Item PP01 - REPORTS - 19/04/2023	
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NORTH SYDNEY COUNCIL REPORTS

NSLPP MEETING HELD ON 19/04/2023

Attachments:

1. Applicant's Planning Proposal

2. Applicant's Reference Design

ADDRESS/WARD: 1-7 Rangers Road & 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay

PROPOSAL No: 1/23

PROPOSAL: To amend North Sydney Local Environmental Plan (NSLEP) 2013 as

follows:

• Increase the maximum building height control for the site from

16m to part 27m and part 33m; and

Increase the minimum non-residential floor space ratio control

from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1

The Planning Proposal is accompanied by suite of suggested site specific development controls to be incorporated within North Sydney Development Control Plan (NSDCP) 2013.

The Planning Proposal is accompanied by an offer to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Council to deliver: a publicly accessible plaza and pedestrian through site link; public wi-fi; and 88 car parking spaces for public use in perpetuity, located within the basement of the future development.

OWNER: JPS Properties Pty Ltd, Cenijade Pty Ltd, S & P Chambers

APPLICANT: Fabcot Pty Ltd (Woolworths Group)

AUTHOR: Katerina Papas, Senior Strategic Planner

DATE OF REPORT: 22 March 2023

DATE LODGED: 11 January 2023

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 11 January 2023, Council received a Planning Proposal to amend North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 (NSLEP 2013) as it relates to land at 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay.

The Planning Proposal seeks to amend NSLEP 2013 as follows:

- Increase the maximum building height control for the site from 16m to part 27m and part 33m; and
- Increase the minimum non-residential floor space ratio control for the site from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1.

The intent of the Planning Proposal is to facilitate the delivery of a part 6 storey and part 8 storey mixed-use development comprising a supermarket at a subterranean level; retail and commercial floorspace in the podium; and approximately 63 residential apartments located above. A basement car park comprising a total 350 spaces is proposed.

To provide increased certainty over a future built form on the site, the Planning Proposal is accompanied by a suite of suggested amendments to North Sydney DCP 2013. It is also accompanied by non-binding letter of offer to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Council to deliver public benefits including: a publicly accessible plaza and pedestrian through-site link; public wi-fi; and 88 car parking spaces for public use, in perpetuity, located within the basement of the future development.

A detailed assessment of the proposal has been completed having regard to the assessment criteria in the DPE's "LEP Making Guidelines" (September 2022).

It is recognised that the Neutral Bay Town Centre is undergoing change, and that the previously endorsed *Military Road Corridor Planning Study Stage 1 (MRCPS)* and current work to revise the Study, provides a clear indication of the Council's and community's desire to revitalise and renew the precinct. Notwithstanding this, the Planning Proposal is not considered to demonstrate adequate strategic or site-specific merit.

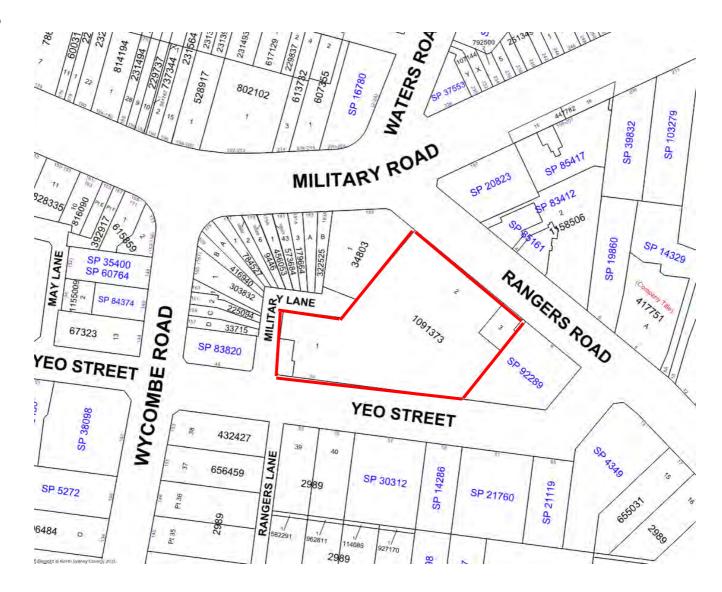
A driving principle of Council's rescinded MRCPS and the renewed Study for the Neutral Bay Town Centre, is to deliver high quality public open space and community facilities by incentivising site amalgamation through targeted and modest increases in height and density, whilst maintaining and enhancing the village atmosphere of the centre. The Planning Proposal does not achieve the objectives and intended outcomes of the rescinded MRCPS and is inconsistent with, and undermines the strategic objectives of Council's renewed Study for the precinct.

In particular, the proposal if progressed will facilitate an overly intense and visually dominant built form in its context, contrary to the existing and future desired village character of Neutral Bay. It also proposes to deliver a plaza and through-site link of compromised amenity and reduced public benefit and prevents the opportunity to deliver a genuinely 'public' and high amenity plaza, through-site link and community facility that fronts onto, and better activates, the plaza by limiting the capacity of the adjacent site at No. 183-185 Military Road to contribute to the public domain as envisaged in Council's rescinded MRCPS.

The Planning Proposal is not considered to demonstrate adequate site-specific merit as the overall height, bulk and scale of the proposed built form is unacceptable in terms of providing a human scale frontage to the future plaza; an appropriate interface with the low-scale residential area immediately to the south of the site; overshadowing impacts and traffic impacts.

It is recommended that Planning Proposal (PP1/23) not be supported to proceed to Gateway Determination.

LOCATION MAP



DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSAL

The subject Planning Proposal (PP1/23) seeks to amend NSLEP 2013 as it relates to land at 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay as follows:

- Increase the maximum building height control for the site from 16m to part 27m and part 33m; and
- Increase the minimum non-residential floor space ratio control for the site from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1.

The key objectives of the Planning Proposal as described by the proponent are as follows:

- deliver a built form outcome that responds to the intent of the Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay Town Centre;
- deliver a high-quality mixed-use development that exhibits design excellence on a site earmarked for high density residential development;
- assist in facilitating the evolution of the Neutral Bay Town Centre towards a high-amenity mixed-use centre;
- enhance pedestrian amenity and connectivity by providing new north-south pedestrian linkages between Yeo Street and Rangers Road;
- enhance the quality of the retail environment within Neutral Bay Town Centre;
- maintain a viable commercial and retail presence on the site, at a scale that will meet the future needs of permanent new jobs to support the strengthening of the Neutral Bay Town Centre local economy;
- deliver residential development in a desirable location that receives ample access to iconic views, public transport and surrounding civic amenities;
- deliver a diverse mix of residential apartments that will enjoy excellent amenity, taking advantage of the site's strategic location, proximity to services and the exceptional bus network along Military Road with direct connections to other major employment destinations;
- Enable the development of a high-performance building in terms of amenity and sustainability.

The accompanying indicative reference design includes a part 6 storey and part 8 storey mixeduse development comprising a supermarket at a subterranean level; retail and commercial floorspace in the podium; and approximately 63 residential apartments located above. A basement car park comprising a total 350 spaces is proposed (Figure 1).

A summary of the key elements of the reference design is provided in Table 1.

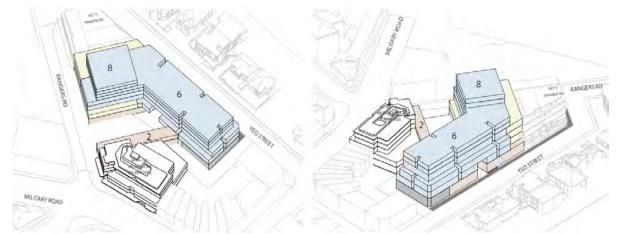


FIGURE 1: Proposed built form - PP1/23 (Applicant's Urban Design Report, p. 25)

TABLE 1 – Key elements of reference design			
Land Uses	Mixed-use (commercial/residential)		
Indicative yield	63 apartments		
Building Height	Rangers Road: 32.3m (8 storeys)		
	Yeo Street: 27.6m (6 storeys)		
	Around Plaza: 9.2m-11.1m (2 storeys)		
Gross Floor Area (GFA)	Total: 15,868m ²		
	 Supermarket (subterranean): 3,282m² Retail: 1,877m² Commercial: 2,407m² Residential: 8,302m² 		
Podium Height	Rangers Road: 19.9m (4 storeys)		
	Yeo Street: 15.95m (3 storeys)		
	Military Lane: 15.95m (3 storeys)		
	Around plaza: 9.2m – 11m (2 storeys)		
Setbacks (whole of building)	Nil to all street frontages		
Setbacks (above podium)	Rangers Road: 5.5m		
	Yeo Street: 3.5m		
	Military Lane: 3m		
	Around Plaza: 3m		
Public Domain	Plaza: 850m ²		
	Pedestrian Link: 150m ²		
Car Parking	Total: 350 car spaces over 4 basement levels		
	 Supermarket: 132 spaces Retail: 32 spaces Commercial: 40 spaces Residential: 58 spaces Public: 88 spaces 		

To provide increased certainty over a future built form on the site, the Planning Proposal is accompanied by a suite of suggested site-specific development controls to be incorporated within North Sydney Development Control Plan 2013 (NSDCP 2013). These include provisions relating to site layout, land use, public domain, heights, setbacks and podium treatment, building design, active frontages and parking, access and servicing.

The Planning Proposal is also accompanied by non-binding letter of offer to enter into a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) with Council to deliver the following public benefits:

- a publicly accessible plaza and pedestrian through-site link (approximately 1,000m²);
- streetscape and footpath upgrades adjacent to the site;
- public wi-fi; and
- 88 car parking spaces for public use, in perpetuity, located within the basement of the future development.

PANEL REFERRAL

On 27 September 2018, the Minister for Planning issued a Section 9.1 Direction outlining the instances when a planning proposal must be referred to a Local Planning Panel for advice prior to a council determining whether that planning proposal should be forwarded to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for the purposes of seeking a Gateway Determination.

All planning proposals are required to be referred to the Local Planning Panel, unless they meet any of the following exemptions:

- the correction of an obvious error in a local environmental plan;
- matters that are of a consequential, transitional, machinery or other minor nature;
 or
- matters that Council's General Manager considers will not have any significant adverse impact on the environment or adjacent land.

The Planning Proposal does not meet any of the exemption criteria and therefore must be referred to the Local Planning Panel for advice prior to Council making any determination on the matter.

BACKGROUND

Military Road Corridor Planning Study (Rescinded)

In 2018, Council resolved to commence the preparation of a planning study for the Military Road Corridor to guide and manage change and growth in the Neutral Bay Town Centre.

On 22 February 2021, Council resolved to adopt the Neutral Bay Town Centre – Future Directions Report also known as the Military Road Corridor Planning Study (MRCPS).

On 24 January 2022, Council resolved to rescind the MRCPS amidst concerns raised by the community with respect to the height and scale of development proposed by the Study. Council resolved to further engage with the community and stakeholders to prepare "a revised recommendation that has a better balance between development height and the provision of additional public open space."

On 23 May 2022, Council endorsed a scoping framework as the basis for the revised planning study for the Neutral Bay Town Centre. The revised work is intended to be an extension of, rather than a completely new and independent planning study. The same objectives will be retained in the renewed study as they remain relevant, however, a new objective is to be included relating to "targeted modest increases in height and density while maintaining and enhancing the village atmosphere of the centre."

This revised work is currently underway. It is anticipated that the draft Neutral Bay Town Centre Planning Study will be reported to Council for exhibition in September 2023 and finalised in March 2024.

Planning Proposal 6/22 (Refused)

On 20 May 2022, a Planning Proposal (PP6/22) was lodged by the proponent (Fabcot Pty Ltd) for 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay. It sought to amend NSLEP 2013 as follows:

- Increase the maximum building height control for the site from 16m to part 30m and part 40m; and
- Increase the minimum non-residential floor space ratio control for the site from 0.5:1 to 1.7:1.

The intent of PP6/22 was to accommodate a part 2, 7 and 10 storey mixed use development on the site comprising a supermarket at a subterranean level, retail and commercial floor space within the podium and 91 apartments located above, and basement car park for 350 cars over 4 levels (Figure 3). It also proposed to deliver a new publicly accessible plaza and pedestrian link (approximately 1,000m²); streetscape/footpath upgrades adjacent to the site; public wi-fi; and 65 car parking spaces for public use, in perpetuity, located within the basement of the future development.

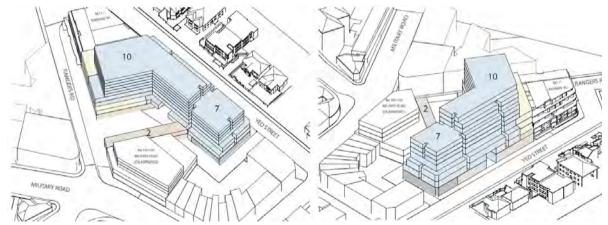


FIGURE 2: Previously refused built form - PP6/22 (Applicant's Urban Design Report, p. 25)

Prior to the lodgement of PP6/22, Council staff met with the proponent in August, October and December 2021, to discuss the future redevelopment of their site. All three concept schemes presented to Council staff sought to challenge the endorsed planning framework at the time (the MRCPS), contrary to Council's advice.

On 8 September 2022, Council received a letter from the proponent to advise that:

"it is willing to amend the proposal to reduce the height from the proposed 7-10 storey concept, to a 6-8 storey concept that is directly in line with the massing espoused for the site under the previously endorsed Military Road Corridor Planning Study and Neutral Bay Future Directions Report."

This letter was received after the publication of the North Sydney Local Planning Panel (NSLPP) agenda and the Council officer's detailed assessment report on Council's website. No amended plans were received by Council, and as such the proposal was assessed on the basis of the information formally lodged by the proponent.

On 14 September 2022, a detailed assessment of the proposal was referred to the NSLPP with a recommendation for refusal for strategic and site-specific reasons. The NSLPP concurred with the recommendations of the Council officer's report.

On 10 October 2022, Council considered PP6/22 and resolved to refuse its progression to a Gateway Determination for strategic and site-specific reasons. The proponent lodged a Rezoning Review application with the DPE in response to Council's refusal.

On 7 December 2022, the Sydney North Planning Panel (SNPP) considered the proponent's Rezoning Review request. Council was notified of the Panel's decision to not support the progression of the Planning Proposal on 14 December 2022.

The SNPP's record of decision stated the following:

'Not-withstanding the erosion of commercial office floor space, the Panel considered the proposal had demonstrated some strategic merit – the previously endorsed Study and Future Directions Report and current work to revise the Study, provide a clear indication of the Council's and Community's desire to revitalise and renew Neutral Bay Town Centre.

However, the Panel noted the proposal did not adequately demonstrate Site Specific Merit and remained unacceptable in terms of number of storeys, human-scale frontage to the proposed plaza, incorporation of public land, non-residential FSR, overshadowing, traffic and transition to low-scale residential areas to the south of the site. Accordingly, the Panel resolved that the proposal should not be submitted for Gateway determination.

The Panel did note the high level of consultation between Proponent and Council over recent years as the Planning Proposal was progressed and also noted the Proponent's stated willingness to submit a revised proposal to include substantial reductions in height, GFA and number of apartments. While the Panel felt elements of such a revised proposal would have considerable merit, none had been formally submitted or reviewed and the extent of the muted changes were beyond the Panel's discretion to accept as minor changes.

Given the long gestation of this project on a key site in the town centre and the timing of changes to Council's relevant planning strategies, the Panel suggests it would be in the community interest for the Proponent, Council and Department to meet as soon as possible to pursue agreement on a revised proposal.

Almost immediately following the Panel decision a new Planning Proposal was prepared and lodged (23 December 2022).

DETAIL

1. Applicant

The Planning Proposal (PP1/23) was lodged by Fabcot Pty Ltd (Woolworths Group) on 11 January 2023. Owner's consent has been obtained from all landowners.

2. Site Description

The site comprises three (3) parcels of land. The legal property description and existing development is outlined in Table 2.

TABLE 2: Property Description				
Property Description	Existing Development			
50 Yeo Street	Lot 1, DP 1091373	6-storey commercial building with		
		frontage to Yeo Street (Figure 7).		
1-7 Rangers Road	Lot 2, DP 1091373	Single-storey supermarket with		
	Lot 3, DP 1091373	frontage to Rangers Road and vehicular		
		access to underground car park from		
		Yeo Street and access to loading dock		
		from Military Lane (Figure 5, 6 and 8).		

The subject site is bound by Rangers Road to the north-east, Yeo Street to the south and Military Lane to the west. The site is irregular in shape with a 75m frontage to Rangers Road and 89m frontage to Yeo Street. The site also has a frontage to Military Lane, which functions as a service lane. The total site area is approximately 4,207m². There is a gradual fall of approximately 1.5m across the site from north (Rangers Road RL83.5) to south (Yeo Street RL82).



