



The Office of the Chief Executive

23 December 2020

Malcolm McDonald
Executive Director, Eastern Harbour City
Greater Sydney Place and Infrastructure
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
Locked Bag 5022
Parramatta NSW 2124

Dear Mr McDonald,

RE: CHATSWOOD CBD PLANNING AND URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY 2036

Council, in previous correspondence to the Department of Planning Industry and Environment (DPIE) outlined its approach in responding to the partial endorsement of the *Chatswood CBD Planning and Urban Design Strategy 2036* (the *Strategy*) contained in your letter dated 9 August 2019. Attention is drawn to the Council letters dated 23 December 2019 and 27 March 2020.

In relation to that approach, the main aspects of it were:

- Council consulted with site specific proponents of Planning Proposals in the proposed mixed use areas of the CBD to develop a way forward to address the matters raised in the DPIE letter of 9 August 2019.
- An approach was arrived at between Council and proponents in late 2019 where the proponents proposed to engage and pay for independent consultants to prepare studies addressing the urban design, heritage and transport matters raised by DPIE with a view to resolving DPIE's concerns.
- On 13 November 2019, a preliminary presentation on the progress made in preparing each of the various studies was provided to DPIE, where the methodology and way forward was given 'in principle' support.
- Although site specific proponents were involved, Council sought any studies addressing matters raised by DPIE to be based on a CBD wide approach and not limited to a site specific approach.
- A Peer Review process was developed with DPIE and subsequently undertaken to ensure probity in the process and sound recommendations in regards any required changes or updating of the *Strategy*.
- Further support for the approach was requested by Council and received in the DPIE letter dated 17 January 2020, as well as at a further meeting on 21 February 2020.

Willoughby City Council

It is further noted that full endorsement of the *Strategy* was provided by DPIE on 9 July 2020.

At no point were the costs of these studies or the commercial arrangements between the proponents and their consultants discussed with Council staff.

Council understands from communication with DPIE that the process of addressing the DPIE issues raised in the letter of 9 August 2019 has been conducted in a robust and appropriate manner.

Yours sincerely

Greg McDonald
ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER