

# Loftus Street north & Reiby Place

## currently

Loftus Street is an important connection between the sandstone heritage buildings of Bridge Street to Customs House and Circular Quay. It has potential to be a green link, with frontages to Macquarie Place and Jesse Street Gardens. This connection will assume even greater importance under the RMS bus plan, with many interchange passengers boarding/alighting buses in Gresham Street.

### Issues - Loftus Street

- Northern end dominated by bus layover and movements
- Narrow footpaths along length
- Mix of tree planting, some struggling (Plane Trees)
- Multiple paving types in varying conditions

### Issues - Reiby Place

- Narrow space with low pedestrian amenity
- Limited activation opportunities

### Planned changes affecting Loftus Street & Reiby Place:

- Closure of Loftus Street at Alfred Street due to the light rail terminus
- Planned taxi super-rank to be located in vicinity
- Major redevelopment on both sides of the street



Loftus Street and Reiby Place - existing



Loftus Street - existing, showing varied paving types



Reiby Place - existing

# Loftus Street north & Reiby Place

## proposals

**Key**

1. Jessie Street Gardens.
2. Macquarie Place.
3. Creation of shared zone in Loftus Street. Flushed paved pedestrian priority zone. Granite sets in carriageway (requires further consultation with RMS & Transport for NSW).
4. Creation of shared zone in Reiby Place. Flushed paved pedestrian priority zone. Granite sets in carriageway (requires further consultation with RMS & Transport for NSW).
5. Water Mark applied to paving.
6. The existing Plane trees are retained.
7. Outdoor dining is consistent along Alfred Street.
8. Greenwall planting to blank facades in Reiby Place (future consultation with building owners required).
9. Theatrical projections to blank facades in Reiby Place (future consultation with building owners required).



Reiby Place proposal - illustrative montage (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



Loftus Street north and Reiby Place proposed design concept - plan (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)

### Loftus Street

- Creation of a singular pedestrian priority route along Loftus Street from Bridge Street to Circular Quay, and an enlarged pedestrian crossing on Bridge Street
- Proposed shared zone between Loftus Lane and Customs House Lane with flush granite sets treatment (subject to RMS approval)
- Upgrade paving and implement Street Tree Masterplan with new plantings of palm trees (Livistona)
- Outdoor dining zone aligned with street trees

### Reiby Place

- Creation of a shared zone along Reiby Place (**subject to RMS approval**), allowing taxis to access a new rank in Pitt Street via Reiby Place and Loftus Street (subject to RMS approval). Refer to Appendix B Traffic and Transport for more detail
- Upgrade paving in Reiby Place to flush granite sets (or similar)
- Vertical greening of Reiby Place and interpretation of the historic shore line through artworks and projection



# Young & Phillip Streets currently

Young Street connects Farrer Place to Circular Quay. At the northern end it is fronted by the AMP redevelopment precinct on both sides, with connections to Customs House Lane and Loftus Lane. At the southern end it is adjacent to the heritage listed Education Building, which has been earmarked for development as a hotel. Young Street south of Bridge Street is closed to traffic, connecting with the pedestrianised area of Farrer Place.

Phillip Street connects Alfred Street to Bent Street. It currently has limited pedestrian amenity with a narrow split-level footpath on the eastern side, and lack of active frontages. Phillip Street forms the eastern edge of the AMP precinct development site.

## Issues - Young Street

- Mix of street tree species, some struggling (Plane Trees)
- Mix of paving types and condition (granite and asphalt)
- Limited active frontages
- Clear view line to Circular Quay

## Issues - Phillip Street

- A glimpsed view of the Harbour beyond
- An asymmetrical street - currently has limited pedestrian amenity with a narrow split-level footpath on the eastern side and a generous footpath on the western side
- Limited active frontages

## Planned changes affecting streets:

- AMP precinct development
- Planned major bus corridor under RMS bus plan (stops and layover)
- Planned government conversion of Lands and Education buildings to Hotel



Phillip Street - existing



Young Street view south - existing



Existing aerial showing Young and Phillip Street

# Young & Phillip Streets proposals

## Key

1. Reduce carriageway on Young Street to one 3.3m lane each way. Footpath widening shared between both sides of street. **Final arrangement subject to RMS approval**
2. Palm trees planted in north-south streets
3. New shared zone (granite setts or similar) subject to RMS approval



