

**Supplementary  
Submission  
No 44b**

## **INQUIRY INTO MUSEUMS AND GALLERIES**

**Name:** North Parramatta Residents Action Group Inc.

**Date received:** 20 September 2016

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# **NORTH PARRAMATTA RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP**

## **Proposed Alternative Vision**

**September 2016**



19<sup>th</sup> September 2016

Hon Robert Borsak MLC

Chair- General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

**NEW VISION - FLEET STREET HERITAGE PRECINCT (FSHP)**  
**(known as Cumberland Hospital East Campus or P.N.U.T)**

Dear Chair & Committee – General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4

This proposal and draft map attached are to assist the General Purpose Standing Committee No. 4 whilst touring the Cumberland Hospital East Precinct at 5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016. We ask that this be considered within the terms of reference of the Museum & Galleries Inquiry specifically relating to:

- e) the sale of the Powerhouse Museum site in Ultimo and its proposed move to Parramatta, and whether there are alternative strategies to support museum development**
- h) the economic impact of museums and galleries on cultural tourism, and their role in supporting the visitor economy in Sydney and regional New South Wales**

The 'site' is referred to as the Fleet Street Heritage Precinct which has been suggested and promoted as the potential site for an Arts & Cultural Precinct in Western Sydney. This proposal is the outcome of extensive consultation and surveying residents in Parramatta LGA and also covering communities from the newly created Greater Sydney Commissions six District Plans. Data collected from this online survey can be supplied at request.

In 2015 NPRAG held the Fleet Street Heritage Precinct Symposium which included speakers such as, Professor Peter Phibbs – Sydney University, Michael Mekhitarian – President Parramatta Chamber of Commerce, Brian Powyer – Vice President National Trust of Australia (NSW). It was also attended by staff members of UGNSW, Lord Mayor & Parramatta City Councillors and Heritage & Tourism experts from NSW and interstate and community.

A common theme from all stakeholders, including community members and industry was that there was so much more this precinct could deliver for Western Sydney other than simply high density residential at the expense of such significant heritage. The multiplier effect that a genuine arts & cultural precinct would deliver economically to Australia's next great city was well recognised by all present and the support for it was unanimous.

Understanding that the NSW government must deliver housing for a projected population increase makes the retention of this open green precinct in public hands even more vital. Not only for the recognised physical and mental health benefits of the population, but for the historical, moral and economic wealth of our society.

Our proposal prohibits any residential construction within the confines of the Cumberland Hospital East Campus Grounds. No open spaces or existing buildings in the **FSHP** should be sold or long term leased to developers. 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. Any proposed residential development by the government within the LGA should be concentrated in other areas around Parramatta that require urban renewal, many of which have already been identified.

**The Fleet Street Heritage Precinct** as a new 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. The opportunities for this site free of residential development are many. This contiguous site would deliver to Parramatta;

1. A Heritage & Museum zone,
2. a proposed arts and theatre zone,
3. A mixed accommodation zone and,
4. a unique riverside dining precinct surrounded by established mature plantings and green open space for physical wellbeing.
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.

This will provide thousands of ongoing jobs and an increasing income stream from domestic and international tourism earnings. It will be a great contributor not just to the economy of Parramatta but the NSW economy generally. It could be one of your greatest legacies to the people of NSW and indeed our nation.

Closer to home we have been working with Abbotsford Convent Management in Melbourne, Victoria representing an excellent model of adaptive re-use of a convent that has been staged with a mix of philanthropic, Federal and State contributions. This model and the outcome has been enthusiastically embraced by the community. They have very kindly shared the business model and case that they presented to the Victorian Bricks government which overturned the sale of a heritage precinct for residential development to now become Australia's largest Arts Precinct. We are certain this can be replicated in many ways or at least used as a guide over a similar timeline for the **Fleet Street Heritage 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.

We would be grateful for an opportunity to meet with you and present further detail for **The Fleet Street Heritage Precinct** and answer any questions that you might wish to ask at any time convenient to you and your colleagues. We are currently briefing an architectural firm on the production of artist impressions of the vision we have suggested in this proposal.

