



## Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee

5 August 2024

Ashfield Service Centre, Ashfield and via Teams

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### Minutes

Meeting commenced at 6:06pm and concluded 7:30pm

#### Present

Community members	Staff	Councillors
Darren Livings	Daniel East – Manager Strategic Planning	
Elise Frost	Nigel Riley – Senior Strategic Planner (convenor) (online)	
Heather Davie	Jennifer Gavin – Team Leader Specialist Planning (convenor)	
Alex Atwood	Jyn Kim – Strategic Planner	
Arni Nadkarni		
Stephen Powter		
Rebecca Jones		
Cath Snelgrove (online)		
Dennis McCarthy (online)		
Rian Fergusson (online)		

#### Chairperson:

Darren Livings

#### Acknowledgment of Country:

Elise Frost

#### Apologies:

Louise Steer, Rodney Aanensen, Corey Allen, Susan Jackson-Stepowski

#### Disclosure of interest:



Nil

**Quorum:**

A quorum was achieved

**Endorse previous meeting minutes:**

Minutes for the 24 June meeting were endorsed. No actions were outstanding.

**Discussion items**

Agenda Item	Discussion Summary	Proposed action (if required)	Action owner	Date for action to be finalised
1.	<p><b>Update on NSW Government Housing Reforms</b></p> <p>Council officers provided the latest updates on NSW Government’s Housing Reforms, including Transport Oriented Development (TOD) Parts 1 and 2 and Low- and Mid-Rise Housing (LMRH) Stages 1 and 2.</p> <p>Committee members queried which version of Inner West’s Part 2 TOD precinct controls would come into force in December – Council’s version or the State Government’s. Officers clarified that Council is aiming to deliver its version by the State’s deadline, but if they fail to do so, it is understood the State’s version will come into force.</p>	N/A		N/A
2.	<p><b>Update on Inner West Housing Investigation Areas</b></p> <p>Council officers provided an update on Council’s ongoing housing investigations in response to the Housing Reforms, including preparation of technical studies to support the draft master plans. Officers also updated the Committee on Council’s <i>Principles for planning in the Inner West</i> community consultation, which concludes on Tuesday 6 August.</p> <p>Committee members held a general discussion on the housing investigations, including technical inputs. Regarding the community</p>	N/A		N/A

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	<p>consultation, members raised issues regarding the interactive map, including the lack of a 'thumbs down' option for other comments (only a 'thumbs up') and a limit on the number of interactive map comments per contributor. Officers noted these limitations, but advised that contributors can make their own comments if they don't agree with others. Members were encouraged to provide any further feedback to Council by email before the closing date, if they reached a limit.</p>			
3.	<p><b>Look back at the Planning and Heritage Advisory Committee term</b></p> <p>Convenors provided a summary of the Committee's activities between October 2022 and August 2024, including staff presentations, group discussions/workshops and Policy Challenge Question (PCQ) exercises. Convenors acknowledged the PCQ was daunting to address, but could be viewed as a 'mission statement' for the group and for planning generally.</p> <p>The PCQ was broken down into topics (housing, jobs, infrastructure, environment, design and heritage) and Committee's activities were assigned to a topic. Members were then asked which topics were well covered this term, and which could be discussed further in the future.</p> <p>Committee members made the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Suggested greater focus on resilience, sustainable and green housing, including advice to Council on advocacy opportunities.</li> <li>• Could do better job advocating for heritage to be addressed by Council, e.g. delayed residential heritage review. Argued that new unit blocks will not have the same longevity as older unit blocks. Also, disillusionment at Council's handling of heritage during and following halted 2022 consultation. Officers acknowledged frustrations, noted that delays to residential heritage review were product of bad timing –</li> </ul>	Council officers to consider feedback for future Local Democracy Groups	Convenors	Following this meeting

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	<p>response to Housing Reforms has required much of its Strategic Planning resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted that PCQ was ‘impossible question’, but essential to consider. Many facets of planning that must work together for good outcomes. Committee’s conversations were working to address it courteously.</li> <li>• Generally good mix of topics covered and good level of detail provided, including from experts working on specific issues.</li> <li>• Requested there be less pitting of planning and heritage against each other.</li> <li>• Suggested heritage considerations should cover areas of all economic backgrounds, not just wealthy suburbs. This would help to capture Inner West’s diverse fabric.</li> <li>• On environment, tendency for planning to be human-centric. Healthy environment is not human-centric, but is essential for human survival and prosperity. Includes canopy, gardens, biodiversity and conservation.</li> <li>• Early meetings of next term, perhaps set expectations on what Council can and can’t do. Officers agreed it is important to bring everyone up to speed on governance and responsibilities at different levels.</li> <li>• Important to understand motivations at different levels, not just view issues through the local government lens. Helps understand our importance (proximity to Sydney CBD which accounts for large portion of nation’s economic output).</li> <li>• Issues such as heritage should be viewed in city context.</li> <li>• Some activities were unclear in what Council wanted advice on. Before each discussion/workshop, officers should outline what they’re seeking.</li> <li>• Queried whether housing should be standalone group and this committee deals with all other aspects of planning.</li> <li>• Noted how broadly planning is defined and how it potentially interacts with several other committees. Opportunities for collaboration between committees should be explored.</li> </ul>			

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future recruitment should target young people and renters.</li> </ul>			
4.	<p><b>Next steps with Local Democracy Group</b></p> <p>Officers outlined final steps of this term of Local Democracy Groups and timing and details for the future term. Committee members were encouraged to sign up to Your Say Inner West to receive updates on future Local Democracy Group activity.</p> <p>Committee members queried whether officers will recommend that the Planning &amp; Heritage Advisory Committee continue in its current description. Officers clarified that they can't advise yet, but acknowledged that planning covers a range of topics.</p>	Committee members to sign to Your Say Inner West to receive updates	All Committee members	Following this meeting
5.	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>A Committee member noted the Upper House inquiry on the Housing Reforms. A presenter at the inquiry providing findings on children in apartments in Sydney. The member stated that families are leaving the Inner West due to undersupply of family-friendly housing stock. Council should consider quotas to ensure adequate proportion of family-friendly household sizes in new developments.</p> <p>Officers clarified that the existing Inner West DCPs have varying approaches to promoting housing diversity and this will be resolved in the new draft Inner West DCP.</p>	N/A		N/A

**Distribution of minutes and actions**

Minutes were distributed to members, uploaded to the website and emailed to Councillors via the Governance Team on 13 August 2024

**Attachments to Minutes:**

Meeting Presentation Slides