- A Young Street - Proposed west side bus layover zone capacity = 3
- B Phillip Street- Proposed west side bus layover zone capacity = 4
- C Phillip Street- Existing central bus layover zone capacity = 4

- Upgrade paving to City of Sydney Streets Code palette (granite)
- Upgrade lighting to Smartpoles as per City of Sydney Streets Code
- New tree planting (Livistona) as per City of Sydney Street Tree Masterplan. Where existing trees have high retention value, palms can be interplanted in the short term and then used to replace existing trees at the end of their life
- Widen footpaths where possible, subject to final bus configuration (additional consultation with Transport for NSW required). Widened footpaths are currently shown in Young Street, with bus layover consolidated in Phillip Street
- Investigate a shared zone in Young Street between Bridge Street and Farrer Place

# Jessie Street Gardens

## currently

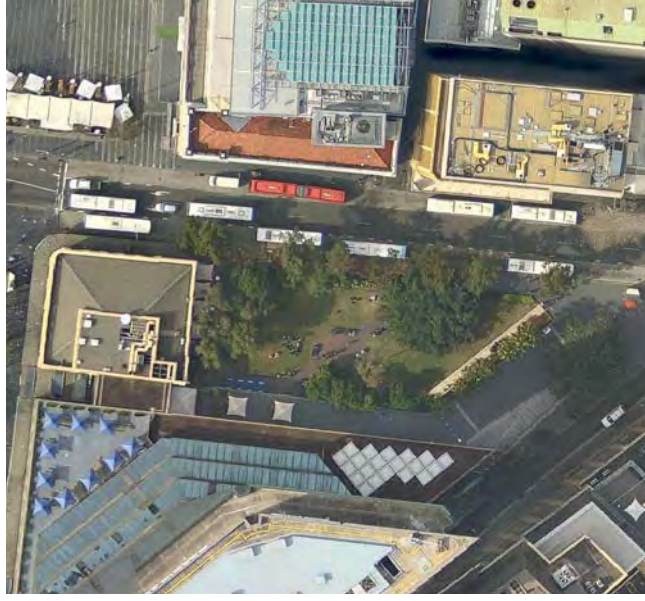
Currently Jessie Street Gardens is a "tired" space, located between the Gateway Building and Loftus Street.

### Issues

- Multitude of tree species including some inappropriate species in poor condition
- Degraded lawn areas and large areas of mulch
- Limited activation
- Lack of connectivity to Loftus Street and Macquarie Place

### Planned changes affecting Jessie Street Gardens:

- Gateway podium redevelopment including an approved design for Jessie Street Gardens completed prior to this whole-of-precinct study
- Closure of Loftus Street at Alfred Street and opportunity for pedestrianisation/shared zone
- Proposed shared zone in Reiby Place
- AMP Quay Quarter redevelopment on opposite side of Loftus Street



Jessie Street Gardens - aerial



Jessie Street Gardens - photos



Precedent images - Plaza Real, Barcelona (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



Precedent images - Potterfield Park, London (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)

# Jessie Street Gardens proposals

- The Jessie Street Garden monuments**
- A. The Bonds of Friendship, 1980
  - B. Entrance Plaque
  - C. Women's Pioneer Society, 1988
  - D. WWI Commemoration Statue of Women in the Defence Force, 1990



Jessie Street Gardens proposed concept design plan (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



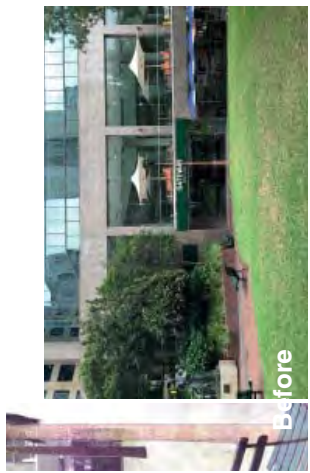
Jessie Street Gardens proposed concept design section (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)

The objective is to create one of a series of City Gardens, spaces that are colourful and full of planting that is specific to this site. The intent is to draw the proposed Water Square into the space and open up the constrained spaces behind The Paragon.

- Extend the Water Square into the space and create outdoor dining and public seating area, well connected to Loftus Street and Customs House Square
- Replace degraded turf areas with gardens of seasonal planting, with intimate seating areas and meandering paths
- Retain all existing monuments within the gardens, in existing or resited locations (subject to further development and consultation)



Jessie Street Gardens illustrative montage (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



# Macquarie Place currently

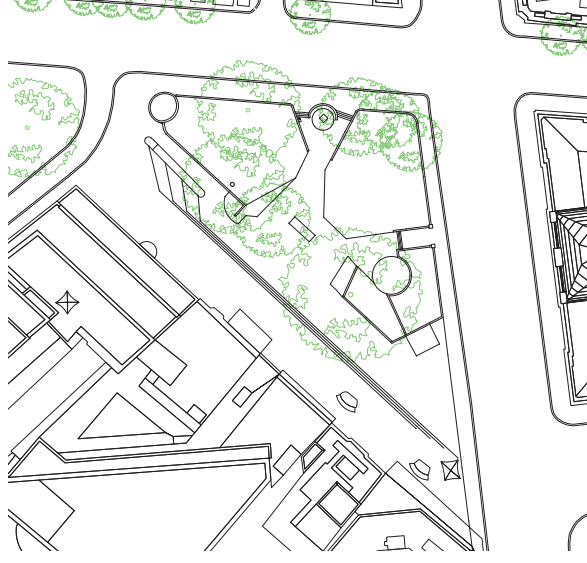
Macquarie Place is rich in history and ~~is~~ **may be** the oldest planned town square in Australia. Macquarie Place Precinct is listed on the NSW Heritage Register and Sydney LEP 2012 as an item of environmental heritage. Both Macquarie Place roadway and Macquarie Place park are identified as a place of National significance in the draft Australian Heritage Commission "Colonial Sydney" listing. In spite of its difficult geometry, shaded environment and predominance of memorials, is well used as a break-out space by surrounding office workers.

## Issues

- Very shaded space
- Worn and degraded lawn areas
- Outdoor dining barriers and quality of infrastructure impacts on park
- Multitude of artifacts and memorials but difficult to appreciate and interpret
- Few seating options

## Planned changes affecting Macquarie Place:

- AMP Quay Quarter redevelopment on opposite side of Loftus Street will provide increased activation, pedestrian movement and usage
- Siting of new east-west connector artwork by Tracey Emin "The Distance of Your Heart"



Macquarie Place existing plan (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



Macquarie Place existing photos



Macquarie Place existing photos

## The Macquarie Place monuments

- A Mens Lavatory, 1807
- B Canopy Fountain, 1870
- C Salvaged Anchor from HMS 'Sirius', 1907
- D Salvaged Cannon from HMS 'Sirius', 1907
- E Macquarie Obelisk, 1818
- F Queen Elizabeth - Tree Planting 1954
- G Duke of Edinburgh - tree planting 1854
- H Remembrance Driveaway Plaque 1995
- I Statue of TS Mort (Pierce Francis Connelly), 1883
- J Bronze Memorial Fountain (Gerald Lewers), 1960
- K The Distance of Your Heart (Tracey Emin)



Repurposing and activation of former toilet - illustration (HASSELL 2015)



Proposed Multi-layered shade-tolerant understorey planting (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)

# Macquarie Place proposals

- Key**
1. Declutter a clear passage from Bridge Street to the Harbour.
  2. Reconfigure the outdoor dining to allow free movement in and out of the park.
  3. Theatrical uplighting to the trees.
  4. Replanting of garden areas and removal of turf in shaded areas.
  5. Reinstate Macquarie Place gates.
  6. Creation of new seating alcoves.
  7. Outdoor dining elements to be as per City of Sydney Outdoor Dining Guidelines. Include Macquarie Place as a 'Special Precinct' under the City's Outdoor Dining Guidelines, requiring a uniform palette of outdoor dining furniture.
  8. Reactivate the "Mens Lavatory".
  9. New street tree planting - *Livebona australis*.
  10. New paved areas.
  11. Existing paving retained.
  12. Remove *Ficus hillii*.



