

3rd July 2016

The Hon. Rob Stokes
NSW Minister for Planning
Parliament House
Sydney, NSW, 2000

Dear Minister Stokes,

Document tendered by	Ms Suzette Meade
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NEW VISION - FLEET STREET HERITAGE PRECINCT
(currently known as Cumberland Hospital East Campus)

I write to ask you to consider and recommend to your Cabinet colleagues the following proposal pertaining to the proposed transformation of the 32 ha Cumberland Hospital Heritage Site in North Parramatta. This 'site' is also referred to as the Fleet Street Heritage Precinct.

Our proposal is supported by our local communities as well as industry, business and academics. Initially identified at the Fleet Street Heritage Precinct Symposium held last year, the event's speakers included Brian Powyer, Vice President of National Trust Australia (NSW), President of Parramatta Chamber of Commerce, Michael Mekhitarian and Professor Peter Phibbs from University of Sydney. Attended by representatives from Urban Growth NSW, the Lord Mayor of the City of Parramatta and fellow Councillors as well as Heritage & Tourism experts from NSW and interstate and community, there has been substantive feedback since from many of the attendees.

A common theme from all speakers and stakeholders as well as community and industry was that this Precinct could deliver so much more for Western Sydney other than simply high density residential. In particular there was unanimous agreement that an international Arts & Cultural Precinct at North Parramatta would have a large multiplier effect on Western Sydney, and over the longer term would make a stronger economic case for the benefits it would bring Australia's next great city.

Further given 'A Plan for Growing Sydney' is intended to deliver housing for 900,000 residents in Western Sydney within 15 years, it makes the retention of this public land and open space green precinct adjoining Parramatta's park vital. Not only would the Precinct offer far greater economic benefit over the longer term, but it would also provide the opportunity for greater physical and mental well-being for local communities as well as historical, cultural and social value to the larger Sydney population.

To this end, we have enclosed a short brief and welcome the opportunity to meet with you to present more detail. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Suzette Meade – President

NORTH PARRAMATTA RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP

Fleet Street Heritage Precinct as a National Cultural and Arts Precinct

Introduction

The Fleet Street Heritage Precinct as a new National Cultural Arts Precinct will be a first for Western Sydney providing a celebration of indigenous and colonial narratives in a single and contiguous heritage precinct.

Concept Ideas

The opportunities for this site free of residential development are many which could include:

1. A Heritage & Museum zone
2. An Arts & Theatre zone
3. A Unique Indigenous Arts & Technology Hub
4. A unique riverside dining precinct surrounded by a sculpture Park
5. Be the starting point for a Cultural Ribbon linking Parramatta to the CBD via Sydney's waterway, with the opportunity to incorporate smaller cultural precincts in future urban renewal precincts at the Bays Precinct and other urban renewal areas along Parramatta River.

Opportunity

The Precinct would provide thousands of ongoing jobs and an increasing income stream from domestic and international tourism. As such it would stimulate the local economy with a diverse income base and also the larger NSW economy. It could be one of your greatest legacies to the people of NSW and indeed our nation. **FSHP** would become an international destination, and also provide Western Sydney with a world class cultural precinct. Further the precinct's introduction would attract new communities and business economies. In turn, this would encourage additional investment to Parramatta, creating more vibrant communities and greater employment and economic growth.

In short, it would become an incredible legacy to the people of NSW and indeed our nation.

Precinct Governance

The introduction of a Trust is proposed to manage the precinct. Our proposal prohibits any residential construction within the confines of the Cumberland Hospital East Campus Grounds. All open spaces in the FSHP should remain in public ownership under the custody, control and management of a Trust known as the 'FSHP Trust' or similar.