FIGURE 3: Subject Site



FIGURE 4: Aerial Photo



FIGURE 5: Existing Woolworths (1-7 Rangers Road)



FIGURE 6: Existing Woolworths underground carpark entry (Yeo Street)



FIGURE 7: Existing commercial building at 50 Yeo Street



FIGURE 8: Military Lane

3. Local Context

The site is located in the Neutral Bay Town Centre. Neutral Bay is identified a 'local centre' under the North District Plan and North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS).

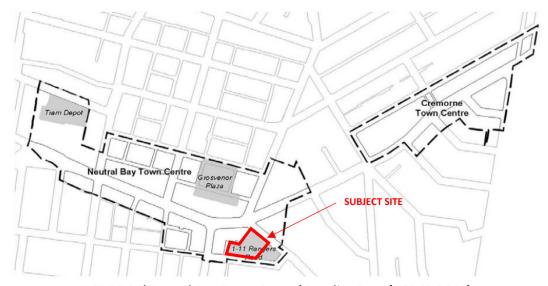


FIGURE 9: 'Neutral Bay Town Centre' Locality Area (NSDCP 2013)

Military Road is located approximately 20m to the north of the site, which provides regular bus services to North Sydney CBD and Sydney CBD to the south, and to Mosman, Chatswood, St Leonards and Manly to the north.

The subject site is adjoined by the following:

- To the north, on the adjacent lot at 183-185 Military Road, is a three-storey commercial building constructed in the 1970s with ground level retail and commercial uses above (Figure 10). Further to the north, along Military Road are predominantly two-storey buildings constructed between the 1960s-1980s with small scale retail tenancies at the ground level and commercial uses above.
- To the south, on the opposite side of Yeo Street are a series of two-three storey residential
 flat buildings with north-facing windows and balconies (Figures 12 and 13). Adjacent to
 the subject site, at the corner of Yeo Street and Rangers Road, is a recent 6-storey mixeduse development with ground level retail and residential apartments above with
 basement parking accessed from Yeo Street (Figure 11).
- **To the east,** on the opposite side of Rangers Road, is a recently completed five-storey mixed-use development (Figure 14).
- To the west, is Military Lane providing rear access for a number of buildings fronting Military Road and Wycombe Road. Further to the west, on the corner of Military Lane and Yeo Street, is a recently completed four-storey mixed-use development (Figure 15).



FIGURE 10: Adjacent development to north (183-185 Military Road)



FIGURE 11: Adjacent development to south (9 Rangers Road)



FIGURE 12: Residential development on southern side of Yeo Street



FIGURE 13: Residential development on southern side of Yeo Street



FIGURE 14: Mixed-use development to east along Rangers Road



FIGURE 15: Mixed-use development to west at corner Military Lane and Yeo Street

4. Current Planning Provisions

The following subsections identify the relevant planning instruments that apply to the subject site.

4.1 NSLEP 2013

NSLEP 2013 was made on 2 August 2013 through its publication on the NSW legislation website and came into force on the 13 September 2013. The principal planning provisions relating to the subject site are as follows:

- Zoned B4 Mixed Use (Figure 16);
- A maximum building height of 16m (Figure 17); and
- A minimum Non-residential Floor Area of 0.5:1 (Figure 18).

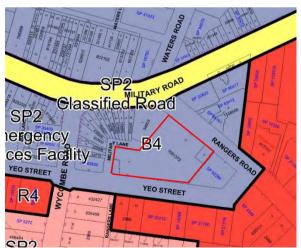


FIGURE 16: NSLEP 2013 Zoning Map extract The subject site is zoned B4 Mixed Use



FIGURE 17: NSLEP 2013 Height of Buildings Map Extract. The subject site has a maximum height of 16m.



FIGURE 18: NSLEP 2013 Non-residential Floor Space Ratio Map extract. The subject site has a minimum Non-residential Floor Space Ratio of 0.5:1.

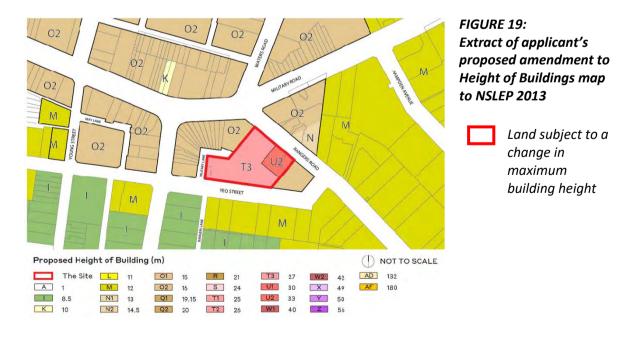
5. Proposed Planning Provisions

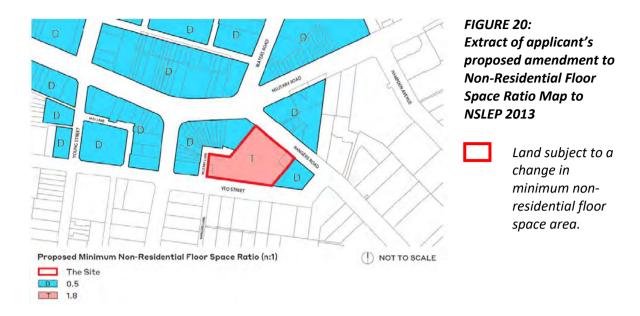
5.1 Amendment to NSLEP 2013

The Planning Proposal seeks to achieve its objectives and intended outcomes by amending NSLEP 2013 as follows:

- Increase the maximum building height control for the site from 16m to part 27m and part 33m; and
- Increase the minimum non-residential floor space ratio control for the site from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1.

The Planning Proposal anticipates that the Maps to NSLEP 2013 would be amended similar to those depicted in Figures 19 and 20.





5.2 Amendment to NSDCP 2013

Section 5 to Part C of NSDCP 2013 contains a number of site-specific development controls relating to desired built form, massing and scale; podiums; setbacks and vehicular access.

To provide increased certainty over a future built form on the site, the Planning Proposal is accompanied by a suite of suggested amendments to NSDCP 2013. The suggested controls reinforce the site layout, land uses, public domain, heights, setbacks, podium, building design, active frontages, parking, access and servicing arrangements reflected in the applicant's concept scheme.

6. Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA)

The Planning Proposal is accompanied by a non-binding letter of offer to enter into a VPA with Council to deliver the following public benefits:

•	Public car parking:	Construction and provision of 88 parking spaces within the
, ,		basement of the future development for public use at all
		times in perpetuity.

•	Publicly accessible	Construction and provision of a new publicly accessible
	square and public	square and through-site link comprising approximately
	art:	1,000m ² of paved landscaped area for public recreation,
		events and cultural activities.

•	Public Wi-Fi:	Provision of free Wi-Fi service within site for public use.
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•	Public Domain	Provision of paving upgrades to footpaths adjacent to site,
	Improvements	including street trees and furniture. (N: these works would
	and landscaping:	be required to be delivered as part of any future DA).

The total estimated value of the proposed public benefits is \$6,614,724. This value has been assigned by the applicant and has not been independently evaluated by Council. The offer is in addition to any applicable section 7.11 local infrastructure contributions to be levied with any future Development Application (DA) approval for the site.

7. STRATEGIC POLICY CONTEXT

7.1 Greater Sydney Regional Plan

In March 2018, the NSW Government released *A Metropolis of Three Cities – Greater Sydney Region Plan* (Regional Plan). It provides a long-term vision and plan to accommodate Sydney's anticipated population growth of 1.7 million people and deliver 725,000 new dwellings and 817,000 new jobs by 2036.

It sets out the framework for five districts within Greater Sydney and seeks to deliver an 'Infrastructure and Collaboration', 'Liveability', 'Productivity' and 'Sustainability' framework. The District Plans, consistent with the Regional Plan, were released at the same time as the Regional Plan.

The directions and objectives for 'Liveability' under the Regional Plan, specifically *Objective 12 – Great places that bring people together*, states that a place-based planning approach should be applied to local centres and larger scale urban renewal. Specifically, 'through place-based planning mechanisms for delivering public benefits can be agreed early in the planning process, so that places provide a combination of the following elements: well-designed built environment; social infrastructure and opportunity; and fine grain urban form' (p.73).

7.2 North District Plan

In March 2018, the NSW Government released the North District Plan, which covers the LGAs of North Sydney, Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde, Hunter Hill, Lane Cove, Willoughby, Mosman and Northern Beaches.

The North District Plan sets high-level housing and jobs targets for the District. It also identifies Neutral Bay as a 'local centre' and establishes principles for the planning of local centres. Specifically, *Planning Priority N6 – Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage*, requires a place-based planning for centres to address the following principles:

- provide a public realm and open space focus;
- deliver transit-oriented development and co-locate facilities and social infrastructure;
- provide, increase or improve local infrastructure and open space;
- improve walking, cycling and public transport connections;
- protect or expand retail and/or commercial floor space; and
- Increase residential development in, or within a walkable distance of, the centre. However, housing should not compromise a centre's primary role to provide goods and services, and the opportunity for the centre's employment function to grow and change over time (p.49).

Further to this, Action 19 in the North District Plan states:

"Using a place-based and collaborative approach throughout planning, design, development and management, deliver great places by:

- a. Prioritising a people-friendly public realm and open spaces as a central organising design principle
- b. Recognising and balancing the dual function of streets as places for people and movement
- c. Providing fine grain urban form, diverse land use mix, high amenity and walkability, in and within a 10-minute walk of centres
- d. Integrating social infrastructure to support social connections and provide a community hub
- e. Recognising and celebrating the character of a place and its people.

Following the directions of the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC), North Sydney Council has put in place its Local Housing Strategy (LHS) and Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), which forms part of the hierarchy of plans and provides alignment with the North District Plan.

7.3 Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS)

The North Sydney LSPS was adopted by Council on 25 November 2019, and subsequently 'assured' by the GSC on 20 March 2020.

One of the key roles of the LSPS is to draw together, in one document, the priorities and actions for future land use planning, and present an overall land use vision for the North Sydney LGA for the next 20 years. The LSPS is required to be consistent with the Regional Plan and North District Plan and provide a clear line-of-sight between the key strategic priorities identified at the regional and district level and the local and neighbourhood level.

The preparation of a planning study for the Military Road Corridor, which includes the Neutral Bay and Cremorne local centres, is integrated into the North Sydney LSPS.

Key actions in the North Sydney LSPS include:

Action L3.2 – Continue to prepare and implement place-based planning studies to ensure the delivery of growth and development is balanced and well-managed and has a strong focus on placemaking and community benefit. This includes: undertake/implement the Military Road Corridor Planning Study – Stages 1 and 2.

Action L1.5 – Council will only support Planning Proposal that are consistent with Council's endorsed planning studies, that have identified growth being delivered in locations that support the role of centres and have critical infrastructure and services in place to support the North Sydney community.

These actions were put in place to ensure growth is responsibly managed by Council and 'ad hoc' planning proposals are not supported without an endorsed framework that foreshadows and guides changes to existing planning controls.

7.4 Military Road Corridor Planning Study – Stage 1 (Rescinded)

On 22 February 2021, Council resolved to adopt a finalised Neutral Bay Town Centre – Future Directions Report (also known as the Military Road Corridor Planning Study – Stage 1).

Consistent with the principles for local centres set out in the North District Plan, the key objectives of the rescinded MRCPS were to:

- address the ongoing decline in employment floor space being facilitated by Council's existing planning controls;
- facilitate carefully planned development while maintaining the village atmosphere of the centre; and
- leverage a range of community benefits and public domain improvements from planned and limited growth.

The Study envisaged height increases on three (3) amalgamated sites within the precinct where community facilities and public domain projects could be delivered. The subject site (1-7 Rangers Road) and adjacent site to the north (183-185 Military Road) was identified a key opportunity site, referred to as 'site 3' in the Study.

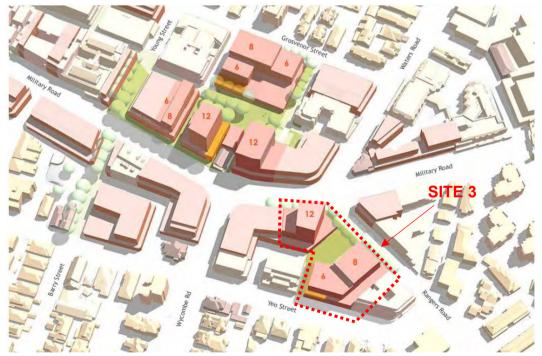


FIGURE 21: Recommended building envelope for 'site 3' (Council's rescinded MRCPS, p. 52)

The MRCPS outlined a suite of objectives and requirements for 'site 3,' these included:

- maximum building heights of 6, 8 and 12 storeys
- a minimum non-residential floor space ratio of 2:1
- 1,250m² new public domain including:
 - a 1,000m² new public plaza
 - a through-site link to Yeo Street that is open-to-sky
 - a 2.5m whole of building setback along Military Road and corner of Rangers Road to widen footpath and provide better amenity

- a new community facility (1,000m²)
- a 14-space public commuter bicycle parking facility

The MRCPS also outlined detailed design considerations for 'site 3' including solar access, setbacks and underground parking requirements (Figure 22).

Whilst Council resolved to rescind the MRCPS in January 2022 and engage with the community and stakeholders to prepare 'a revised recommendation that has a better balance between development height and the provision of additional public open space,' the objectives of the rescinded MRCPS will be retained in the renewed Study and remain relevant considerations in the assessment of this Planning Proposal.

Maximum building height **Public benefits** Military Road Military Road Yeo Street Yeo Street 14 secured commuter bicycle parking spaces Through-site link 12 Storeys New public domain; plaza and footpath widening 8 Storeys 6 Storeys New community facility Solar access Underground parking Military Road Military Road Yen Street Veo Street Underground parking and loading Solar access to facades Retain driveway access Solar access to public domain



FIGURE 22: Detailed design considerations for 'site 3' (Council's rescinded MRCPS, p. 65)

8. ASSESSMENT

8.1 Planning Proposal Structure

The Planning Proposal has been prepared generally in accordance with the requirements of Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment (EP&A) Act 1979 and *Local Environmental Plan Making Guidelines* (DPE 2021). In particular, the Planning Proposal adequately sets out the following:

- A statement of the objectives or intended outcomes of the proposed local environmental plan;
- An explanation of the provisions that are to be included in the proposed local environmental plan;
- Justification of the proposal's strategic and site specific merit;
- Identification of associated mapping amendments;
- Details of the community consultation that is to be undertaken in relation to the Planning Proposal;
- A project timeline identifying how the planning proposal is to be implemented, should it progress.

8.2 Need for Planning Proposal

The primary objective of the Planning Proposal as described by the proponent, is to 'deliver a built form outcome that responds to the intent of the Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay Town Centre' (p.45).

Whilst the proponent acknowledges that the *Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay Town Centre* has been rescinded by Council, it states that it has been actively preparing plans for the site since 2019 in direct response to the previously endorsed Study and does not want to pause the project for another 12 months for Council to prepare a renewed study.

The current planning controls under NSLEP 2013 do not enable the site to be redeveloped to the requested height, and the intent of the proposal cannot be achieved under *clause 4.6 – Exceptions to development standards* due to degree of variation in height sought.

8.3 Assessment Criteria

Section 2 of the Department of Planning and Environment's 'LEP Making Guideline' (September 2022) outlines the criteria for assessing Planning Proposals. For a Planning Proposal to be supported to proceed to a Gateway Determination it must demonstrate both 'strategic' and 'site-specific' merit and that identified potential impacts can be readily addressed during the subsequent LEP making stages.

A planning proposal is deemed to have strategic merit where it gives effect to the strategic planning framework, that is the relevant Regional and District Plan, LSPS, section 9.1 Ministerial Directions and State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs).

To demonstrate the proposal is suitable for the site and that the site is suitable for the resultant development, it must identify the potential environmental, social and economic impacts and outline proposed mitigation measures and justification. The proposal must give regard and assess impacts to the natural environment on the site; existing and likely future uses in the vicinity; and services and infrastructure that will be available to meet the demands arising from the proposal.

8.4 Proposed Building Height

The Planning Proposal seeks to increase the building height limit from 16m under NSLEP 2013 to part 27m (to Yeo Street) and part 33m (to Rangers Road) to accommodate a part 6 storey and part 8 storey mixed-use building across the site. The applicant's justification for the proposed height is that it aligns with the height and massing recommended for the site under Council's previously endorsed MRCPS.

At part 27m and part 33m, the proposed height is considered excessive for the number of storeys and could potentially accommodate a building up to 7-8 storeys (to Yeo Street) and 9 storeys (to Rangers Road). The applicant's reference scheme indicates floor-to-floor heights well in excess of that required to be provided for commercial and residential spaces.

A comparison of the floor-to-floor heights indicated in the applicant's concept scheme to standard requirements is provided in Table 3.