Macquarie Place proposed concept design plan (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



Section A-A  
Macquarie Place  
Macquarie Place proposed concept design section (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)

- Extend Macquarie Square to the surrounding buildings with flush, paved shared surfaces.
- Lighten space by selective removal of trees, thinning of tree canopies and **possibly** uplighting to trees
- Removal of shrub planting to open up views through the park and reveal historic artifacts and memorials.
- Remove areas of worn and shaded turf and replace with low level seasonal planting and seating areas.
- Removal of obstructions to pedestrian movement, and consolidation of outdoor dining. Consider introducing Special Precinct controls for Macquarie Place to the City's ~~revised~~ Outdoor Dining guidelines

It is recommended that a new Conservation Management Plan be prepared for Macquarie Place to guide these and future works. The report should be prepared by a suitably qualified heritage consultancy team, including a Heritage Landscape consultant, a Monument and Artefact conservator and a Built Heritage consultant. In addition a new Archaeological Assessment should be prepared. Both documents should include both the park and the roadway of Macquarie Place.



Macquarie Place illustrative montage (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



# Farrer Place & Loftus Street south

## currently

Farrer Place is a triangular public space bordered by Bent Street, Governor Macquarie Tower and the Education Department building. Farrer Place contains a group of three significant Washington Palms. The park forms an important part of the City's public open space and is scheduled in the City of Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2012 and Sydney City Heritage Study. The palms are significant in terms of their visual, aesthetic and historic values.

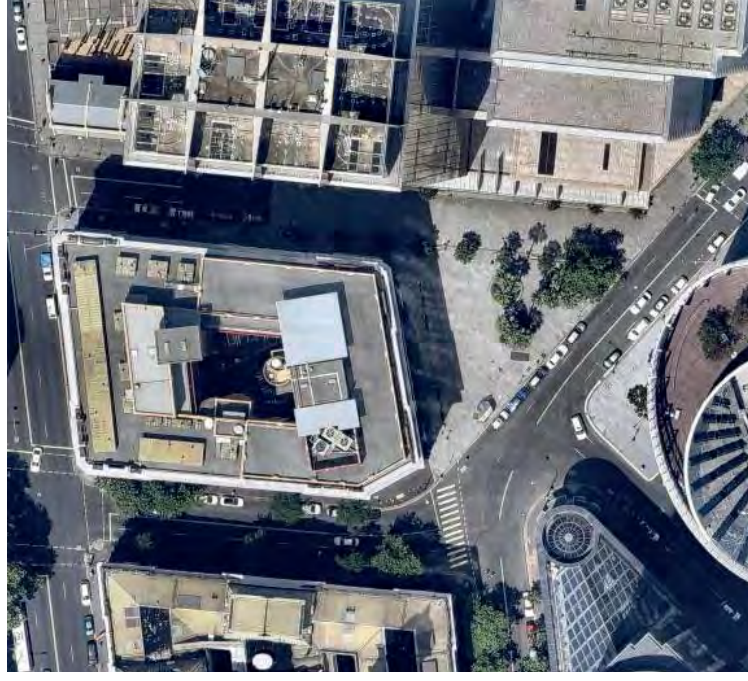
An Energy Australia substation is located beneath Farrer Place.

### Issues

- steep gradient limits useable public space
- limited seating and amenity
- kiosk located in footway

### Planned changes affecting Farrer Place:

- Potential work to Farrer Place planters to upgrade the Energy Australia substation underground (by Energy Australia)
- Change of use / redevelopment of the former Education Building & Lands Department
- Potential changes to bus infrastructure, with a new bus stop on Bent Street in Farrer Place being considered.



Farrer Place aerial photo



Farrer Place 1974  
(HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



Illustrative montage - Farrer Place aerial view  
(HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



Farrer Place existing photos

# Farrer Place & Loftus Street South proposals



**Key**

1. Relocated and redesigned kiosks.
2. Seating applied to existing planters.
3. Application of pavement graphic.
4. New planting palette.
5. Flush paving in Loftus Street.
6. New planters incorporating edge seating element.

To enliven and activate Farrer Place to make it more comfortable and inviting and allow free pedestrian movement.

