

West Ward Bytes

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New Planning Commission

The State Government is advertising for staff for its recently announced Greater Sydney (Planning) Commission. The Commission will oversee the implementation of 'A Plan for Growing Sydney'. It will advise the Government on planning priorities and infrastructure.

A key platform of the Plan for Growing Sydney is providing greater housing choice. This means change for our residential suburbs where we will see increased numbers of medium and high density residential towers. In the past year new strata units have outpaced traditional residential house by 9:1 (nine units for every house built).

There will be six planning districts across Sydney. The Commissioners of the planning districts are also members of the Sydney Planning Panel which will have plan making and **development assessment functions**. This is another example of the State Government devolving decision making away from local communities. You can anticipate that the new planning model will also reduce the amount of public consultation over new planning proposals.

Currey Park



Currey Park is located behind the Westfield Carpark in Victor St (opposite the Dougherty Centre). Recently, residents were astounded to see an area of the park roped off. They contacted Council. Next day they received a formal notification from Westfield that the carpark was to be extended.

Since then, after numerous communications from Council and Westfield, work has progressed with only minor concessions being granted (residents will be consulted as to how the park will be restored). Many trees have been lost. The amenity of the Park compromised.

A further galling aspect of this saga is that Council has approved another worksite within the Park where Westfield can store their equipment. The story started a few years back when Council proposed to change part of the Park from Community land to Operational land. At the time, residents were unaware of the implications.

A lesson to be learnt. Whenever change is mooted you need to inquire about the possible outcome that might ensue.

'Blowing-up' Chatswood

A Planning Proposal has been lodged for a site on the Pacific Highway between McIntosh and Help Streets. There is a 13 storey building on the corner of Help St and the Pacific Highway (the building with the external lift). The proposal will require **demolition of the existing 13 storey building**. To our knowledge this is the first (of many?) demolitions of large buildings to build even higher in Chatswood.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday 17 September 2015
7:30 PM

Dougherty Centre
7 Victor Street, Chatswood

More stories online at:
cwwpa.org

Mowbray Traffic

The long awaited Consultant's Traffic Report on the 'Mowbray' Precinct was finally presented to Council (you can access the report via cwwpa.org). As the report and recommendations are quite long, only a short synopsis can be given here.

One of the most interesting outcomes was the claim that the majority of the traffic through the precinct is from within the precinct. For the last 20-30 years the precinct has been thought to be a 'rat-run' for commuters avoiding the main roads in the area. This assertion by the Consultants needs to be contested.

The outcome of the consideration by Council of the report (at which there were many residents present) was to accept the Officer's Recommendations.

The lights at Beaconsfield Road will be changed to allow a right-hand turn from Beaconsfield Road onto Mowbray Rd as well as through movements at the intersection. There was no recommendation to close Coolaroo Rd. A set of lights at Hatfield St/Kullah St on Mowbray Rd West was adopted. There were various other recommendations which can be viewed at cwwpa.org.

Remit \$10 to the Treasurer
CWWPA c/- 33 Coolaroo Road
Lane Cove North, 2066.
Fee due 1 January

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