TABLE 3: Analysis of floor-to-floor heights				
Level	Use	ADG/NSDCP 2013	Planning Proposal 6 Storeys (Yeo St)	
Ground Floor	Retail	4.4m	6.6m	
Level 1	Residential	3.7m	4.1m	
Level 2	Residential	3.1m	4.1m	
Level 3	Residential	3.1m	4.1m	
Level 4	Residential	3.1m	3.1m	
Level 5	Residential	3.1m	3.1m	
Rooftop	Lift overrun	-	2.5m	
Required height for 6 storeys		20.5m (+2.5 lift overrun)		
Proposed heigh	t for 6 storeys		27.6m	

Level	Use	ADG/NSDCP 2013	Planning Proposal 8 Storeys (Rangers Rd)
Ground Floor	Retail	4.4m	5.1m
Level 1	Commercial/Residential	3.7m	4.1m
Level 2	Commercial/Residential	3.7m	4.1m
Level 3	Commercial/Residential	3.7m	4.1m
Level 4	Residential	3.1m	3.1m
Level 5	Residential	3.1m	3.1m
Level 6	Residential	3.1m	3.1m
Level 7	Residential	3.1m	3.1m
Rooftop Lift overrun		-	2.5m
Required height for 8 storeys		27.9m (+2.5m lift	
		overrun)	
Proposed height for 8 storeys			32.3m

Specifically, floor-to-floor heights of 5.1m (to Rangers Road) and 6.6m (to Yeo Street) are indicated for the Ground Floor; 4.1m for residential floors (Levels 1-3 to Yeo St); and 4.1m for mixed residential and commercial floors (Levels 1-3 to Rangers Road). These are greater than the standard heights required for commercial and residential spaces. It is considered that the site's non-residential FSR requirements could be better provided by consolidating the site's commercial floorspace over Levels 1-3 fronting Rangers Road to rationalise the floor-to-floor heights in the podium and improve the amenity and functionality of the commercial tenancies.

The excessive height is predominantly located in the podium, resulting in an oversized podium and corresponding overall building height that does not provide a human scale frontage to the plaza or an appropriate interface with the low-scale residential area immediately to the south of the site.

The excessive floor-to-floor height assumptions unnecessarily raise the overall building height needed to deliver a 6 and 8 storey building. In doing so, the proposal results in an overly intense built form in its context and exacerbates overshadowing impacts to residential dwellings on the southern side of Yeo Street. This is discussed further in sections 8.6 and 8.7.

The sensitivity to increased height in this precinct should be noted and is a key driver of the renewed planning study being formulated for the precinct.

8.5 Proposed Non-Residential Floor Space Ratio (FSR)

The applicant's Social and Economic Impact Assessment and Strategy states a total 7,602m² of commercial floorspace is currently provided on the subject sites.

A minimum non-residential FSR of 1.8:1 is proposed, which would require a minimum 7,575m² of non-residential floorspace be provided across the site. This would likely result in a net loss of -27m² of commercial floorspace compared to existing conditions, and is -115m² less than that recommended for the subject sites in Council's rescinded MRCPS.

8.6 Bulk and Scale

In considering the appropriateness of the planning controls being sought, careful consideration has been given to the likely built form that may result and impacts arising. Council has consistently held (at Planning Proposal stage) that the indicative built form should be able to be comfortably accommodated within an envelope established by the Apartment Design Guidelines (ADG) and other pertinent DCP and site-specific considerations.

8.6.1 Podium

To ensure the bulk and scale of buildings reinforces the existing village character of Neutral Bay and maintains an appropriate human scale, Council's rescinded MRCPS and NSDCP 2013 recommends a 4 storey podium to Rangers Road and 3 storey podium to Yeo Street and Military Lane.

The applicant's reference scheme indicates a podium height of 20m (4 storey) to Rangers Road and 16m (3 storey) to Yeo Street and Military Lane. These heights are considered excessive for the number of storeys and results in an oversized podium equivalent to 5 and 4 storeys respectively. This magnifies the overall bulk and scale of the proposed built form. As shown in Figure 23, the proposed 20m podium to Rangers Road aligns with the roofline of the adjacent 5-storey mixed-use development at 9-11 Rangers Road. As shown in Figure 24, the proposed 16m podium to Yeo Street aligns with the 5th storey of the adjacent mixed-use development at 9-11 Rangers Road.



FIGURE 23: Rangers Road Elevation (Applicant's Reference Design, p. 17)

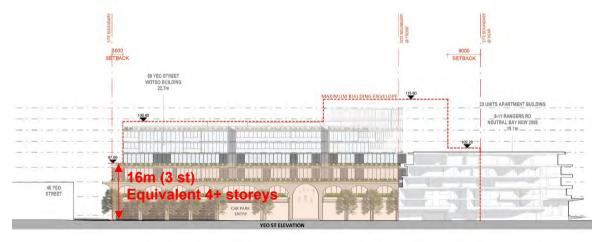


FIGURE 24: Yeo Street Elevation (Applicant's Reference Design, p. 18)

8.6.2 Form and Massing

The excessive height (as discussed in section 8.4) combined with the continuous length of the building facade along Yeo Street results in a 'long and tall' barrier between the proposed plaza and residential dwellings along Yeo Street. The southern elevation presents as a largely unbroken

building length of approximately 80m with limited building articulation. The proposed building indentations are not sufficient to reduce the overall bulk and scale of the proposed building envelope (Figure 25).

Council's rescinded MRCPS required the provision of a pedestrian through-site link connecting Rangers Road to Yeo Street, that was fully open-to-sky with increased setbacks. The intent of this link was to provide a clear visual connection from Rangers Road through to Yeo Street and provide a break in the built form fronting Yeo Street. These design elements would provide for an open, permeable, and activated public domain that reinforced the village atmosphere (Figure 26). The proposed arcade style through-site link, whilst generous in size (8m wide and 10.8m high), results in an excessively long, bulky and visually dominant built form in a lower scale context, which lacks a clear visual connection to Rangers Road.

The overall height, bulk and scale of the proposed built form does not provide an appropriate interface with and transition to the low-scale residential areas immediately to the south of the site and does not reinforce the prevailing or desired human scale and village character of Neutral Bay.

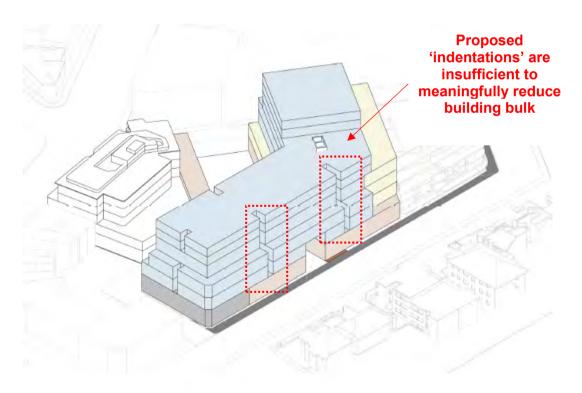


FIGURE 25: Proposed building massing (Applicant's Reference Design, p. 23)

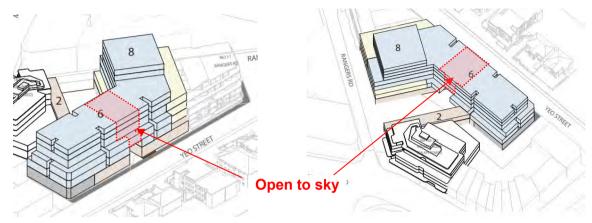


FIGURE 26: Rescinded MRCPS envisaged through-site link 'open to sky'

8.6.3 Building setbacks and separation

Western elevation

The Planning Proposal concept scheme does not comply with NSDCP 2013 setback requirements or minimum ADG building separation requirements to Military Lane. The scheme includes a nil setback to Military Lane for the first three storeys of the building (the podium) and a 3m setback above the podium. NSDCP 2013 requires a 1.5m whole of building setback be provided from the property boundary fronting Military Lane. Above the podium, a 4.5m setback is required from the property boundary (i.e. 9m setback from the centreline of the laneway) to comply with NSDCP 2013 and provide adequate building separation to future development on western side of Military Lane.

The rescinded MRCPS also recommended a 1.5m setback to Military Lane to widen the laneway and facilitate future connections between Rangers Road Plaza and Yeo Street. While the lane currently serves 'back of house' functions to the neighbouring properties, through the redevelopment of these sites, the Study identified the potential for the laneway to be upgraded into a shared space with more active edges and a pedestrian focus.

Northern & Southern Elevation

The Planning Proposal concept scheme generally complies with the applicable setback requirements along the northern and southern elevations. NSDCP 2013 requires a nil whole of building setback and a minimum 3m setback above the podium to both Rangers Road and Yeo Street. The floor plans however, show that the balconies at Level 4 (Rangers Road frontage) and Level 3 (Yeo Street frontage) encroach these setback requirements. Balconies should be setback at least 3m to the outer face of any part of the building to reduce the bulk and scale of the built form.

Eastern Elevation

The ADG requires that a minimum 9m setback be provided from the property boundary along the eastern elevation from 5-8 storeys. The Planning Proposal concept scheme indicates a 9m setback is provided from levels 4-7 (5-8 storeys), however the floor plans show that the terraces at level 4 encroaches the required 9m setback. Whilst the majority of the adjacent building façade at 9-11 Rangers Road is a blank wall, there is a small internal courtyard along the joint boundary that

provides solar amenity and cross ventilation to apartments within the adjacent development. The proposed terrace/private open spaces along the eastern elevation at level 4 should be setback a minimum 9m to not unreasonably impact the adjoining development.

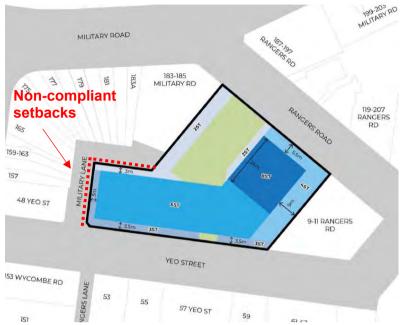


FIGURE 27: Proposed Setbacks Plan (Applicant's site specific DCP, p. 10)

8.7 Overshadowing

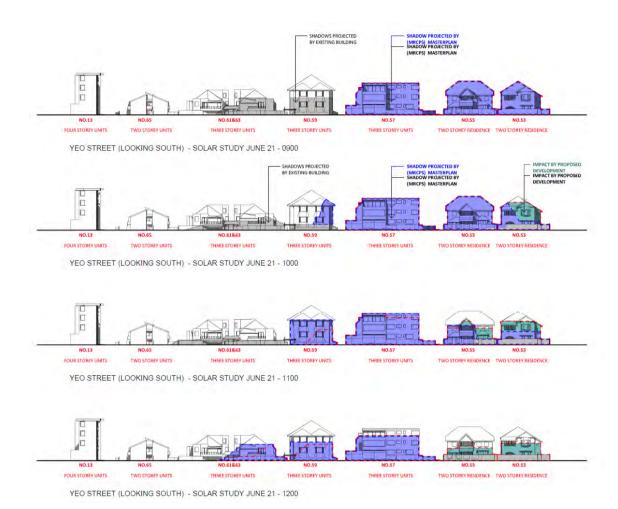
The proposed concept scheme is accompanied by a solar access analysis and overshadowing diagrams. Based on the assessment provided, the proposed building envelope will result in a significant reduction in solar access to dwellings on the southern side of Yeo Street. As shown in Figure 27, the most significantly impacted residential properties include:

- 53 Yeo Street, 9am 1pm
- 55 Yeo Street, 9am 2pm
- 57 Yeo Street, 9am 3pm
- 59 Yeo Street, 10am 3pm
- 61-63 Yeo Street, 12noon 3pm
- 65 Yeo Street, 2pm 3pm

The justification provided by the applicant is that the proposal's impact is consistent with the anticipated shadows cast by the nominated heights in Council's rescinded MRCPS. It is evident from the submitted analysis, that the overshadowing impacts of the proposed building envelope are greater than that anticipated by Council's rescinded Study. In particular, the proposal's impact to dwellings on the south-western end of Yeo Street (No. 53, 55 and 57 Yeo St), which are the most significantly impacted dwellings.

The shadow analysis indicates existing levels of solar access to the primary living areas, balconies and bedrooms of predominantly north facing dwellings on the southern side of Yeo Street will be significantly reduced, with solar access reduced to an hour (No. 55 and 59 Yeo St) or in shadow all day (No. 57 Yeo St). The justification provided by the applicant, that the additional shadows are for the most part already partially cast by high fencing and street canopy, is immaterial and not accepted. The degree of impact resulting from the proposal is unreasonable in this context.

It should be noted that there is a misrepresentation in the applicant's shadow diagrams. The rescinded MRCPS required a 6m wide, open-to-sky, pedestrian through-site link with increased setbacks along the western boundary of 1-7 Rangers Road which is not shown. The shadow impacts represented by the rescinded MRCPS should be less than what is indicated in the applicant's diagrams.



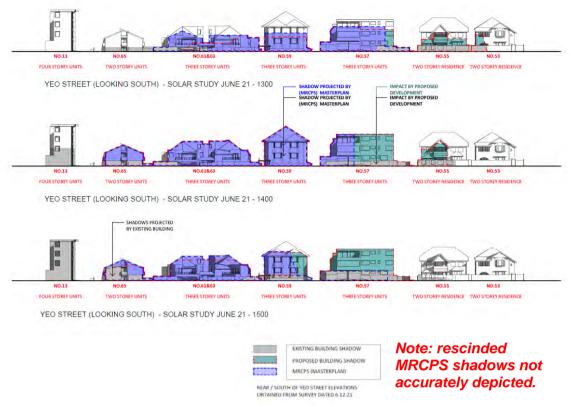


FIGURE 28: Solar impact to Yeo Street South (Applicant's Reference Design, pp. 34-35)

8.8 Public Domain and Community Facilities

Delivering high quality public open space and community facilities is a key driver of Council's renewed strategy for the precinct. The rescinded MRCPS envisaged the delivery of a new public plaza fronting Rangers Road with the adjacent site to the north. The Study sought to incentivise the amalgamation of the subject site (1-7 Rangers Road) with the adjacent site (183-185 Military Road) through targeted height increases to facilitate the delivery of 1,250m² of new public open space (i.e. plaza and pedestrian through-site link) and a community centre fronting onto and activating the plaza to create a meeting place and pedestrian focal point.

Whilst the Planning Proposal offers to deliver a new publicly accessible plaza and pedestrian through-site link, it significantly falls short of the specifications in the MRCPS and is of compromised amenity.

The Planning Proposal was referred to Council's Landscape Planning and Design Officer for review. Concerns were raised with the size and utility of the plaza, limited solar access, poor connectivity, and inconsistency with Council's objectives for public open space in the precinct. The following comments were provided:

The Planning Proposal fails to achieve the key characteristics identified in the Neutral Bay Planning Study for new open space and community facilities. The objectives for key public benefits for Site 3 included:

- Public Plaza 1,000m² in area excluding setbacks and through-site links
- Built form to improve solar access to public domain
- Community Facility (1,000m²)
- 1.5m laneway setback
- Deep soil 7%

Plaza Size

The new open space is identified as being 1,000m² in area, however the plaza is only 850m². This is largely attributed to the two-storey structure on the north-western side of the site which extends the full length of the boundary.

The planning study envisioned the plaza space being connected to Military Road, Military Lane and Rangers Road with a new through-site link to Yeo Street. The extension of the proposed building envelope along the north-western boundary compromises this. The suggested lawn area is likely to be of insufficient size to accommodate the projected use of community lawn during the day and dining at night.

Scale Comparisons and Precedents

Precedent images are considered misleading. Open space of comparable size is Newmarket Lane (Randwick) only, which is long and narrow. The more expensive spaces of West Village and Cammeray Square are not considered to be comparable examples, as they provide almost $200m^2$ of additional plaza space and are a closer fit to the size objective of $1,000m^2$.

Images of Newmarket Lane also demonstrate the impact of narrow open space bound by buildings on three sides. The resulting pressures on circulation space, solar access and intensity of use means materiality is focused on hard wearing materials and any greening is restricted to containers rather than in-ground planting.

Solar Access

The two-storey structure on the north-western boundary compromises solar access to the plaza. The Planning Proposal envisages a community lawn that will receive solar access during the day. Council's Study requires solar access to 800m² (80%) of the plaza at 10am, however the proposal only provides 532m² at 10am (53% in sun). This is particularly critical in winter where public access to sunny open space area is vital. The lack of solar access is considered to compromise the long-term quality (and feasibility) of the proposed community lawn area.

Deep Soil

Reference is made to the function of the lawn for filtration and significant trees, however there is no provision for deep soil coverage on the site.

The Planning Proposal was also referred externally to Landscape Architects, Spackman Mossip Michaels (SMM) for review. Concerns were raised with the narrow proportions of the plaza, limited open-to-sky open space and solar access, compromised legibility and efficacy and overall public benefit of the proposed public domain. The following comments were provided:

Rangers Road Square

The proposed square is approximately 43m long and 19m wide, resulting in proportions of approximately 2.3:1. This creates a long, narrow space more akin to a pedestrian mall than a public square. The proposed proportions of the square also reduce the amount of possible solar access to the public open space.