- Relocation and redesign of the kiosks to allow for better pedestrian circulation.
- Create better opportunities for seating and gathering.
- New planting palette to enliven the space and inspired by the poetic descriptions of the pre-settlement landscape character.
- Reinterpret 1970's paving pattern to enliven space
- Long term vision to create a shared zone in Loftus Street south (subject to RMS approval), following the completion of Sydney Light Rail works and reevaluation of street's role in the bus plan.
- Proposed granite setts or similar, and new tree planting (Livistona palms)

Farrer Place concept design plan (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)

Illustrative montage - Farrer Place view north (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



# Richard Johnson Square

## currently

*Richard Johnson Square remains rundown, and is yet to be formalised as a quality public pedestrian space that recognises it's meaning within the city.*

### Issues

- Multiple paving types in poor condition
- Steep level change across the site
- Lack of greenery or landscaping

### Planned changes affecting the area:

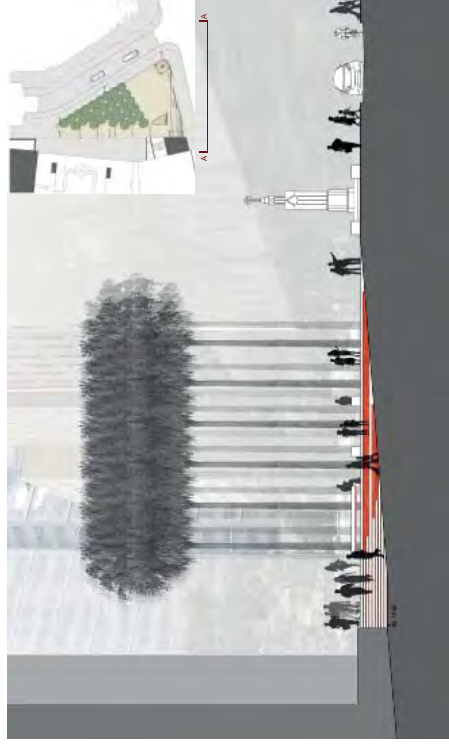
- Redevelopment of 33 Bligh Street (Ausgrid)

In 2009 the proposed redevelopment of 33 Bligh Street presented the opportunity for renewal of the square. The City engaged Aspect Studio to prepare a concept design, which was endorsed by the Design Advisory Panel and was to be delivered as part of a VPA package by the developer. The development did not proceed and 33 Bligh Street was subsequently acquired by Ausgrid for a substation (refer to Part 1.3 Development Activity).

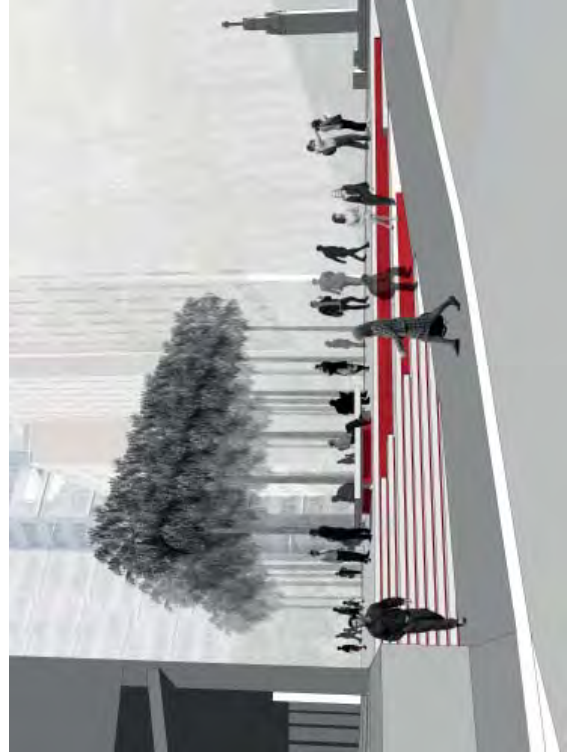


Richard Johnson Square existing photos  
(Aspect Studios 'Richard Johnson Square Principles' 2009)