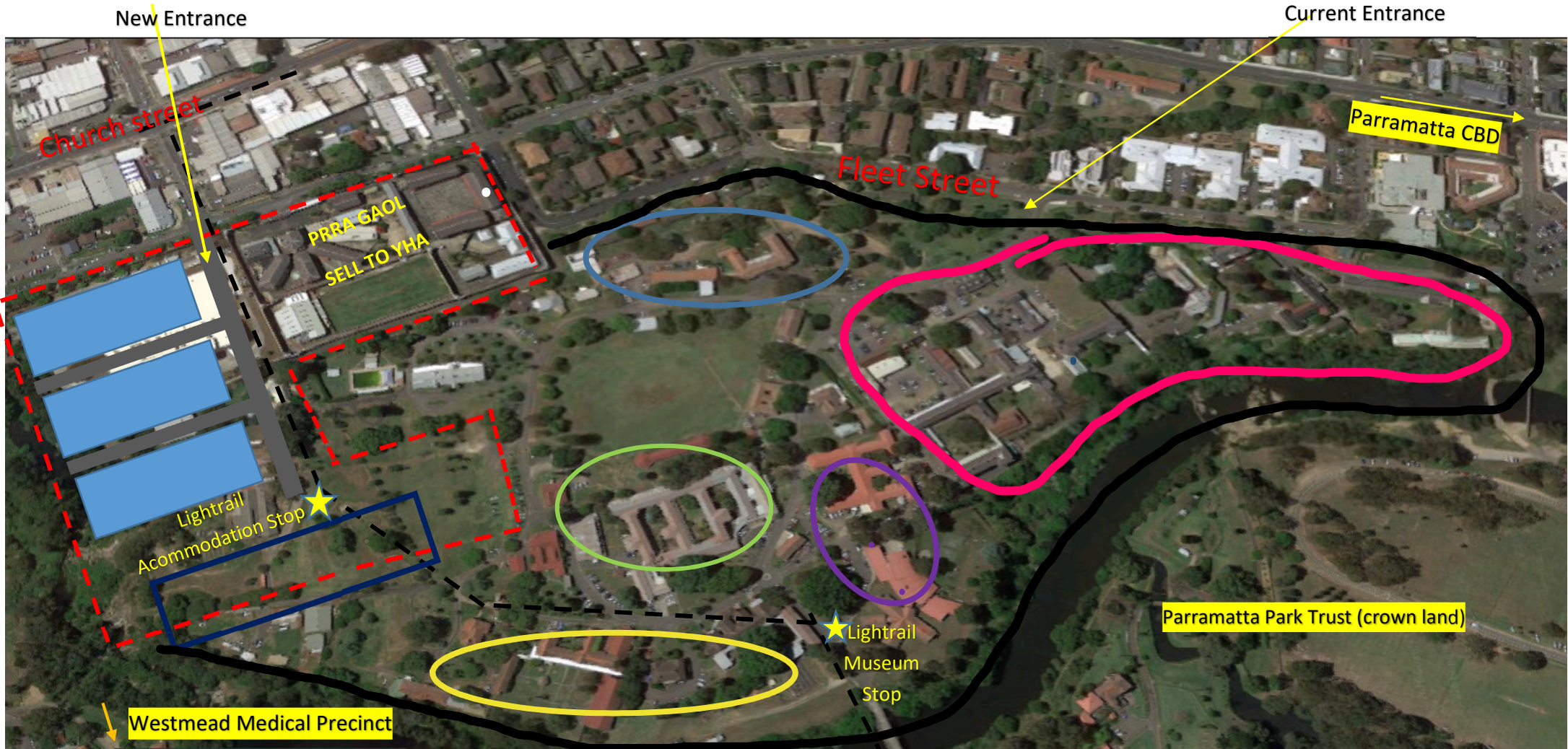
Thank you for showing in interest in the opportunity for a collaborative approach to creating a vital legacy for the social and economic future of Parramatta, the State and Australia through sustainable cultural planning.



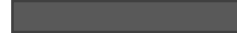









Yours sincerely,

**Suzette Meade** President  
**Inc.**  
**DRAFT FSHP MAP**

# Fleet Street Heritage Precinct – Draft Precinct Map

Prepared by North Parramatta Residents Action Group – September 2016



- |   |                                   |   |  |   |                                |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|--------------------------------|
|   | TRANSPORT HUB (parking)           |    | MUSEUM NSW (Migration/Indigenous)  |  | NEW ROAD                       |
|   | DINING ZONE                       |    | THEATRE ZONE   |  | Aboriginal Land Claim          |
|   | ART GALLERY                       |    | LIVING MUSEUM/ HERITAGE RESEARCH HUB<br>(under national heritage listing assessment) |  | SUGGESTED LIGHT RAIL           |
|  | Commercial/Retail/Boutique Hotels |  |  |  | Cumberland Hospital<br>Grounds |