It is recommended that the north-western boundary be clear of any buildings on the subject site – that is, the proposed narrow retail strip be removed. This would increase the width of the square to 25m, creating a square with more generous proportions of 1.7:1 and enabling better solar access to the public space and facilitate a clear visual connection from Yeo Street to Rangers Road through Yeo Lane (Figure 28).

The MRCPS clearly articulated built form controls for the creation of the plaza itself, along with appropriate building setbacks to facilitate a successful public space with solar access, space for trees of a substantial size (through provision of deep soil) and clear visual and physical connections to the village centre along Military Road.

The key benefit of creating the plaza across two sites is the ability to create a public space with the appropriate size, proportions and connections that would otherwise be difficult or impossible if the plaza were to be situated on one site alone.

This is clearly demonstrated by the design of the proposal for the Woolworths site, which creates a long, narrow space with compromised solar access. The proposed plaza addresses Rangers Road and feels separate to the public domain of the village. Being surrounded by the development on three sides, the plaza is presented as part of the development which further compromises its value as public domain. By extending across the adjacent site (183-185 Military Road), the plaza:

- Can be oriented to both Rangers Road and Military Road, creating a better connection to the village centre;
- Has a longer street frontage, which is the plaza's only public edge;
- Has more generous proportions that create a more inviting public place and feel less like a thoroughfare;
- Has more diversity in urban character of its edges by virtue of being addressed by two separate developments (and potentially a community facility). This heterogeneity enables the plaza to present as clearly public domain, in contrast to the ambiguous character when created when surrounded by one homogenous architectural expression.

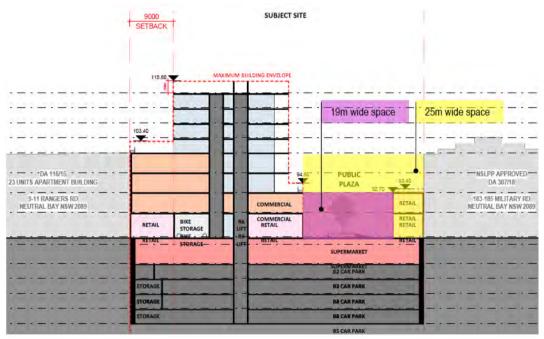


FIGURE 29: Cross section through Rangers Road plaza

Yeo Lane

At present approximately $300m^2$ or almost one third, of the total public open space has a building over it, with this proportion greater when colonnade spaces are included (Figure 28).

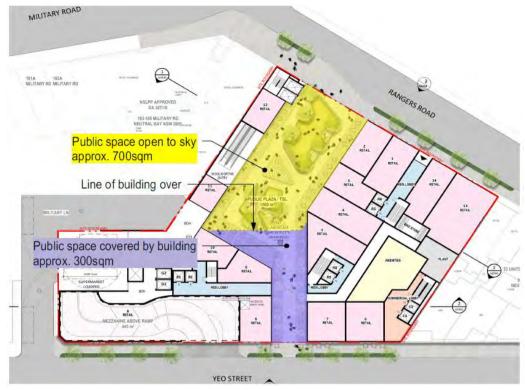


FIGURE 30: Proportion of public space open-to-sky

It is evident from applicant's elevation plans that the Yeo Lane connection is not readily discernible from Rangers Road, as it is visually overpowered by the architecture. Likewise, from Yeo Stret the connection to Rangers Road is not visible through the proposed Yeo Lane. The lack of visual clarity of the public connection compromises legibility and efficacy, and hence the public benefit of the through-site connection. It is recommended that Yeo Lane be open to sky.



FIGURE 31: View to Yeo Lane from Rangers Road



FIGURE 32: View to Yeo Lane from Yeo Street

Solar Access

It appears that the applicant has overstated the amount of solar access that the proposal provides to the public open spaces. The applicant's shadow diagrams show the shadow cast by the podium only and does not appear to illustrate the shadow cast by the building above. This is particularly evident at Yeo Lane, where the solar access shown should not be possible if the proposed building above is taken into account.

Notwithstanding, the applicant's shadow diagrams indicate the proposed public open space areas will receive limited solar access, particularly from 1pm onwards in mid-winter when the open space is likely to be used most.

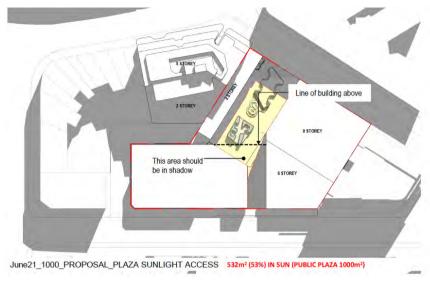


FIGURE 33: Proposed overshadowing impact to public domain – 10am, mid-winter

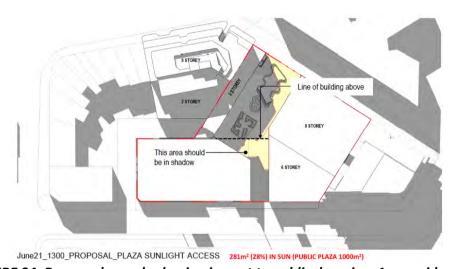


FIGURE 34: Proposed overshadowing impact to public domain – 1pm, mid-winter

It is clear from the assessment provided, that the proposed two-storey structure on the joint north-west boundary significantly compromises the amenity of the public domain as it reduces the size, proportions and connections of the plaza and limits the redevelopment potential for the adjoining site to the north (183-185 Military Road), which is critical to delivering a genuinely 'public' plaza with solar access. It also potentially prevents the consideration of a community facility fronting onto, and better activating, the public plaza to create a meeting place as intended in Council's rescinded MRCPS.

As such, the amalgamation of the two sites (1-7 Rangers Road and 183-185 Military Road), or at least an in-principle agreement between the two separate landowners to coordinate their development aspirations, is essential to deliver a genuinely 'public' and high amenity plaza. The progression of this Planning Proposal in the manner proposed will prevent the delivery of a high quality public square.

8.9 Transport & Traffic Impacts

The existing Woolworths supermarket provides 100 on-site car parking spaces. An additional 250 car spaces (total 350 spaces) are proposed over a 5-level basement car parking which spans across the entirety of the site. Vehicular access to the basement car park is proposed to be maintained on Yeo Street, with loading and servicing provided via a loading dock on Military Lane.

The proposed car parking arrangements include 58 resident spaces, 40 commercial spaces, 32 retail spaces and 132 supermarket spaces, which complies with the maximum parking rates in NSDCP 2013 for the proposed development but is subject to change depending on the final apartment mix within the development. An additional 88 'public' car spaces are proposed over and above Council's maximum parking rates resulting in a significant oversupply of parking onsite (Table 4).

TABLE 4: Parking provision rates applying to site under NSDCP 2013					
Type of Use	pe of Use DCP Max. Parking		Proposed	Shortfall/surplus	
	Rate	Parking	Parking		
		Provision	Provision		
Residential					
10x 1 bedroom	0.5 space/dw	5	5	0	
14x 2 bedroom and	1 space/dw	53	14	0	
39x 3 bedroom			39		
	Subtotal	58	58	0	
Commercial					
Office (2,407m ²)	1 space/60m ² GFA	40	40	0	
Supermarket	4 spaces/100m ²	132	132	0	
(3,282m ²)	GFA				
Retail (1,877m ²)	1 space/60m ² GFA	32	32	0	
	Subtotal	204	204	0	
'Public' Parking					
No known use	N/A	N/A	88	+88	
	TOTAL 262 350 +88				

The applicant's justification for the 88 'public' spaces is that it will benefit existing businesses and visitors to the Neutral Bay Town Centre and will reduce the demand for on-street parking. Given the location of the additional 'public' parking, it will function as overflow parking for the retail/supermarket uses within the development and in effect induce more traffic in the area, negating any public benefit.

The Planning Proposal is accompanied by a Transport Assessment prepared by JMT Consulting. Despite the significant overall increase in traffic generation (summarised in Figure 34), the report concludes that it will likely result in relatively low net traffic increases across the multiple routes available, with the increase in vehicles travelling through intersections around the site generally modest at less than 20 vehicles per hour or one vehicle every three minutes.

Submissions received by Council have raised concerns with the assumptions made in the applicant's transport assessment. Specifically, the reliability of the traffic survey samples and base case analysis, trip generation and traffic distribution assumptions. The analysis appears to be based on limited data and contains a misunderstanding of arterial road capacity, passing trade and access routes and Council's objectives in promoting and supporting sustainable transport and in limiting parking supply in new developments. Further justification will be required if the proposal proceeds.

The proposed oversupply of parking is not considered to be justified in the context of the site's highly accessible location and is contrary to the objectives of North Sydney's Transport Strategy and principles of transit-oriented development. The renewed study for the Neutral Bay Town Centre will include a transport assessment and management plan to guide future development in the precinct.

It should also be noted, however, that appropriate car parking numbers and vehicular access is a matter determined at the detailed DA stage. Any future DA for the subject site will need to be referred to Transport for NSW for approval on traffic generation at the intersection of Wycombe Road/Military Road and Yeo Steet/Wycombe Rd, as these two key intersections would be greatly affected by any future development of the site.

			Net Increa	se in Traffic Generation	
Use	Quantum	Unit	AM Peak Hour	PM Peak Hour	Sat Peak Hour
Residential	63	apartments	0	12	14
Commercial	40	parking spaces	16	10	4
Retail	5,159	m² GFA	30	68	60
Public parking	88	spaces	44	88	88
Total			99	178	166

FIGURE 35: Net traffic generation (Applicant's transport assessment, p. 25)



FIGURE 36: Forecast Traffic distribution (Applicant's transport assessment, p. 26)

9. Strategic Merit Assessment

The Planning Proposal is not considered to satisfy the strategic merit test for the following reasons:

- The Planning Proposal is not underpinned by an endorsed place-based strategy for the locality and is inconsistent with the North Sydney LSPS; North District Plan and Regional Plan;
- The Planning Proposal does not achieve objectives and intended outcomes of Council's rescinded MRCPS and is inconsistent with, and undermines, the strategic objectives of Council's renewed Study for the Neutral Bay Town Centre; and
- The progression of the Planning Proposal will prevent the delivery of identified open space by limiting the capacity of No. 183-185 Military Road to contribute to the public domain.

9.1 Regional & District Plan Consistency

The applicant's strategic justification for the proposal is that it responds to and aligns with the objectives of Council's previously endorsed MRCPS, which sought to revitalise the Neutral Bay Town Centre in line with the directions and objectives of the Regional and District Plan.

The Sydney North Planning Panel (SNPP), in its consideration of the applicant's previously refused planning proposal for the site, stated that: "the Panel considered the proposal had demonstrated some strategic merit as the previously endorsed Study and Future Directions Report and current work to revise the Study, provide a clear indication of the Council's and Community's desire to revitalise and renew Neutral Bay Town Centre.'

A driving principle of Council's rescinded MRCPS and the renewed Study for the Neutral Bay Town Centre, is to deliver high quality public open space and community facilities by incentivising site amalgamation through targeted and modest increases in height and density, whilst maintaining and enhancing the village atmosphere of the centre. The delivery of additional housing, whilst it may be an outcome of the Study, is not an objective and should not be provided at the expense of delivering a 'well-designed built environment; social infrastructure and opportunity; and fine grain urban form' (Greater Sydney Regional Plan, p.73).

The Planning Proposal does not reflect the urban design outcomes envisaged in the now rescinded MRCPS and is inconsistent with the strategic objectives of Council's renewed Study. The requested height of part 27m for 6 storeys and part 33m for 8 storeys, is excessive for the number of storeys and could potentially accommodate a building up to 7 storeys and 9 storeys. At 7-9 storeys, the proposal does not provide the desired human scale frontage to the plaza or an appropriate interface with the low-scale residential area immediately to the south of the site. This is magnified by the overall bulk and scale of the proposed building envelope, particularly the largely unbroken building façade along Yeo Street, which results in an overly intense built form in its context and unreasonable overshadowing impacts to dwellings on the southern side of Yeo Street.

The proposed public plaza fronting Rangers Road and through-site link to Yeo Street are of compromised amenity and offer a reduced level of public benefit. The Planning Proposal does not present a sound strategic planning outcome, as it prevents the opportunity to deliver a genuinely 'public' and high amenity public plaza and community facility that fronts onto, and better activates, the plaza to create a meeting place and community focus as envisaged under Council's rescinded MRCPS.

9.2 North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement

In the absence of an endorsed planning study to coordinate and manage growth in the Neutral Bay Town Centre, the Planning Proposal is inconsistent with Action L3.2 and L1.5 of the North Sydney LSPS.

North Sydney Council has a strong and consistent history of preparing comprehensive place-based planning studies that are the subject of strong community consultation and technical analysis. This is to ensure growth is delivered in a structured and co-ordinated manner, meets the needs and expectations of the community, is supported by adequate infrastructure and respects the future desired character and amenity of the surrounding area.

The subject site is identified as a key 'opportunity' site within the precinct to deliver public benefits. If the Planning Proposal were to proceed in its current form, it would significantly undermine the years of strategic planning work that has been undertaken by Council to date and the ability to achieve Council's place-making objectives for the precinct and the objectives of higher-level planning policies relating to the site. There is the risk, if the proposal were to proceed, that it would further encourage spot rezonings in the precinct, create uncertainty and lead to unpredictable and disjointed development outcomes that do not deliver genuine benefits in the long-term.

9.3 State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP)

The Planning Proposal is considered to be generally consistent with all applicable SEPPs, with the exception of SEPP No. 65 – Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development.

SEPP No. 65 – Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development

The concept proposal appears to comply with some of the key development standards under SEPP No. 65 and the associated ADG, however, there are a number of non-compliances.

The concept scheme does not comply with the ADG's minimum building separation requirements along its western boundary to Military Lane. It is also questioned whether the proposal could comply with minimum solar access requirements, as 21% of proposed apartments will receive no sun (maximum permitted is 15%), and the applicant's solar analysis does not appear to take into consideration the impact from the likely redevelopment of sites on the western side of Military Lane. The proposal also does not comply with minimum communal open space and deep soil zone requirements. The proposed apartment mix does not comply with NSDCP 2013, with an under provision of 1 and 2-bedroom apartments and over-provision of 3-bedroom apartments.

Whilst these non-compliances could be addressed at the future detailed DA stage, the need to redesign could potentially create a different set of issues. These non-compliances should be resolved to the extent that the Planning Proposal can demonstrate an acceptable level of amenity can be achieved.

9.4 Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions

Section 9.1 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* enables the Minister for Planning to issue directions regarding the content of planning proposals. Each Planning Proposal must identify which Section 9.1 Ministerial Directions are relevant to the proposal and demonstrate how they are consistent with that Direction.

The Planning Proposal is considered to be generally consistent with all relevant Ministerial Directions, with the exception of the below.

<u>Direction 1.1 – Implementation of Regional Plans</u>

Refer to section 9.1 of this report.

Direction 4.4 - Remediation of Contaminated Land

Council records indicate that the subject site may have been used in the past for a potentially contaminating activity.

Direction 4.4 – Remediation of Contaminated Land states a Planning Proposal authority must be satisfied that the land is suitable (or will be suitable, after remediation) for all permitted uses within the zone, and of the land requires remediation to be made suitable, the Planning Proposal authority is satisfied that the land will be so remediated before it is used for its intended purpose. The Planning Proposal is accompanied by a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) Report by GeoLogix, which identifies a number of potential contamination sources on-site and within the vicinity, including hazardous building materials and dry-cleaning operations. The report states there is potential for soil and groundwater contamination from mishandling or inappropriate disposal of dry-cleaning waste.

Due to the presence of a basement car park in the existing building (1-7 Rangers Road), the PSI report states that it is likely that any potentially hazardous building materials would have been removed during its construction and that buried hazardous materials are highly unlikely.

Council's Environmental and Building Compliance Officer has reviewed the PSI report and noted that a further detailed site investigation will be required. Notwithstanding, the presence of drycleaning chemicals in soil or groundwater is unlikely to prevent the development going ahead, and that the land can be made suitable for its intended use. These issues can be further addressed at the DA stage following additional investigations.

<u>Direction 5.1 - Integrating Land Use and Transport</u>

Direction 5.1 – Integrating Land Use and Transport seeks to ensure that urban structures, building forms, land use locations, development designs, subdivision and street layouts achieve the following planning objectives:

- a) Improving access to housing, jobs, and services by walking, cycling and public transport, and
- b) Increasing the choice of available transport and reducing dependence on cars, and
- c) Reducing travel demand including the number of trips generated by development and the distances travelled, especially by car, and
- d) Supporting the efficient and viable operation of public transport services, and
- e) Providing for the efficient movement of freight.

The Planning Proposal is inconsistent with Direction 5.1, as the proposed oversupply of parking is not justified in the context of the site's highly accessible location and is contrary to the principles of transit-oriented development.