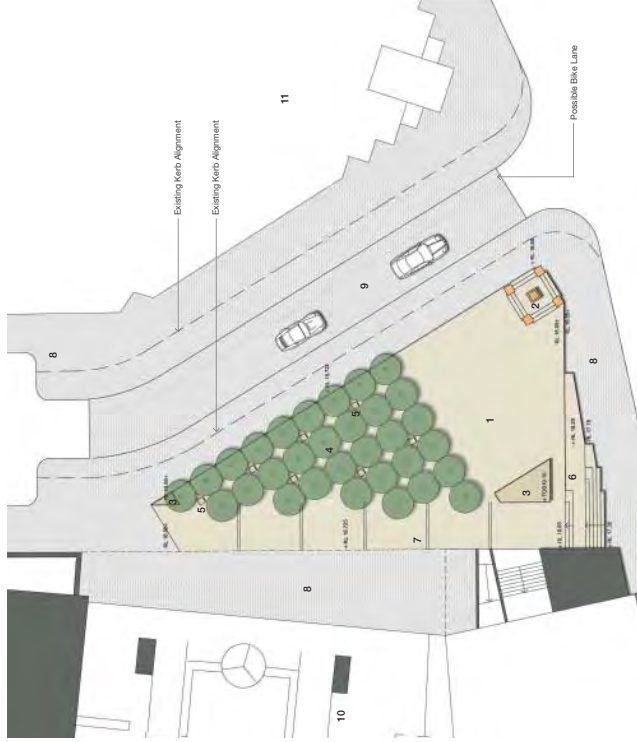
# Richard Johnson Square proposals



Stonework steps, sculptural furniture and canopy with ultra-lighting as interpretative artwork



Farrer Place concept design plan (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)



- Key:**
1. Proposed sandstone paving area. The sandstone material links strongly to the surrounding context and colonial history of the site.
  2. Relocated Richard Johnson Memorial. The location addresses Hunter and Bligh Streets and defines the space of the 'square'.
  3. Communal sandstone seating tables. Slender steel supports and under lighting with red glow
  4. Grove planting of *Lyivostia australis*: Referencing the original Tank Stream tree species the layout creates a roofed 'Cathedral' space. Possible use of water misters and up-lighting of trees.
  5. Individual sandstone seating; appropriate to the contemplative mood of the space.
  6. Sandstone steps. The steps and platforms reveal historic and artistic elements through vitrines behind the stair facing. Red lighting illuminates the stairs at night.
  7. Trench drains set into stone paving
  8. New stone paving to street
  9. Widened Footpath; creates single car lane and bike lane
  10. Proposed Development; includes pedestrian access from O'Connell Street
  11. Emil Soderstone Building

A concept design for Richard Johnson Square was prepared for the City of Sydney in 2009 by Aspect Studios. The Concept Design established the following design principles:

- Clear Connected Paths
- Create a heirarchy of public spaces and clear movement paths
- Stair / wall facing and sculptural furniture create opportunities for interpretative artwork

A streetscape design for the Ausgrid project was prepared by Aspect Studios to align with the future Richard Johnson Square renewal concept. A monetary contribution to the City for the upgrade of the square has been required as a condition of consent by the State Government. The implementation of the concept design for Richard Johnson Square can now be explored as part of the City North Public Domain Plan implementation.

