

**ATTACHMENT C**

**CONSULTATION SUMMARY REPORT –  
NOVEMBER 2013**

## Community consultation report for Phase 1 of consultation for the Argyle Street Upgrade:

### **Background:**

The City of Sydney has plans to improve the public domain in Argyle Street, Millers Point. The works will accommodate an expected increase in pedestrian visitation to the area once the new Headland Park in Barangaroo is created, whilst maintaining the character, heritage and identity of Millers Point for visitors and the local community.

A concept design was developed for the project. It included the following elements:

- A new footpath in Argyle Street;
- Widening the footpath next to Argyle Place Park alongside Lower Fort Street and installing a pedestrian crossing across Lower Fort Street;
- Converting the bus turning circle in front of Abraham Mott Hall into a small park, pending negotiations with the State Transit Authority and Transport for NSW on the relocation of buses;
- Moving the heritage bus shelter outside Abraham Mott Hall to align with the new park and new footpath; and
- A new children's play area outside the Abraham Mott Hall
- Planting of additional trees

Community feedback was sought on the concept design from 9 - 23 November 2013.

### **Community consultation:**

Consultation activities included the following:

- A letter was sent to 3, 200 residents and business owners within Harbour Village North announcing the consultation and the ways in which people could have their say;
- Key stakeholders in the area, including the Barangaroo Delivery Authority, Observatory Hill stakeholders, the Older Women's Network and local community groups were notified of the consultation via email. An offer was made for the project team to visit these groups and/or anyone who was unable to attend the drop in session on 23 November;
- A drop in session was held on 23 November at Abraham Mott Hall. Community members were able to view the designs, discuss the project with the design team and fill out feedback forms;
- A webpage dedicated to the consultation was created on [sydneyoursay.com.au](http://sydneyoursay.com.au) displaying the consultation material and a feedback form for those wishing to make a submission;
- The consultation material was available on the City's website along with instructions on the ways in which people could have their say;
- The concept design was displayed at the One Stop Shop in Town Hall House; and
- The project team presented the concept design to the Millers Point Residents Action Group.

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## **Participation:**

30 submissions were received, including one each from the Millers Point Residents Action Group, The Walsh Bay Precinct Association and the Millers Point Leaseholders Group.

## **Outcomes:**

Argyle Street plays a significant role for the community within Harbour Village North and this is reflected in consultation outcomes. Community members demonstrated strong engagement with the public domain and an intimate knowledge of its use.

Most of the feedback received focused on the relocation of the bus layover. Concern around this issue overshadowed other feedback received on the design.

Of those people who did make comment on the design, 7 were positive saying that they supported the project. They especially liked the pocket park, the play space, the footpath widening and the new plantings.

The Millers Point Leaseholders Group stated that the bus layover presently dominates the public domain, and they welcomed its removal.

Only 3 people felt that the project should not go ahead. These people said that they wanted the area to remain as it is.

## Suggestions:

Some suggestions were received for additions to the design.

The Millers Point RAG recommended including disabled vehicle access and parking areas for the community facilities, creating a link between the new play space and the public area at St Brigid's Church, as well as bike rings and motorcycle parking bays in Argyle Street.

The RAG were also keen to have the sandstone kerb lines outside the Garrison Church reinstated, and trachyte kerbing along the Southern side of Argyle Street.

Other suggestions included in-road planting or widening Argyle Place Park in order to narrow streets, rather than widening footpaths.

## Bus Layover

11 people said that they were opposed to any relocation of the bus layover to Argyle Place. Those that gave specific reasons cited issues such as public safety (particularly risks posed by buses to small children), heritage impacts, reduction of resident parking spaces and a decrease in public amenity.

A number of suggestions for alternative locations for the bus layover were also received, including the empty space near Pier 1 in Walsh Bay and the 'Hungry Mile' on Hickson Road. Some felt that provision for a layover should form part of the Barangaroo access strategy, and it was suggested that buses should be moved to the underground car parks in Barangaroo.

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Other respondents suggested Hickson Road Walsh Bay, near the intersection with Pottinger Street. Whilst enthusiastic about the possibility of a bus route to their area, the Walsh Bay Precinct Association expressed concern over the number of buses that might be stopped in this location. They suggested that no more than 4 buses should layover in this space at a time.

## **Other Comments:**

A number of additional comments and suggestions were received concerning other local issues. They included the following:

- 3 residents requested that Argyle Place be pedestrianized and closed to all but residents' vehicles - this also received verbal support from many people when raised in a group discussion at the drop in session;
- The Millers Point RAG would like Argyle Place Park formally designated as a 'Village Green' by the Geographical Names Board;
- The RAG would also like crossovers on Argyle Place to be repaired and restored with sandstone and bluestone setts;
- Some also requested that electricity wires be put underground;
- A number of complaints were received that buses within the area are too noisy
- It was suggested that the City consider covering the void in Dalgetty Road (down to Hickson Road below) and use the reclaimed area for a bus layover and parking;
- Another resident wanted to see a transport/access plan for Barangaroo.