

Relevant Information for Council

FILE: S121924 **DATE:** 10 March 2023

TO: Lord Mayor and Councillors

FROM: Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

THROUGH: Monica Barone, Chief Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Information Relevant To Item 7.4 – Post Exhibition - City North Public Domain Plan

Alternative Recommendation

It is resolved that:

- (A) Council adopt the City North Public Domain Plan with amendments, as shown at Attachment A to the subject report, and the amended wording to Guiding Direction 5 to reference as a guiding document to inform capital works planning, negotiations with government and developers, planning proposals and development applications ***subject to the following amendment:***
- the wording of Guiding Direction 5 on page 29 of the Plan will be amended to read "Support and encourage active building edges and high quality activation in the public domain that also reflect the important heritage of this precinct, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage." as shown in Attachment A to the subject Information Relevant To Memorandum;***
- (B) Council note that project opportunities require further advocacy, consultation, testing, feasibility assessment and design development in collaboration with key stakeholders including property owners and Transport NSW / Sydney Metro, to inform future capital works budgets and future scoping reports to be considered by Council; and
- (C) authority be delegated to the Chief Executive Officer to make amendments to the City North Public Domain Plan in order to correct any minor drafting errors and finalise design, artwork and accessible formats for publication.

Purpose

To provide information and an Alternative Recommendation for consideration

Background

At the meeting of the Transport, Heritage, Environment and Planning Committee meeting of 6 March 2023, further information was sought on the following:

Legislation/regulations relating to noise management

The City has powers under planning and environmental legislation to manage noise impacts in relation to development, construction and events and has particular powers to deal with offensive noise. Various NSW Government agencies are also able to enforce noise related issues in specific circumstances, for example in relation to licensed premises.

Guidance on relevant legislation and regulatory authorities for neighbourhood noise, including contact information for various agencies and a detailed fact sheet, can be found on the City's website at <https://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/report-issue/resolve-neighbourhood-noise-issues>

Loftus Lane - closure or restricted access

Loftus Lane is currently a two-way Shared Zone between Loftus Street and Young Street. It provides driveway access to 20 Loftus Street, 9B Young Street and the Bridgeport Apartments at 38-42 Bridge Street, therefore it cannot be closed. As Loftus Lane is a public road, the City cannot provide resident only access.

The existing condition in Loftus Lane creates a slow speed environment as it is a 10km/hour Shared Zone, with a kinked geometry and continuous footpath treatments at Loftus Street and Young Street. The endorsed upgrade to Loftus Street between Bridge Street and Alfred Street will further reduce traffic into Loftus Street.

The City can consider making Loftus Lane one-way westbound to improve safety and reduce traffic movements in the laneway. From previous correspondences, City staff understands that the one-way westbound proposal is not supported by the residents, who wish to maintain two way access to their properties. Staff will follow up with residents and representatives of the Bridgeport Apartments to discuss this option.

This would not result in any amendments required to the City North Public Domain Plan under consideration.

Acknowledgement of excluded heritage and history particularly when areas are renewed. Consideration of actively including a layer recognising history and embedding this in the next stage of work

The City North Public Domain Plan is a guiding document for future public domain improvements. It outlines in sections how heritage, designing with country and public art are to be integrated into future projects.

This document is the guiding framework for future projects only. When individual projects are developed the layers of heritage will be taken into consideration in detail to inform any future plans. Currently work has commenced on Macquarie Place Park to develop a long term masterplan to guide future improvements. A detailed Conservation Management Plan (CMP) is underway and this will outline how heritage both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and post first contact heritage will be translated into any future public domain improvements. All projects in the precinct will receive a similar level of review.

To make this commitment explicit, it is proposed to amend the City North Public Domain Plan Guiding Direction 5 to read "Support and encourage active building edges and high quality activation in the public domain that also reflects the important heritage of this precinct, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage."

