

Dear Neighbours - apologies for the tardiness of this month's update post our RAG meeting.

We had some guests at last Tuesday evening's meeting. Firstly, Heritage NSW and the City of Sydney were in attendance updating us on the Community Consultation process initiated by Heritage Council of NSW on our heritage precinct. A few weeks ago we delivered our detailed report to them both. Our guests were the new Executive Director of Heritage NSW, Sam Kidman, and Rajeev Maini and Shikha Jhaldiyal from the Heritage Assessments Team plus Tony Smith, Manager, Urban Design & Heritage from the City of Sydney.

Heritage NSW indicated they have reviewed all the feedback and have prepared a report for the Approvals Committee of the Heritage Council. The report contains draft design recommendations and a draft vision statement for our Precinct. It is the intention of Heritage NSW to publish the draft documents for public comment in the coming weeks. As the draft report will directly impact our neighbourhood, we asked if there could be an earlier release of the draft reports to the MPCRAG with a Zoom presentation process, for which Heritage NSW agreed. Stay tuned for that.

We also had Councilor Linda Scott attend as a guest. Linda put forward a Notice of Motion to Council a few months ago on various Traffic Calming initiatives we have been seeking from the Council for some years. Unfortunately, it appears the answer this time around is the same - No. We will be seeking further consultations with the City on these measures as they are important human safety measures, for which there must be a solution.

Other updates included the following:

Barangaroo Central - we are still awaiting our briefing from Aqualand and Infrastructure NSW on their masterplan. Timeframes seem to be slipping, and we appear to be on the end of the list.

Harry Jensen Centre - Heather and I had a Zoom session with the City last Thursday. We are seeking in-principle agreement from the City to give the MPCRAG "the keys" to HJC, so we can open the centre post-lockdown, and seek to make the Centre relevant again for our neighbourhood. Various issues with Crown Land reviews, etc are proving to be a major bureaucratic hurdle. The centre has now been effectively closed for 18 months, with ad hoc availability at best (outside of lockdowns). Filling out forms to get access for each particular activity is one solution - but doesn't come anywhere near what should be the outcome - a community centre open, welcoming and relevant. Frustrating.

Fort St Public School - waste material trucks entering and leaving the site, ignoring the Traffic Management Plan, has been a pain for several months. With multiple attempts, we should now be seeing greater compliance to the TMP ie not using Kent St as their shortcut to the Bridge, nor using Argyle Place as their layover. Heavy vehicle traffic will only increase as major demolition works continue.

Parbury Lane Stairs Works - the stairs between Downshire Lane and Pottinger St have been closed for several months, with seemingly nothing happening. So a thank you to Anne from the City of Sydney for facilitating the "hurry up" - it appears the project is coming to end, with the "reveal" this morning - see photo.

Heritage Act Review - MPCRAG (via John McInerney) spoke at the Parliamentary inquiry on our submission.

Cruise Ship Air Quality Testing - the Lord Mayor, Clover Moore, has taken up the issue with the NSW Government to facilitate air quality testing before the cruise ships return so we have a base line to compare.

Marrinawi Cove Swimming Spot - our campaign continues to achieve a swimming spot at Barangaroo Reserve, by having it incorporated into the recently announced *Yananurala* walk around Sydney's harbour foreshore.

MPCRAG Annual General Meeting - Tuesday 9 November at 6.30pm - put it in your diary, not one to be missed 😊. All executive committee positions will be up for nomination and election. If you are keen to contribute, please speak with Candice and we can organise a nomination form.

That's it, see you at the next meeting - Tuesday 12 October at 6.30pm.

Regards,

Bernard