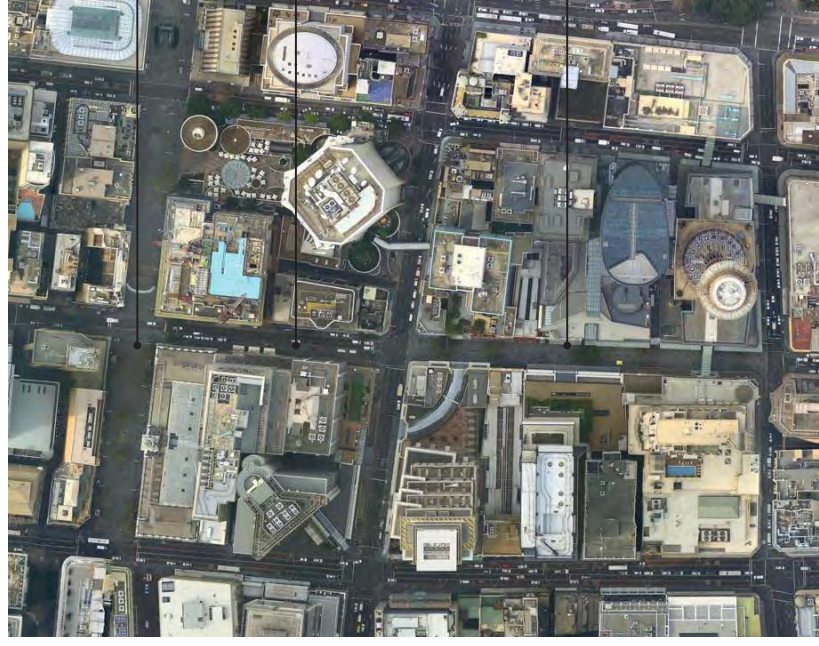
# Pitt Street Mall extension

*To extend the network of pedestrian-priority space in Central Sydney, the opportunity to extend Pitt Street Mall to the north has been raised. This is the subject of ongoing discussions between the City, landowners and developers to explore potential access arrangements, with a view to eliminating the need for cars to use the block of Pitt Street between King Street and Martin Place.*

## Opportunities

- to connect Martin Place to the retail core of the city
- to expand the city's existing pedestrian network
- to establish new public space for active uses such as outdoor dining

This opportunity is flagged for ongoing development and additional stakeholder consultation. Impacts on traffic, transport and cycling within the surrounding area need further study prior to the development of a concept design.



# Gresham Street

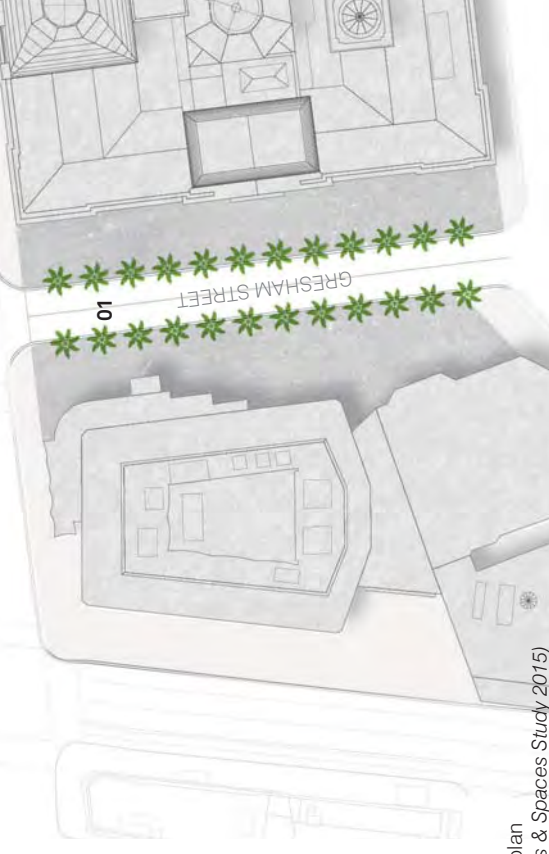


Gresham Street existing photo

Due to the role of Gresham Street in the Bus Plan, through access needs to be retained and the long term vision outlined in the City's 2007 design (POD Landscape Architects) is not currently achievable.

While Gresham Street continues to provide a major bus dropoff and pickup location, the following minor upgrade works are recommended:

- New tree planting (Livistona palms)
- Maximise footway widenings (NB some works have already been carried out by Transport for NSW)



Gresham Street concept design plan (HASSELL City North Streetscapes & Spaces Study 2015)

It is recommended that opportunities for Gresham Street are reevaluated following the completion of Sydney Light Rail, and once proposals for the former Lands and Education buildings are known.

## 6.2 Precinct-wide overlay projects

In addition to the place-specific projects, this plan includes recommendations for wider overlays to the area to improve the quality of the public domain, signage, wayfinding, events and experiences. Many of these overlays are already under way within the City. It is intended that the outcomes of these urban design overlays be integrated into the individual place-specific projects as they progress.

- New outdoor dining guidelines, specific precinct guidelines as required (e.g. Circular Quay and Martin Place);
- City-wide events strategy and guidelines;
- City granite paving and Smartpole rollout;
- CBD laneway upgrades;
- New public domain furniture rollout;
- [Temporary seating program](#);
- Wayfinding signage; and
- Creative lighting masterplan (Martin Place).