Memo from Kim Woodbury, Chief Operating Officer

Prepared by: Bridget Smyth, City Architect/Executive Manager City Design and Public Art

Katharine Young, Senior Urban Designer

Attachments

Attachment A. Amended Guiding Direction 5 - City North Public Domain Plan (page 29)

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.M. Barone', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MONICA BARONE

Chief Executive Officer

Attachment A

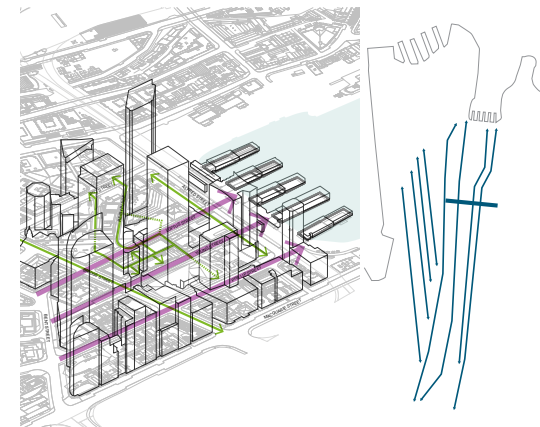
**Amended Guiding Direction 5 – City North
Public Domain Plan (page 29)**

The following five directions have emerged from preliminary consultation, site analysis and existing strategies, and are based on the existing unique and positive characteristics of City North.

04 Guiding Directions

01

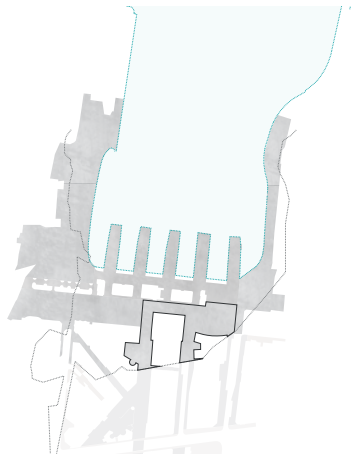
Strengthen north-south streets and encourage east-west pedestrian permeability



Creating clear, legible and clutter-free routes along the City's north-south streets will contribute to the walkability of the city, and allow improved access to public spaces and transport interchange. Enhancing the strong north-south corridors with finer-grain, meandering east-west streets and lanes creates a connected and permeable network.

02

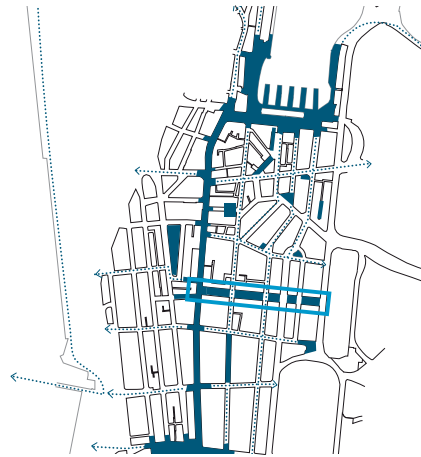
Reinforce a connected public space at Circular Quay and create a unified square from the building edge to the water



One of the key aims of Sydney 2030-2050 Continuing the Vision is to establish Circular Quay as one of the City's premier public spaces, linking the city to the water. The long term vision of a unified Circular Quay underpins this plan.

03

Reinforce Martin Place as the City's premier civic and public space



Martin Place is home to some of the Sydney's finest architecture and most significant civic monuments. It is one of the few 'planned' public spaces within Central Sydney. A strategy to better connect the blocks of Martin Place, and increase the useability of the space, will help reinforce Martin Place as a destination rather than a thoroughfare.

04

Create a linked series of park and garden spaces and upgrade existing open spaces



Preserving and upgrading our existing parks will help them cater to the increased useage that will come with the growing city population. City North has the opportunity to link existing pockets of green space with avenues of street tree planting, in accordance with the City's Street tree Masterplan, creating a high quality green network.

05

Support and encourage active building edges and high quality activation in the public domain that also reflects the important heritage of this precinct, in particular Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage



Active building uses that spill out into the public domain can help activate currently underused areas, and can provide places for people to stop and enjoy the city. Rebalance the representation of history and heritage in places of significance. These uses are important to increase amenity in open spaces, near parks and to provide services near transport hubs. High quality active edges are important to Inclusive and vibrant public life will define the character of significant places such as Circular Quay and Martin Place.