions generally are always welcome.

Regards,

Bernard