<u>Direction 7.1 – Business and Industrial Zones</u>

Direction 7.1 – Business and Industrial Zones seeks to encourage employment growth in suitable locations and protect employment land in business and industrial zones. Subclause (1)(c) states that a Planning Proposal must 'not reduce the total potential floor space area for employment uses and related public services in business zones.'

However, a Planning Proposal may be inconsistent with the terms of the Direction if 'the provisions of the Planning Proposal that are inconsistent are justified by a strategy or study which gives consideration to the objectives of this direction; or in accordance with a relevant Regional or District Plan; or the inconsistency is of minor significance.'

The Planning Proposal will likely result in a net loss (-27m²) of commercial floorspace compared to existing conditions. Whilst this may be considered a minor inconsistency, the proposal anticipates delivering a significantly lower proportion of commercial office space than is currently provided on site. The applicant's Social and Economic Impact Assessment and Strategy anticipates the proposal will result in a net loss of commercial office floorspace (-1,699m²) and net gain of retail floorspace (+1,663m²).

Use	Existing	Proposed	Net Additional	
Supermarket	permarket 3,396m ²		-114m²	
Other Retail	100m ²	1,877m²	+1,777m²	
Total Retail	3,496m²	5,159m²	+1,663m ²	
Commercial office	4,106m²	2,407m²	-1,699m ²	
Public plaza n.a.		1,000m ²	+1,000m ²	
Residential	n.a.	8,302m ²	+8,302m ²	
Total Floorspace 7,602m ²		16,868m²	+9,266m²	

Source: Koichi Takada Architects, Ethos Urban

FIGURE 37: Existing and proposed commercial floorspace (GFA)

As outlined previously, a key objective for local centres in the North District Plan and Council's renewed Study for Neutral Bay, is to protect and expand retail and commercial office floorspace to meet current and future demand requirements and ensure the long-term viability and economic competitiveness of the centre. In the absence of an endorsed strategy for the precinct, any net loss of commercial floorspace on a key site within the precinct could potentially undermine the Neutral Bay Town Centre's role as an employment centre.

10. Site-specific Merit Assessment

The Planning Proposal is not considered to demonstrate adequate site-specific merit as the overall height, bulk and scale of the proposed built form is unacceptable in terms of providing a human scale frontage to the future plaza; an appropriate interface with the low-scale residential area immediately to the south of the site; overshadowing impacts to the public and private domain; traffic impacts and delivering a genuinely 'public' plaza, pedestrian through-site link and community facility.

10.1 Environmental Impacts

As outlined in earlier sections of this report, the proposed increase in height, bulk and scale of development on the site will result in unacceptable overshadowing and traffic impacts. Although it is recognised that the precinct is undergoing change, and that the previously endorsed MRCPS and current work to revise the Study, provides a clear indication of the Council's and Community's desire to revitalise and renew Neutral Bay Town Centre, the Planning Proposal does not achieve the objectives and intended outcomes of Council's rescinded MRCPS and undermines the renewed work for the precinct that is currently underway.

10.2 Social Impacts

The proposal, if progressed would result in the creation of approximately 63 additional dwellings (estimated at 132 residents). This is a considerable increase in density on the subject site and is likely to place additional demand on existing local and regional services and facilities. The applicable section 7.11 local infrastructure contributions will help support the increased demands on existing local infrastructure.

Whilst the proposal is accompanied by a non-binding letter of offer to enter into a VPA to deliver a range of public benefits including a new public plaza, the proposed benefits would fall short of those identified in Council's previously adopted MRCPS.

10.3 Economic Impacts

The proposal is accompanied by an Economic Impact Assessment prepared by Ethos Urban, which estimates the existing workforce at this site is 267 workers across 7,602m² of GFA (the indicative breakdown being 117 retail workers and 150 office workers). These estimates assume one worker per 30m² of retail floorspace and a 50% visitation rate has been applied to the estimated 300 workers that utilise the office space currently provided at 50 Yeo Street.

The applicant's assessment estimates that the proposed development would generate an additional 143 FTE jobs, including an additional 55 retail jobs and 88 office jobs, when fully occupied and operational. This assumes one worker per 30m² retail floorspace and one worker per 14.2m² of office floorspace (i.e. the City of Sydney's typical workspace ratio).

It is unclear why a 50% visitation rate has been applied to the existing workforce estimate and not the proposed workforce estimate. If the same methodology were applied, the proposed development would generate a net loss of 119 office workers and overall net reduction of 64 workers. Considering the proposal is anticipated to result in net reduction in commercial office floorspace, it is reasonable to conclude that the proposal would generate less jobs than currently provided on the site and less than could be reasonably expected on the site considering its highly accessible location within the Neutral Bay Town Centre.

10.4 Adequacy of Public Infrastructure

The site is located in close proximity to transport infrastructure, including existing road connections and high frequency public transport. As outlined in earlier sections of this report, the proposal does not adequately respond to the site's public transport accessibility to reduce car dependency and associated impacts on the surrounding road network. A Green Travel Plan should be prepared for the site to support reduced parking provision and encourage future residents and workers to capitalise on the wide range of infrastructure and services available within the area.

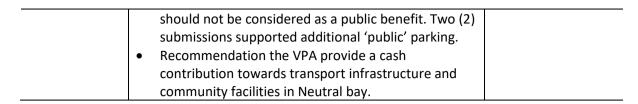
Consultation would be required with utility providers if the proposal progresses and at the DA stage to ensure that sufficient capacity exists in water, sewer, gas, telecommunications and other utility services. There is likely to be adequate services and infrastructure in the area to accommodate the proposed increases in demand, alternatively the applicant will be required to pay for any upgrades required.

SUBMISSIONS

There are no statutory requirements to publicly exhibit a planning proposal before the issuance of a Gateway Determination. However, Council sometimes receives submissions in response to planning proposals which have been lodged but not determined for the purposes of seeking a Gateway Determination. The generation of submissions at this stage of the planning process arise from the community becoming aware of their lodgement though Council's application tracking webpage and on-site signage.

At the time this report was completed, 35 submissions had been received from local residents and the Willoughby Bay, Neutral, Brightmore and Harrison Precinct Committees. One (1) submission in support and 34 objecting to the Planning Proposal. A summary of the key concerns raised is provided in Table 5. These issues are largely addressed in the body of the report.

	TABLE 5: Summary of submissions received			
Issue	Key points raised	Council response		
Height, bulk and scale	 Proposed floor heights are greater than industry standards; Overall building height is greater than required for 6 and 8 storeys and more akin to 8 and 9 storeys. Will result in overbearing development, inconsistent with village feel of Neutral Bay. The proposed development should not be considered in isolation but assessed carefully and holistically in the context of other proposed developments along the Military Road Corridor and infrastructure capacity; 	Refer to section 8.4 and 8.6 of this report.		
Traffic	 Transport assessment prepared by applicant's consultants (JMT consulting) contains errors and misrepresent the impact of the proposal. Traffic and parking considerations should be independently assessed; Proposed number of parking spaces is not supported and same as the previously refused proposal despite reduction in number of apartments; Military Road and surrounding road network already at capacity. There is already problematic congestion on and around Military/Wycombe, Wycombe/Yeo, Rangers/Military and Yeo/Ben Boyd; 	Refer to section 8.9 of this report.		
Overshadowing		Refer to section 8.7 of this report.		
Public Benefits	 Proposed open space is of limited public benefit – is narrow, poorly connected, dominated by surrounding development and resembles a privatised 'food court' A public plaza closer to the Lane Cove canopy would be more consistent with Neutral Bay village. Any public benefit should be owned and designed by Council. 33 submissions do not support additional 88 'public' 	Refer to section 8.8 of this report.		



The key concern raised in the submissions received is that the Planning Proposal does not materially address the issues that formed the basis of the previous refusal and that the proposal needs to be 'scaled back.'

The Harrison Precinct committee strongly objected to the proposal and in the circumstances did not agree with any increase in height above 5 storeys until such time the community has had the opportunity to provide its view on the level of 'modest' increase in height appropriate for the precinct. It did not consider it appropriate for developers to decide the future character of Neutral Bay.

Whilst also strongly objecting to the proposal, the Neutral Bay and Cremorne Progress Association (NBCPA) and Brightmore, Neutral and Willoughby Bay Precinct Committees, raised concern with the SNPP's decision in December 2022 that the former proposal demonstrated strategic merit but not site-specific merit. In light of this, it was recommended that Council work towards ensuring that, in the event the subject Planning Proposal proceeds, that a site-specific DCP and VPA are public in place that would achieve:

- Appropriate building heights and setbacks that mitigate the unreasonable impacts of the proposal;
- provision/dedication of a genuinely public plaza with improved connections; and
- a revised VPA that deletes the 88 'public' parking spaces and provides a cash contribution to be used towards towards transport infrastructure and community facilities in Neutral Bay.

DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN (DCP)

As outlined in earlier sections of this report, the applicant has lodged a draft DCP to support the Planning Proposal. The draft DCP is intended to provide further design guidance for the future assessment of the Development Application, should the Planning Proposal proceed.

It is acknowledged that the contents of the draft DCP are not necessarily matters that either the NSLPP or the SNPP (should it be asked to make recommendations in response to this proposal) are required to comment on. In this case, however, if the Planning Proposal were to proceed, the draft DCP would play a very important role in shaping the massing, bulk and scale, open space, solar access and pedestrian amenity likely to be provided by the future development on the site.

The draft DCP as it has been drafted by the applicant, simply reinforces the concept scheme that has been prepared for the Planning Proposal. As this report has highlighted, there are critical design aspects of the proposal that are of concern and need to be addressed. The majority of these issues were raised previously (PP6/22). If adopted, or tacitly endorsed, they will take precedence over existing DCP controls, which do not support the design of the concept scheme.

If the Planning Proposal were to progress, the applicant's draft DCP will require significant amendment to ensure fundamental built form design issues are addressed at a future DA stage to mitigate impact. These include:

- Managing the proposed podium heights to moderate the development's relationship with adjoining developments/streetscape and ensure a better interface and transition to nearby lower density development;
- Managing the bulk, scale and massing of the development to ensure a better fit within its urban context;
- Ensuring a through-site link that is open-to-sky with appropriate setbacks to ensure higher levels of amenity to pedestrians and provide better visual and physical connections/cues from Rangers Road/Military Road to Yeo Street;
- A public plaza that is more generously and appropriately proportioned to enable a genuine community space that can also accommodate outdoor dining and landscaping opportunities without eroding the space's usability, amenity and public function;
- A public plaza that takes advantage of the opportunities potentially offered by the redevelopment of the adjoining site (183-185 Military Road) to enhance and improve its size, proportions, solar access and visual and physical connections to Military Road and beyond;
- Reinforcing existing DCP controls and ADG requirements; and
- Reducing on-site parking provision.

CONCLUSION

The Planning Proposal (PP1/23) seeks to amend North Sydney LEP 2013 as it relates to land at 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay as follows:

- Increase the maximum building height control for the site from 16m to part 33m (to Rangers Road) and part 27m (to Yeo Street); and
- Increase the minimum non-residential floor space ratio control from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1.

To provide increased certainty over the proposed built form on the site, the Planning Proposal is accompanied by a suite of suggested amendments to North Sydney DCP 2013. The Planning Proposal is also accompanied by non-binding letter of offer to enter into a VPA with Council to deliver a publicly accessible plaza and pedestrian through-site link; public wi-fi; and 88 car parking spaces for public use, located within the basement of the future development.

Having completed a detailed assessment, the Planning Proposal is not considered to satisfy the strategic merit test for the following reasons:

- The Planning Proposal is not underpinned by an endorsed place-based strategy for the locality and is inconsistent with the North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement; North District Plan and Greater Sydney Regional Plan;
- The Planning Proposal does not achieve the objectives and intended outcomes of Council's rescinded MRCPS and is inconsistent with, and undermines, the strategic objectives of Council's renewed Study for the Neutral Bay Town Centre.
- The progression of the Planning Proposal will prevent the delivery of identified open space by limiting the capacity of No. 183-185 Military Road to contribute to the public domain;
- The Planning Proposal is inconsistent with the following section 9.1 Ministerial Directions under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*:

- Direction 1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans
- Direction 5.1 Integrating Land Use and Transport
- Direction 7.1 Business and Industrial Zone

The Planning Proposal is not considered to demonstrate adequate site-specific merit as the overall height, bulk and scale of the proposed built form is unacceptable in terms of providing a human scale frontage to the future plaza; an appropriate interface with the low-scale residential area immediately to the south of the site; overshadowing impacts; traffic impacts and delivering a genuinely 'public' and high amenity plaza, pedestrian through-site link and community facility that reinforces and enhances the existing and future desired village character of Neutral Bay.

The applicant has indicated its intention to lodge a Rezoning Review. Should any future SNPP support progression of the Planning Proposal, the following key matters would need to be addressed to mitigate identified adverse planning impacts:

- Reduction of podium height and overall building height
- Removal of two-storey retail structure
- Demonstration of adjacent site integration
- Reconsideration of plaza design
- Provision of through-site link open-to-sky
- Reduction of on-site parking provision.

RECOMMENDATION

1. THAT the Planning Proposal (PP1/23) not be supported to proceed to a Gateway Determination.

KATERINA PAPAS SENIOR STRATEGIC PLANNER

MARCELO OCCHIUZZI MANAGER STRATEGIC PLANNING

Planning Proposal

1-7 Rangers Road & 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay

Amendments to the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013





Prepared by Ethos Urban Submitted for Fabcot Pty Ltd



'Gura Bulga'

Liz Belanjee Cameron

'Gura Bulga' – translates to Warm Green Country. Representing New South Wales.

By using the green and blue colours to represent NSW, this painting unites the contrasting landscapes. The use of green symbolises tranquillity and health. The colour cyan, a greenish-blue, sparks feelings of calmness and reminds us of the importance of nature, while various shades of blue hues denote emotions of new beginnings and growth. The use of emerald green in this image speaks of place as a fluid moving topography of rhythmical connection, echoed by densely layered patterning and symbolic shapes which project the hypnotic vibrations of the earth, waterways and skies.

Ethos Urban acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia and recognises their continuing connection to land, waters and culture.

We acknowledge the Gadigal people, of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land where this document was prepared, and all peoples and nations from lands affected.

We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging.

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B Urban Design Report

Koichi Takada Architects

C Landscape Report

Arcadia

D Transport Impact Assessment

JMT Consulting

E Social and Economic Report

Ethos Urban

F Public Benefit Offer

Ethos Urban / Fabcot

G LEP Mapping

Ethos Urban

H Draft Site-specific Development Control Plan

Ethos Urban

I Preliminary Site Investigation

Geo-logix

J Woolworths Neutral Bay Community Survey Report

Urbis + Taverner Research Group

Executive Summary

This Planning Proposal requests amendments to the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 relating to 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay. Ethos Urban has prepared this Planning Proposal on behalf of Fabcot Pty Ltd (Woolworths Group).

The broad intent of the Planning Proposal is to achieve a mixed-use redevelopment outcome, including an upgraded full-line Woolworths supermarket, together with supporting retail, commercial and residential land uses as part of an integrated mixed-use development. The future redevelopment of the site within the framework established by this Planning Proposal aligns with the objectives and intended outcomes of Council's Military Road Corridor Planning Strategy (MRCPS). It supports the ongoing growth of the area and delivers significant public benefits to Neutral Bay Town Centre and its users, whilst ensuring the retention of public amenity.

The Planning Proposal seeks Council's support for a site-specific amendment to the LEP for the following: Provide new mapping to reflect an adjustment of maximum height of building provisions on 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay to increase from 16m to a mix of 27m and 33m.

- Provide new mapping to increase the non-residential floor space of floor space 0.5:1 to 1.8 applying to the site.
- No changes are sought for the site's underlying land zoning controls.

Amendments to the North Sydney DCP 2013 are also proposed to support the Planning Proposal and proposed future redevelopment. These amendments will address key design and development outcomes, including bulk and scale, design excellence, activation and access, landscaping, residential amenity and sustainability.

The indicative reference scheme totals some 15,868m² of Gross Floor Area (GFA), comprising a 3,282m² of supermarket GFA, 1,877m² of retail GFA, 2,407m² of commercial GFA and 8,302m² of residential floorspace, consisting of circa 63 dwellings. A 350 space basement car park is provided that will accommodate the need for all uses within the proposal, while a ground level public plaza and through-site link will help activate the site and provide a new civic heart and focal point for Neutral Bay Town Centre.



Figure 1 Visualisation of the supporting Indicative concept

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

This Planning Proposal responds to the Council's historical work on Neutral Bay and the Military Road Corridor, in aligns with the MRCPS by supporting jobs and housing growth within the Neutral Bay Town Centre, whilst delivering necessary public domain upgrades and public benefits. Specifically, it is noted that:

- The proposal is by and large consistent with the strategic vision under the MRCPS to appropriately serve the surrounding area with a varied character and experience;
- The future built form and land uses will cater to the local daily needs of the community by enhancing walking and cycling opportunities with suitable infrastructure and activation to enhance the attractiveness of Military Road as an urban high street;
- The site is well positioned with access to well-connected cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, major roads, bus services and ferry services linking to other key transport hubs.
- The concept redevelopment for the site, together with site specific DCP controls propose a new public plaza –
 providing opportunity for deep soil canopy tree planting, screening and feature plants, seating, public art and
 e-bike charging facilities for community usage;
- The future built form will demonstrate high quality design to enhance the enjoyment of homes and public places through generous planted terraces and facades. This will contribute to enhancing people's overall health and wellbeing.
- The proposal is designed to accommodate a variety of sustainability features and deliver beyond its required targets for sustainability, energy efficiency and water and waste management;
- The indicative scheme provides a range of apartment sizes with high amenity, which will create a level of activation that will support future success of the local centre;
- The proposal is consistent with the objects of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, in that it promotes the orderly and economic use and development of land;
- The proposal is consistent with the applicable SEPPs and Ministerial Directions;
- Traffic modelling undertaken indicates that the proposal is not anticipated to result in unacceptable traffic impacts on the surrounding road network subject to mitigation measures identified.
- The proposal will deliver significant economic benefits to the locality, including:
 - An estimated 684 FTE jobs (direct and indirect) are expected to be generated during the construction stage of the project.
 - An estimated 143 FTE ongoing jobs on an ongoing basis will be generated once the development is complete and fully occupied. These additional ongoing jobs would stimulate additional economic activity, estimated at \$17.2 million in Value Added each year.
 - The future mixed use development could also accommodate approximately 132 new residents who would generate around \$2.8 million in retail expenditure each year, to the benefit of retailers in the local and regional community.
- To this end, Woolworths' concept for the site is focused on a new-generation mixed-use exemplar development, to drive a positive outcome within the North Sydney LGA. Future development of the site will provide convenient shopping for customers while enhancing the liveability of the surrounding local communities.
- Accordingly, considering the proposal and the overall strategic nature of the site and justification provided in addressing planning issues, the Planning Proposal is considered to have sufficient strategic merit to support the proposed uplift within the Neutral Bay Town Centre.
- This Planning Proposal also demonstrates that the proposed land use mix and density sought can be appropriately accommodated on the site in an attractive urban form which maximises neighbourhood amenity and greening, improves social and economic outcomes and enhances vibrancy, whilst minimising amenity impacts of surrounding residential receivers. This supports the site-specific merit of the Planning Proposal.

For these reasons, we have no hesitation in recommending this Planning Proposal for Gateway Determination.

What does this redevelopment mean for Neutral Bay?





Aligned with government strategies for an enhanced Military Road precinct



Enhanced housing diversity through delivery of 63 apartments



Respond to evolving customer requirements including 'Direct to Boot' service



Generating +143 local employment opportunities



\$134m of investment into the local area, generating +684 jobs during construction

Contributing \$17.2 \$17.2m million in valid added to the million in value economy annually

True live/work/play environment in an integrated community



1.0 Introduction

1.1 Overview

This Planning Proposal is submitted to North Sydney Council (Council) to request amendments to the *North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013* (North Sydney LEP 2013) relating to land at 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay (the site). Ethos Urban has prepared this Planning Proposal on behalf of Fabcot Pty Ltd (Woolworths) the proponent.

The purpose of this Planning Proposal is to introduce a new non-Residential Floor Space Ratio (FSR) development standard for the site and amend the height limit to facilitate a future mixed-use development outcome including a full-line supermarket, supporting retail/commercial and residential land uses. The future redevelopment of the site within the framework established by this Planning Proposal aligns with the objectives and intended outcomes of Council's Military Road Corridor Planning Strategy (MRCPS). It supports the ongoing growth of the area and delivers significant public benefits within Neutral Bay Town Centre whilst ensuring the protection of public amenity.

The Planning Proposal will facilitate the rejuvenation of the site with an indicative reference scheme accommodating a mixed-use development, including a full-line Woolworths supermarket (3,282m²) in a subterranean level, together with a podium comprising ground floor retail and servicing, with upper level commercial floorspace and residential apartments. The proposal also includes the delivery of significant community benefits in the form of a new public plaza and through site link (1,000m²) as well as a range of streetscape and footpath upgrades.

The indicative reference scheme totals some 15,868m² of Gross Floor Area (GFA), comprising a 3,282m² of supermarket GFA, 1,877m² of retail GFA, 2,407m² of commercial GFA and 8,302m² of residential floorspace, consisting of circa 63 dwellings. A 350 space basement car park is provided that will accommodate the need for all uses within the proposal, while a ground level public plaza and through-site link will help activate the site and provide a new civic heart and focal point for Neutral Bay Town Centre.

As part of this Planning Proposal, the proponent intends to deliver, a new public plaza, external public domain works and through site link, which will be secured via a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) that is proposed to be entered into with Council. The public benefits are outlined in the Public Benefit Offer, which is included under separate cover at **Appendix F.**

A concept sketch of an indicative built form character which could be delivered by the proposed controls is provided in **Figure 2**.

To achieve the strategic vision and indicative redevelopment concept presented, this planning proposal seeks to amend the *North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013* as follows:

- Increase the maximum building height from 16m to mix of 27m and 33m; and
- Increase the minimum non-residential floor space from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1.

Amendments to the North Sydney DCP 2013 are also proposed to support the Planning Proposal and proposed redevelopment. These amendments will address key design and development outcomes, including strategic provisions related to local centre planning and site-specific provisions related to the future built form, the provision of the publicly accessible through site link and plaza, design excellence and sustainability.

This Planning Proposal has been prepared having regard to *The Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline* published by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) in December 2021. In particular, this Planning Proposal addresses the following specific matters in the guideline and the requirements of Section 3.33(2) of the *Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act):

• A statement of the objectives or intended outcomes of the proposed instrument;

- An explanation of the provisions that are to be included in the proposed instrument;
- The justification of those objectives, outcomes and provisions and the process for their implementation (including whether the proposed instrument will comply with relevant directions under Section 9.1EP&A Act); and
- Details of community consultation.

This Planning Proposal describes the site, the proposed amendments to the North Sydney LEP 2013 and provides an environmental assessment of the proposed height and FSR controls, building envelope and indicative reference design.

The report should be read in conjunction with the Urban Design Report prepared by Koichi Takada Architects (**Appendix B**) and specialist consultant reports appended to this proposal (refer Table of Contents).



Figure 2 Indicative reference scheme

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

1.2 Proponent and Vision

The proponent, Fabcot Pty Ltd, is the operating entity of Woolworths's property development division and is the owner of the subject site within the Neutral Bay Town Centre.



Our vision for Neutral Bay, is to rejuvenate the southern precinct of Neutral Bay by redeveloping a tired and underused site into a high-quality mixed-use scheme centred around a new public plaza. – Woolworths

Woolworths' concept for the site is focused on a new-generation mixed-use exemplar development, to drive a positive outcome within the Neutral Bay community. The proposal will create a 'place for people' where the community can enjoy being in a place that has a sense of belonging. The project is a catalyst for further urban renewal and will provide convenient, local shopping for customers while enhancing the liveability of the surrounding local communities.

Woolworths has developed a vision for the retail ecosystem, which is based on a new concept that:

- Evolves Woolworths' offering to deliver a world leading customer experience;
- Integrates the latest in technology, innovation and convenience;
- Embraces sustainability in design and operations;
- Delivers great placemaking outcomes through design excellence;
- Allows flexibility to accommodate future evolution and activation; and
- Combines a generic supermarket and mixed-use development with emerging concepts such as 'Direct to Boot' and E-commerce.

Woolworths is keen to further invest in the North Sydney LGA and sees potential opportunities to deliver innovative, sustainable and best-in-class retail formats.

1.3 Project Team

This Planning Proposal is a collaboration which has been informed by the following firms:

Koichi Takada Architects



Urban Design and Architecture

Town Planning Social and Economic Impact Assessment





Landscape Architecture

Traffic and Transport



Engagement

2.0 Background

2.1 Military Road Corridor Planning Study (MRCPS)

On 28 May 2018, Council resolved to prepare a planning study for the Military Road Corridor. This was determined based on trends in the built environment identifying commercial uses being replaced with residential development, resulting in an 11.5% decline in employment related uses since 2006. It was noted that if nothing is changed, the number of local jobs in Neutral Bay is estimated to drop further from 2,850 to 1,500 jobs, rather than meeting the forecast demand of 4,000 jobs by 2036.

Council have also identified that the Neutral Bay Town Centre is dominated by heavy commuter traffic on Military Road, a major barrier between the northern and southern sides of the centre. The B-Line construction has removed the parking buffer between pedestrians and the road carriageway, creating a less safe environment for pedestrians and a perception of increased danger. With a decline in employment related uses and a dangerous pedestrian environment, the vibrancy and diversity of the town centre is in jeopardy. As a result, pressure is being placed on improving the existing condition of the public domain.

The purpose of the MRCPS is to guide future development and facilitate increased density opportunities to meet the growing needs of the community within Neutral Bay Town Centre.

Neutral Bay Town Centre is the first stage of the planning study. Following community input into a survey conducted in mid-2018, two discussion papers were prepared for exhibition:

- 1. Objectives & Ideas Paper, examining a range of built form and public benefit options;
- 2. Analysis Paper, providing an evidence base and impact assessment.

The purpose of these papers was to further engage the community and relevant landholders in a discussion on the future of the Neutral Bay Town Centre. They presented a range of built form options that supported, in principle, new jobs and homes close to public transport, and discussed the types of community public benefits that may be needed in the future to protect the highly valued village character of Neutral Bay.

Fabcot Pty Ltd (the landholder group for the subject site) made a submission in October 2019 in response to the Stage 1 Objectives and Analysis Paper of the Military Road Corridor Planning Study (the MRCPS). The submission exhibited strong support for Council's future vision for the Neutral Bay Town Centre – that is, to facilitate public domain improvements, create jobs and deliver community facilities to meet the changing needs of the area and provide general support for the built form options proposed by Council for the subject site. The submission sought to increase the height and FSR built form options on site to provide additional non-residential and residential floor space, with the requested changes to be incorporated into the third and final stage of the planning study being the *Future Directions Report*.

Council resolved at its meeting of 23 March 2020 (held 6 April 2020) to place the draft *Future Directions Report* on public exhibition until 31 July 2020. The draft Future Directions Report was the third and final document of the MRCPS, and considered the request made by the landholder group for the site.

On 22 February 2021, the *Future Directions Report* following exhibition was formally adopted by Council, finalising the future vision and controls for the subject site through the following requirements:

- Provide additional non-residential floor space with a minimum 2.0:1 FSR
- Residential towers should appear slender, maximise above podium habitable facades to all sides
- Provide a new community facility (1,000m²)
- Deliver 1,250m² new public domain including:
 - A 1,000m² new public plaza with an underground supermarket
 - A through-site-link to Yeo Street

- A 2.5m whole of building setback that expands the tree canopy along Rangers Road and Military Road
- Deliver a 14-space public commuter bicycle parking facility
- Activate street edges along Rangers Road, Military Road, the new plaza, through-site-link and part of Yeo Street
- Deliver loading and basement access through Military Lane or potentially along Yeo Street, subject to a transport study
- Mitigate wind impacts to the public plaza
- Provide access to underground uses within a building façade to a limit structures on the plaza

Figure 3 demonstrates the identified building envelope for the site looking south and showing a new public plaza and pedestrian through-site link from Military Road to Yeo Street. **Figure 4** illustrates the envisaged new public plaza that would provide open space and expand retail opportunities to support population growth. It is expected that the future plaza will be activated by retail, cafes and restaurants along the edges to create a vibrant and safe open space for the community.



Figure 3 MRCPS indicative building envelopes

Source: North Sydney Council



Figure 4 Artist's impression of the future Ranger Road Plaza

Source: North Sydney Council

On the back of this extensive work by Council and its endorsement in April 2021, Fabcot Pty Ltd advanced its plans for the site to commence the process of delivering the vision espoused in these documents. In doing so Fabcot Pty Ltd had regular discussions and meetings with Council officers to discuss the proposal and work through design matters.

Following the local elections in December 2021, a new Council was formed and a meeting held on 10th January 2022 to elect the new Mayor. During this same meeting the new Council unsuccessfully attempted to rescind the Council resolution on the *Military Road Corridor Strategy* and *Future Directions Report*. Subsequent to this, an extraordinary meeting was then held on 24 January 2022 and the decision to adopt the *Future Directions Report* was rescinded by the newly elected Council.

According to that same resolution, an updated strategic development framework for the Military Road Corridor including the Neutral Bay Town Centre is to now be prepared by Council officers with further community and stakeholder engagement to enable a "better balance between development height and the provision of additional public open space".

Whilst the *Future Directions Report* has been rescinded, Fabcot Pty Ltd has been actively preparing plans for the site since 2019 in direct response to the previously endorsed MRCPS and *Future Directions Report*. The decision to rescind the strategy was made by the newly elected 2022 Councillors and occurred one month prior to Fabcot's Plans to lodge its Planning Proposal. Given the extensive work and time that has gone into preparing the Planning Proposal, Fabcot decided to proceed to lodge the Planning Proposal as the Woolworths business could not pause and wait for Council to update its MRCPS and the Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay. This

Planning Proposal has been designed to reflect the development intent of the planning study, aimed at delivering a substantial amount of public benefit for the area and delivering a built form outcome that is generally consistent with that espoused within the previous Council endorsed documents. Fabcot Pty Ltd group is committed to delivering a high-quality built outcome that will significantly improve the existing amenity of the site and contribute to the overall vibrancy of the Neutral Bay Town Centre and its ability to serve local community needs.

2.2 Pre-lodgement Consultation

Since early 2020, Fabcot has engaged with Council as part of the process of preparing the MRCPS and Future Directions Report, as well as more targeted discussions regarding this site-specific Planning Proposal. Specifically, Fabcot has:

- Actively participated as a key stakeholder and landowner in the preparation of the Military Road Corridor Planning Study and Future Directions Report for the Neutral Bay town centre.
- Held numerous meetings with Council regarding the site-specific planning proposal, including a number of meetings in 2020 and subsequent further meetings in 2021, including:
 - o A meeting with Council officers on 26 August 2021 to provide Council with an update on progress of the Planning Proposal and updated design following discussions in 2020 and the Council's endorsement of the MRCPS and the Future Directions Report in April 2021.
 - o A meeting with Council officers on 29 October 2021 to present an indicative concept for the site and provide Council with an update on progress of negotiations with adjacent landowners at 185 Military Road. Council provided feedback to that indicative concept following the meeting.
 - o A meeting on 16 December 2021 to present a further updated design concept to Council that responded to their feedback from the previous meeting.

On the back of these meetings, Fabcot were in the process of advancing plans and preparation of the Planning Proposal, with the intention of formally submitting the Planning Proposal to Council in February 2022. This was however delayed following the resolution of the newly elected Council to rescind the previous Council's endorsement of the MRCPS and the Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay town centre. As a result of this resolution, discussions with the Council officers were unable to be further advance and Fabcot elected to finalise the Planning Proposal package on the back of discussions and advice received up to that point.

Fabcot are eager to continue constructive dialogue with the Council, with the view to deliver a suitable outcome for the site and the town centre.

2.3 Preparation and lodgement of Planning Proposal (2022/1633)

On 9 May 2022 a Planning Proposal seeking amendments to the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 to increase the maximum building height to a mix of 30m and 40m and increase the minimum non-residential floor space to 1.7:1 for land located at 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street Neutral Bay was lodged at North Sydney Council.

The proposed amendments were intended to facilitate a mixed-use development comprising approximately 19,218m² of gross floor area (GFA), comprising approximately 3,311m² of supermarket GFA, 1,846m² of retail GFA,2,103m² of commercial GFA and 12,682m² of residential floor area (circa 91 apartments), and the delivery of significant community benefits in the form of a 65 dedicated public parking spaces and a new 1,000m² public plaza and through site link.

Post lodgement community engagement

Woolworths recognises the importance of engaging with the community and are committed to providing genuine consultation with the community throughout the planning process. Woolworths engaged Urbis, a community engagement specialist to undertake community engagement. **Appendix J** provides a detailed overview of the engagement and consultation undertaken by the proponent to date. In summary, the initial consultation completed consisted of undertaking an analysis of community feedback on Council's Military Road Planning Study. The purpose of that was to understand the community desires, aspirations and concerns about

the precinct so that would inform Woolworths ambitions for the site and the approach to engagement. This review contributed to key features of the proposal and community aspirations for the future of Neutral Bay.

Following lodgement of the Planning Proposal, Fabcot Pty Ltd held two community information drop-in sessions in Neutral Bay on the 11 August 2022 and 13 August 2022. These sessions provided the opportunity for members of the public to meet with Fabcot Pty Ltd and the broader project team, ask questions and provide feedback on the proposal. An overview of the engagement activities completed to date are outlined in **Table 1**.

Table 1 Consultation completed to date

newsletter was distributed to more

Activities Details / community feedback Near neighbour doorknock and local Feedback included: business street walk: The area needs this, and it sounds like it would be great. On 1 June 2022, Woolworths spoke The proposed plans would be great for customers who walk here with ~25 local businesses surrounding from the surrounding streets. the existing Rangers Road store. The area is run down and needs an upgrade. Businesses included a mix of retails, The existing Woolworths carpark is an obvious community asset, food and beverage, fitness and spa/ and the additional spaces being proposed would be a clear beauty salons. public benefit. **Community newsletter – letterbox** The newsletter included an overview of the proposal, community benefits, and an invitation to attend the community information dropdrop On 28 July 2022, a community in sessions. newsletter was distributed to more than 6,000 businesses and residents No feedback received following newsletter distribution. surrounding the site. Two community information Feedback included: sessions Traffic, access and parking Military Road is already heavily congested and can't handle an Woolworths hosted two community information sessions on 13 and 15 increase, traffic assessments should also have been conducted August 2022. There were around 15 through the AM peak. locals in attendance at each session. Concern about additional traffic movements due to additional residential use and expanded car parking. Having one access point on Yeo St will cause a lot of traffic that will block resident access to their driveways. Concerns regarding safety - dangerous having the entry point so close to the public school, drivers undertaking dangerous manoeuvres due to congestion. Height and built form - Seen as out of keeping with the local area and would set a precedent for future development: "Chatswood or St Leonards in Neutral Bay". Concern about overshadowing on Yeo St properties. Cynicism that 10 storeys would not be adhered to. When asked, most people identified 5-6 stories as being acceptable (in line with the neighbouring Muse Apartments). Some support for the architectural design. Concern that the community plaza will be a wind tunnel and overshadowed; concern that there will be a low-grade food experience. The term "windy food court" was used by a number of attendees. Community newsletter - providing The newsletter included an overview of how the proposal has been an update on proposed plans changed and retained following community feedback. On 12 September 2022, a community Feedback included:

Enquiry regarding connection for cyclists.

Activities Details / community feedback than 21,000 businesses and residents Interest in leasing commercial space. surrounding the site. Support for the revised height – noting Woolworths has listened to community feedback. Engagement email and 1,800 letter Feedback included: box drops Three separate enquiries from residents noting that they would prefer the Rangers Road Woolworths to be replaced with a Big Urbis Engagement received 10 emails and five phone calls between March Many residents noted that they drive to Warringah Mall to do and September 2022. shopping and something closer would be convenient. It looks interesting, and the arrangement is pleasing. Feedback that the development is excessive in both height and volume and the new supermarket, retail areas and apartments would add large volumes of additional traffic to an already very busy precinct. The outdoor public plaza, new cafes and restaurants would be of dubious utility as it would be largely overshadowed by the building. Note from residents that changes to the proposed development following community feedback have some way towards heeding comments and feelings made for the above redevelopment by the community.

Noting the feedback received following the community information session held in August 2022, it became evident that the local community had concerns about the proposed 10 storey concept. In response to the community and Council's verbal feedback, Fabcot Pty Ltd informed North Sydney Council that it is willing to amend the proposal to reduce the height from the proposed 7-10 storey concept to a 6-8 storey concept that is directly in line with the massing espoused for the site under the previously endorsed Military Road Corridor Planning Study and Neutral Bay Future Directions Report.

During October and November 2022 Woolworths engaged Urbis and Taverner Research, community engagement specialists to undertake independent community research on the revised proposal (now proposed under this application). **Appendix J** provides a detailed overview of these findings which concluded:

- Six out of ten residents agreed that the area needed an upgrade. Only few agreed it is "lively and activated", or that is easy to access by car.
- About half of respondents of the survey supported the 6 storey scheme and residential units in the area.
- Some of the responds felt favourably towards more residential development, and an improvement in the range of services and amenities made available for residents. There was also a belief that the area needs refreshing / upgraded.

Fabcot has an opportunity to embrace the feedback of the community who wish to ensure the charm of their village is preserved and that the proposal does not result in worsening traffic problems and crowding in the area.

Local Planning Panel Decision on Planning Proposal

On 14 September 2022, the Planning Proposal was considered by the North Sydney Local Planning Panel. The Council had recommended to not support the Planning Proposal at the Panel meeting for the following reasons:

- The proposal is not underpinned by an endorsed comprehensive strategic planning study for the locality and if implemented, will undermine the ability to achieve the objectives and actions of high-level strategic planning policies relating to the site, including:
 - Greater Sydney Regional Plan A Metropolis of Three Cities;
 - North District Plan; and
 - North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement.

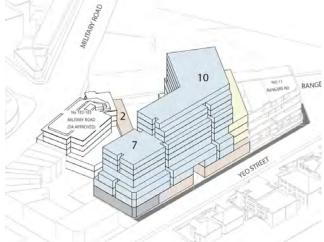
- The proposal is inconsistent with the following section 9.1 Ministerial Directions under the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979:
 - Direction 1.1 Implementation of Regional Plans
 - Direction 5.1 Integrating Land Use and Transport
 - Direction 7.1 Business and Industrial Zones
- The indicative concept design fails to demonstrate how the site could be acceptable developed to the
 requested heights insofar that it does not respond adequately to the site attributes and context and will result
 in significant level of public and private amenity impacts including dominance of the public domain,
 overshadowing and traffic generation;
- The proposal would set an unacceptable precedent prior to the establishment of a finalised policy position for future development in the locality, and undermine the future strategic planning work for the Neutral Bay Town Centre; and
- The proposal undermines the development potential and public benefit opportunities of the immediately adjoining site to the north.

On 10 October 2022, the Council resolved to not support a Gateway Determination for the Planning Proposal (see attached). We have been informed the proposal was considered to lack strategic and site-specific merit due to the building height being excessive compared with its context.

2.4 Rezoning Review (RR 2022-29)

On 26 October 2022 a Rezoning Review Request was lodged and submitted on the basis that the Council had resolved to not support the Planning Proposal proceeding to Gateway Determination. It was understood that the proposal was considered to lack strategic and site-specific merit due to the building height being excessive compared with its context.

In light of the feedback received from the community during the community consultation sessions undertaken in August 2022, Woolworths informed the Panel of their willingness to amend the proposal to reduce the height from the proposed 7-10 storey concept to a 6-8 storey concept as shown in **Figure 5** and **Figure 6**. The proposed amended scheme was provided as an additional consideration for the Sydney North Planning Panel when making their decision on whether the project could proceed to Gateway Determination. The proposed amended scheme sought to effectively address Council's key concerns and matters raised from the local community as they related to height, scale, overshadowing and traffic. Despite making such concessions, Fabcot Pty Ltd was still committed to delivering a high-quality renewal project, including the provision of significant benefits in the form of a new public plaza and through site link, and publicly accessible parking for use by the broader community.





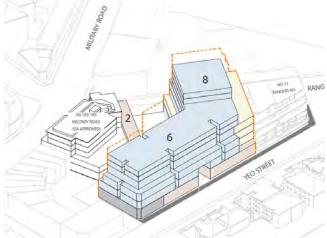


Figure 6 Revised part 6 and part 8 storey scheme (orange dashed line indicates previous scheme)

Source: KTA Source: KTA

On 7 December 2022, the original scheme as lodged, and the proposed amended scheme was presented to the Sydney North Planning Panel. However, given the substantial change between the original scheme and proposed amendments, the Panel determined that the Planning Proposal should not be submitted for Gateway determination on 12 December 2022.

The Panel's decision was concluded on the basis that the proposal had demonstrated strategic merit but not site-specific merit. The following key conclusions were made:

- Not-withstanding the erosion of commercial office floor space, the Panel considered the proposal had demonstrated some strategic merit – the previously endorsed Study and Future Directions Report and current work to revise the Study, provide a clear indication of the Council's and Community's desire to revitalise and renew the Neutral Bay Town Centre.
- However, the Panel noted the proposal did not adequately demonstrate Site Specific Merit and remained unacceptable in terms of number of storeys, human scale frontage to the proposed plaza, incorporation of public land, non-residential FSR, overshadowing, traffic and transition to low-scale residential areas south of the site. Accordingly, the Panel resolved that the proposal should not be submitted for Gateway determination.
- The Panel did note the high level of consultation between Proponent and Council over recent years as the
 Planning Proposal was progressed and also noted the Proponent's stated willingness to submit a revised
 proposal to include substantial reductions to height, GFA and number of apartments. While the Panel felt
 elements of the revised proposal would have considerable merit, none had been formally submitted or
 reviewed and the extent of the muted changes were beyond the Panel's discretion to accept as minor
 changes.
- Given the long gestation of this project on a key site in the town centre and the timing of changes to Council's relevant planning strategies, the Panel suggests it would be in the community interest for the Proponent, Council and Department to meet as soon as possible to pursue agreement on a revised proposal.

This Planning Proposal will provide a direct response to the Panel's comments, proposing a reduced scheme with decreased heights, total GFA and number of apartments.

3.0 The Site

3.1 Site Location and Context

The site is located at 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay. It is situated within the North Sydney Local Government Area (LGA) on a prominent corner within the Military Road Corridor as defined by North Sydney Council.

Located just 5km north of the Sydney CBD, within Sydney's Lower North Shore, Neutral Bay has a key role to play in the provision of housing and employment, given its proximity to the commercial centres of the Sydney CBD, North Sydney, St Leonards and Chatswood. The high frequency bus network along Military Road links the site to these strategic centres via the Bus Stands A, B and C, which are located approximately 20m to the north at the site frontage. Refer to **Figure 2**.

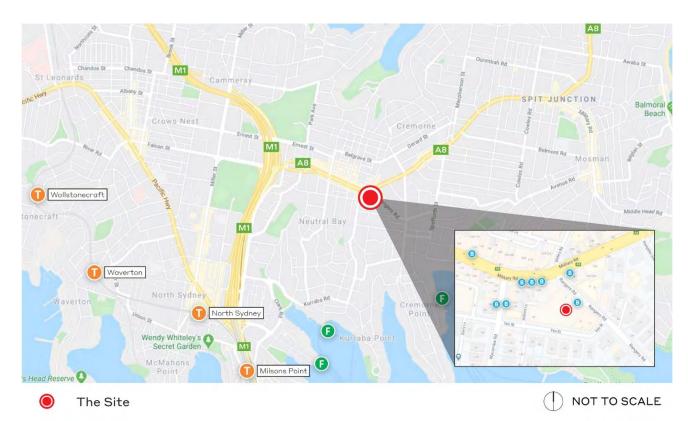


Figure 7 Site Context Map

Source: Ethos Urban / Google Maps

3.2 Site Description

The site is irregular in shape and comprises of 3 allotments identified as Lots 1, 2 and 3 in DP 1091373. Woolworths owns the stratum-subdivided lot at 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay, providing a total site area of 4,207m². The site identified in red represents 'site 3' under the MRCPS. The site for this application is identified in red as shown in **Figure 6.**



The Site

NOT TO SCALE

Figure 8 Site Aerial

Source: Ethos Urban / Nearmap

The site has a frontage to 2 primary roadways, a 75m frontage to Rangers Road and an 89m secondary frontage to Yeo Street at the rear. The site also has a frontage to Military Lane at the rear, which acts as a service lane.

3.3 Existing Development

1-7 Rangers Road is currently occupied by an existing single storey Woolworths supermarket and adjoining bottle shop. Customers currently access the supermarket from both Rangers Road and Yeo Street. Basement car park access is located on Yeo Street, with loading and servicing currently via a loading dock on Military Lane. 50 Yeo Street currently contains a six-storey commercial building occupied by WOTSO Workspace. The existing Woolworth supermarket village and 50 Yeo Street commercial building are part of a stratum arrangement.



Figure 9 Existing Woolworths and bottle shop

Source: Ethos Urban



Figure 10 Existing rear Woolworths parking entry

Source: Ethos Urban



Figure 11 Existing development at 50 Yeo Street

Source: Ethos Urban



Figure 12 Military Lane

Source: Ethos Urban

3.4 Surrounding Development

North

Development north of the site on the northern side of Military Road comprises commercial and retail tenancies accessed from Military Road pedestrian footpaths. The built form is predominantly two storey buildings comprising small scale fine grain retail tenancies with commercial uses above. Development further north along Grosvenor Street comprises medium density development and multi storey commercial buildings.



Figure 13 Development on the northern side of Military Road

Source: Google Maps



Figure 14 Development further north at Grosvenor St

Source: Google Maps

South

To the south of the site on the opposite side of Yeo Street are a number of residential flat buildings. These residential flat buildings are typically three storeys and contain some dwellings with north-facing windows and balconies. A number of smaller scale residencies are also located on the southern side of Yeo Street, while they have windows facing Yeo Street, plans obtained of these dwelling indicate that their internal orientation is to the south.



Figure 15 Residential properties located south of the site

Figure 16 Existing residential development on the south side of Yeo St

Source: Ethos Urban

East

Source: Ethos Urban

The site at the corner of Yeo Street and Rangers Road is a more recent 6 storey residential flat development (**Figure 13**).

To the east on the opposite side of the road is 9-11 Rangers Road, a recently completed five-storey residential building. The building has ground floor retail tenancies and basement car parking, and is built to the boundary with a blank wall. Further east of the site, on the eastern side of Rangers Road, comprises a series of residential development of varying typologies including a residential flat building with ground floor retail on the corner of Military Road and Rangers Road.



Figure 17 Development on the eastern side of Rangers Road

Source: Ethos Urban



Figure 18 Development on the eastern side of Rangers Road

Source: Ethos Urban

West

Immediately west of the site is Military Lane providing rear access for a number of buildings. Development located directly west of the site comprise a four storey residential flat building with ground floor retail towards Yeo Street (**Figure 15**).



Figure 19 Development on the eastern side of Rangers Road

Source: Ethos Urban



Figure 20 Development on the eastern side of Rangers Road

Source: Ethos Urban

3.5 Transport, Access and Connectivity

3.5.1 Vehicular Access and Parking

Rangers Road accommodates one lane in each direction and provides on-street car parking on both sides. The road provides a one-way carriageway from Military Road at the north and terminates at the Spofforth Street intersection.

Yeo Street accommodates one lane in each direction and provides on-street car parking on both sides. Yeo Street -west connection runs parallel to Military Road, extending from Rangers Road in the east and terminating at the Bent Street intersection in the west. Yeo Street provides access to the existing main basement level parking for the Woolworths site.

3.5.2 Public Transport

The site is within convenient proximity on Military Road outside three (3) separate bus stops known as Stand A, Stand B and Stand C. Each bus stand provides numerous high-frequency bus services that travel to the Sydney CBD, greater North Shore, Northern Beaches and Western Suburbs. The bus services with stops located close to the site are illustrated in **Table 2**.

Table 2 Bus network along Military Road

Stand	Route	Route Description
Stand A	151	Mona Vale to City QVB
	168X	North Balgowlah to City Wynyard via North Balgowlah (Express Service)
	169	Manly to City Wynyard via Narrawenna
	171X	Manly to City Wynyard via Clontarf (Express Service)
	175X	Warringah Mall to City Wynyard (Express Service)
	178	Cromer Heights to City Wynyard
	180	Collaroy Plateau to City Wynyard
	185X	Mona Vale to City Wynyard via Warriewood

Stand	Route	Route Description
	188	Mona Vale to City Wynyard
	188X	North Avalon Beach to City Wynyard
	189X	Avalon to City Wynyard (Express Service)
	190X	Palm Beach to City Wynyard
	243	Spit Junction to City Wynyard
	244	Chowder Bay Mosman to City Wynyard
	245	Balmoral to City Wynyard
	246	Balmoral Heights to City Wynyard
	247	Taronga Zoo to City Wynyard via Mosman
	248	Seaforth to City Wynyard
	249	Beauty Point to City Wynyard
	430	Sydenham to Taronga Zoo
	B1	B-Line Mona Vale to City Wynyard
Stand B	154X	Mona Vale to Milsons Point (Express Service)
	168	North Balgowlah to Milsons Point
	173	Narraweena to Milsons Point
	227	Mosman Junction to Milsons Point
	228	Clifton Gardens to Milsons Point
	229	Beauty Point to Milsons Point via Balmoral
	230	Mosman Wharf to Milsons Wharf via North Sydney
	246	Balmoral Heights to City Wynyard
	257	Chatswood to Balmoral via Crows Nest
Stand C	143	Manly to Chatswood via Balgowlah & St Leonards
	144	Manly to Chatswood via Royal North Shore Hospital
	257	Chatswood to Balmoral via Crows Nest

3.5.3 Pedestrian Connectivity and Accessibility

The site is located within less than 40m of Bus Stands A to C which provide excellent access to numerous bus services shown in **Table 2**, providing direct connectivity to the northern suburbs, Chatswood, St Leonards and Milsons Point railway stations and the Sydney CBD. Current pedestrian access into the Woolworths site is obtained via Rangers Road and vehicular access is obtained via the basement car park accessed from Yeo Street, which is also used for the Wotso office building on Yeo Street. Servicing access for Woolworths and the Wotso commercial building is obtained via Military Lane. Although the site currently enjoys excellent access to the bus network at Military Road, there is an opportunity to substantially improve access across the wider site to provide a north-south pedestrian connection from Military Road and Rangers Road through to Yeo Street and surrounds.

3.6 Heritage

The site is not subject to any statutory heritage listing, nor is it within a heritage conservation area. Several heritage items are in the vicinity of the site, being:

- "Former CBC Bank", 28 Military Road, Neutral Bay. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013. Heritage Item No. 10677:
- "Shop", 196 Military Road, Neutral Bay. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013. Heritage Item No. 10676;
- "Shop", 194 Military Road, Neutral Bay. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013. Heritage Item No. 10675;
- "House", 144 Wycombe Road, Neutral Bay. North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013. Heritage Item No. 10761.

4.0 Current Planning Controls

4.1 North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013

The North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 (NSLEP 2013) is the principal environmental planning instrument applying to the site. The provisions of the NSLEP 2013 and the key development controls as they relate to the site are outlined below in **Table 3.**

Table 3 Current North Sydney LEP 2013 provisions

LEP Clause	Provision
2.1 Land use	The site is zoned B4 Mixed Use. Development for the purposes of retail, commercial and residential uses are permissible with development consent.
4.3 Height of Buildings	The maximum height of buildings is 16m.
4.4 Floor Space Ratio	There is no stipulated maximum FSR for the site.
4.4A Non-residential Floor Space Ratio	The minimum non-residential FSR for the site is 0.5:1.
6.12A Residential flat buildings in Zone B4 Mixed use zones	Development consent must not be granted for development for the purpose of a residential flat building on land to which this clause applies unless the consent authority is satisfied that the residential flat building is part of a mixed-use development, and no part of the ground floor of the building that is facing a street is used for residential accommodation.

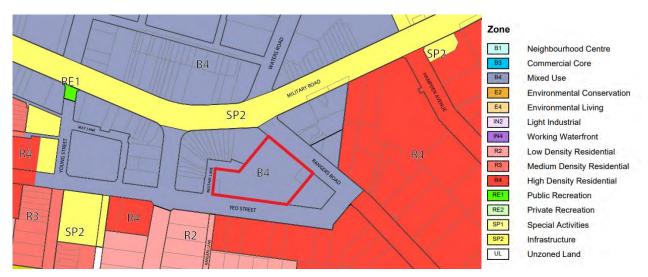


Figure 21 Land Zoning map, North Sydney LEP 2013 (site in red outline)

Source: Land Zoning Map – Sheet LZN_003 and Sheet LZN_004, NSLEP 2013

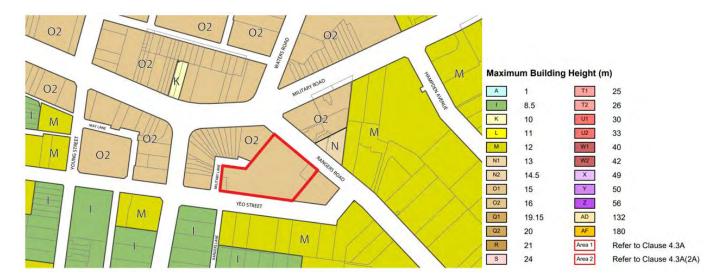


Figure 22 Height of Buildings map, North Sydney LEP 2013 (site in red outline)

Source: Height of Buildings Map – Sheet HOB_003 and Sheet HOB_004, NSLEP 2013



Figure 23 Floor Space ratio map, North Sydney LEP 2013 (site in red outline)

Source: Floor Space Ratio - Sheet FSR_003 and Sheet FSR_004, NSLEP 2013



Figure 24 Non-residential Floor Space ratio map, North Sydney LEP 2013

Source: Non-Residential Floor Space Ratio - Sheet LCL_003 and Sheet LCL_004, NSLEP 2013

4.2 North Sydney Development Control plan 2013

The North Sydney DCP 2013 provides additional detailed design guidance which builds upon the provisions of the North Sydney LEP 2013. The site is located on land within the Neutral Bay Town Centre character area which are subject to character area specific DCP provisions. Part of the site is also listed as a key site. Refer to **Figure 25**.

Neutral Bay Town Centre

The site is located within the Neutral Bay Town Centre. The North Sydney DCP (which is tailored to align with the incumbent LEP controls) envisages the Centre to provide a good mix of commercial, retail, restaurants and cafes to address the local community's needs. The desired future character seeks an activated ground plane with commercial activities maintained along street frontages to stimulate pedestrian activity with non-residential and residential uses above.

The North Sydney DCP highlights 1-11 Rangers Road as a key area as shown in **Figure 26.** Relevant controls applicable to the Centre, including the key area under the North Sydney DCP 2013 are identified in **Table 4.**

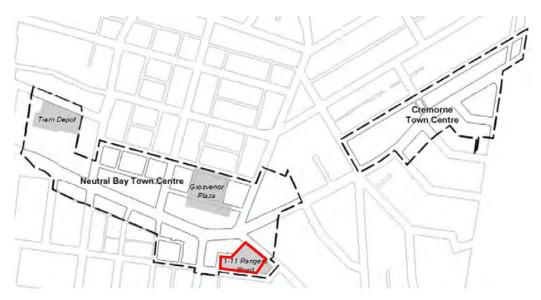


Figure 25 Neutral Bay Town Centre character area (identified in red)

Source: North Sydney Council

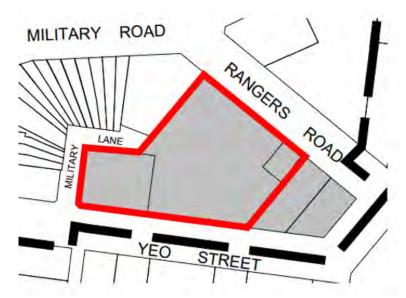


Figure 26 Site identified as a key area for the Neutral Bay town Centre

Source: Ethos Urban

Table 4 North Sydney DCP 2013 - Neutral Bay Town Centre Controls

Control	Provision
5.1.1. Significant	Elements
Land Use	P1 Predominantly mixed commercial and residential development.
Streetscape	 P8 Wide fully paved footpaths incorporating outdoor dining areas. P9 Buildings built to street and laneway frontages. P10 Continuous awnings along Military Road. P11 Irregular planting of street trees. P12 Active frontages to Military Road, Grosvenor Street. P13 90 degree on-street parking to Parraween Street.
Public transport	P14 Development is to take advantage of high levels of accessibility to high frequency public bus services along Military Road.
5.1.2 Desired Fut	ture Character
Diversity of activities, facilities, opportunities and services	 P1 Mixed commercial and residential development, primarily focused on Military Road. P2 A variety of commercial, retail, restaurants and cafes are provided at footpath level, non-residential or residential on the first floor and residential only on the upper floors. P3 Commercial activities should be maintained to all street frontages at ground level to stimulate pedestrian activity. P4 Activities should not have a detrimental impact to the safety and efficiency of vehicular traffic on Military Road.
5.1.3 Desired Bu	ilt Form
Form, massing and scale	 P2 Generally 4-5 storeys. P3 5-6 storeys in the block bounded by Military Road, Cabramatta Road and Spofforth Street. P4 Larger facades are broken up with changes in building frontage alignment and architectural detailing to reflect the former subdivision patterns, especially fronting Military Road.
Public spaces and facilities	 P5 Outdoor dining areas: a) are located within clearly defined spaces; b) are located away from main roads; c) are weather protected; and d) provide equal and unobstructed pedestrian movement. P6 Pedestrian arcades should be provided between Military Road and parallel laneways/streets to the north and south of Military Road to enhance pedestrian connectivity. P7 Views of shop fronts should not be obstructed from footpaths and roadways. P8 Encourage the retention and enhancement of trees within the public domain to improve public amenity.
Setbacks	 P9 Buildings should be built to all street frontages at ground level, except as follows: a) Setback 1.5m from the northern side of Military Road, at ground level between Young Street and Waters Road, and b) Setback 1.5m at ground level from all laneways.
Podiums	 P10 Podium of 8.5m (two storeys) to Military Road, east of Hampden Avenue, with a setback of 3m above the podium. P11 Podium of 10m (three storeys) to Military Road, west of Hampden Avenue, with a setback of 3m above the podium.

Control	Provision
	 P12 Podium of 8.5m (two storeys) to laneway frontages and frontages not to Military Road, with a setback of 3m above the podium. P13 Podium of 8.5m (2 storeys) to the east and west of Barry Street Plaza, with a setback of 3m above the podium. P14 Provide adequate podium setbacks where a site adjoins residential or open space zones
Building Design	 P15 Ground floor access to shops is to be provided to all properties with a frontage to Military Road, a frontage to the Grosvenor Lane car park / plaza, and those with a dual frontage between Military Road and Parraween Street. P16 Building elements, materials, finishes, and windows should relate to neighbouring buildings. P17 Laneways should be provided with active frontages, wherever possible
5.1.5 11 Rangers	Road
Diversity	P1 Supermarket (if possible), small shops at footpath level fronting streets and lanes, non-residential/residential on lower floors, residential above.
Form, massing and scale	 P3 Modern commercial building generally built to the boundary. P4 Development addresses laneways with active uses
Setbacks	 P5 Buildings should be built to all street frontages at ground level, except as follows: (a) Setback 1.5m at ground level from Rangers Road.
Podiums	 P6 Podium of 13m (four storeys) to Rangers Road, with a setback of 3m above the podium P7 Podium of 10m (three storeys) to Yeo Street and Military Lane, with a setback of 3m above the podium.
Landscaping	P8 Internal spaces provide a safe and pleasant meeting place.
Access	P9 Vehicular access to be provided from Military Lane.

5.0 Strategic context

5.1 Strategic Planning themes

This chapter demonstrates how the vision and intended outcomes for the site, enabled by the Planning Proposal, are consistent with a range of strategic planning objectives established by both Council and the NSW State Government. Specifically, the Planning Proposal supports key strategic planning moves relating to the following themes:



Employment & Productivity

Diverse Housing

Liveability

The concept of liveability is well established in contemporary planning dialogue and is used to refer to the aspects of a place that leads to a high quality of life and wellbeing. As defined in the Region Plan 2018, Northern District Plan 2018 and North Sydney LSPS 2020, these aspects, comprising both physical and social dimensions, include:

- A diversity of uses and users, with place based planning;
- The co-location of goods and services, to service the communities daily needs;
- The provision of diverse housing;
- Inclusive and accessible public spaces; and
- Walkable neighbourhoods with links for walking and cycling.

The Region Plan 2018 recognises that liveability not only contributes to productivity and sustainability but is also an important influence on individual wellbeing and community cohesion. Improving liveability is about creating and renewing great places, neighbourhoods and centres with improved access to local goods and services (Region Plan 2018; Northern City District Plan 2018).

The Planning Proposal presents the opportunity to deliver an active mixed-use hub, underpinned by liveability attributes at its core. In line with the strategic outcomes identified in the Region Plan (Objectives 7 & 10), the Northern City District Plan (Priorities N4, N5 & N6) and the North Sydney LSPS 2020 (Priorities L1, L2 and P3), the Planning Proposal will:

- a) Facilitate the provision of day to day goods and services, including fresh food and personal items, through the provision of retail floor space;
- b) Generate local employment opportunities;
- c) Deliver housing, in an accessible and well-serviced location. Notably, the Region Plan acknowledges increasing residential development within walking distance of centres with a supermarket, is a desirable liveability outcome;
- d) Provide high-quality publicly accessible spaces and shared communal areas to foster community connection;
- e) Improve the accessibility and connectivity of the public domain, to promote walking and cycling; and
- f) Incorporate sustainable design and building initiatives.

Employment & Productivity

The Region Plan (Objective 14) and the Northern City District Plan (Priority N12) as well as the North Sydney LSPS (Planning Priority N12) support the concept of a 30-minute city, where residents have greater access to jobs, shops and services, within 30-minutes of their homes. Development of the site presents the opportunity to deliver a mixed-use local hub, that supports a 30-minute city.

Achieving optimum placemaking outcomes and supporting a diverse range of employment opportunities is crucial to a productive and active centre. Council envisages their centres to be flexible and exhibit longevity to evolve and adapt over time to changing needs (North Sydney LSPS 2020 Priority P3 and P5).

Specifically, the Planning Proposal will:

- Revitalise the current ageing site for a new high quality mixed-use scheme for the Neutral Bay Town centre on a key site.
- Provide local employment opportunities for residents in a strategic local centre consistent with the outcomes in the North Sydney LSPS (Priority P4 and P6) as well as the North City District Plan (Priority N10 and E11);
- Enhance the Neutral Bay Town Centre with the inclusion of a small-medium sized urban supermarket which will support long-term success of the mixed-use centre;
- Increase the residential population through the provision of housing which will benefit local business; and

• Facilitate the delivery of development that will support the 30-minute city concept by providing high quality retail offerings as well as job opportunities within close proximity to housing.

Diverse Housing

As North Sydney's population steadily continues to grow, diverse housing will have a key role in supplying the growth and particularly in supporting an ageing population with smaller dwelling options. The Region Plan (Objective 10), Northern City District Plan (Priority N5) and North Sydney LSPS 2020 (Priority L1) recognise the importance of diverse housing supply in suitable locations, such as centres. It is integral that the future housing supply is located in suitable locations, such as that included in the proposal, to maintain residential amenity of the surrounding community and to ensure housing is accessible to transport and services to create sustainable living.

5.2 Metropolitan, District and Local Planning Strategies

5.2.1 Greater Sydney Region Plan 2018

To manage growth and change across Sydney, the Greater Sydney Commission released the Greater Sydney Regional Plan (the Region Plan) and the Northern City District Plan (the District Plan) in 2018.

The Region Plan guides integrated land use planning and infrastructure delivery over the next 20 years, with longer term vision extending 40 years. The Plan seeks to reposition Sydney as a metropolis of three cities and encourage land use planning and infrastructure integration to deliver a 30-minute city. Objectives in the Regional Plan include creating diverse jobs and developing infrastructure and services that align with forecast growth.

5.2.2 North City District Plan

The District Plan contains the planning priorities and actions for implementing the Regional Plan at a district level. The Regional Plan sets the 20-year vision for the district through 24 'Planning Priorities' that are linked to the Region Plan. The purpose of the District Plan is to support councils in planning for growth and to align the Local Strategic Planning Statements (LSPS) with place-based outcomes. The strategic intent of the District Plan is to provide for services, shops, cultural infrastructure, education and transport within close reach of residents. The District Plan acknowledges that the area is evolving and that infrastructure and services need to adapt to meet people's changing needs.

The District Plan also highlights an objective to foster heathy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities which are provided with housing supply in close access to jobs, services and public transport. Creating and renewing great places and local centres for these communities are also a key driver of change within the District Plan.

The District Plan indicates Neutral Bay as a local centre, it also concludes that the Northern City will require 80,000sqm of additional retail floorspace over the next 20 years. Specifically, the District Plan recognises the importance of improving access to local jobs and services that support the growing population. Neutral Bay will continue to provide a thriving centre that supports people living in close distances to jobs and local services.

Woolworths is looking to enhance the Neutral Bay local centre, through providing a new full-line supermarket, large retail offering, and commercial floorspace to deliver a diverse mix of uses and employment opportunities in close proximity to residents. This includes the integration of emerging trends such as 'direct to boot', to fulfil the changing needs of the community.

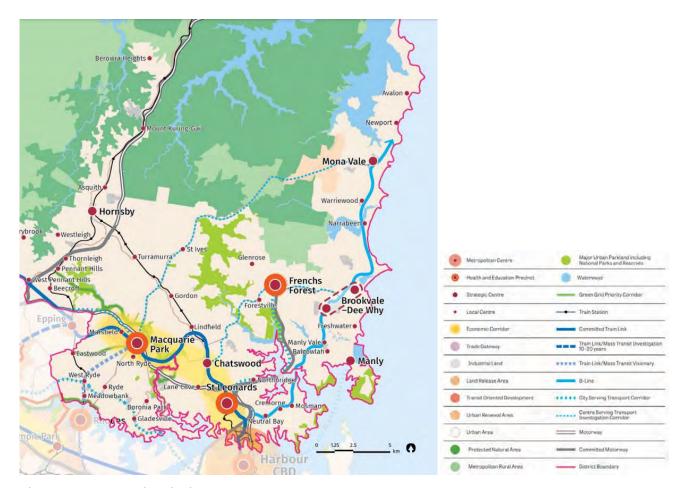


Figure 27 Northern City District - Structure Plan

Source: Greater Sydney Commission

5.2.3 North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement

Under changes made to the EP&A Act, all Councils were required to prepare a Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) to give effect to the Region and District Plan. The LSPS sets out a 20-year vision and planning priorities for the LGA that intend to manage future land uses across the area and implement the community's values and visions. The LSPS will inform changes to Councils' LEP, and other planning policies.

The North Sydney LSPS outlines an estimated population of 91,659 in 2036 from 72,150 in 2016. The vision for North Sydney is an integrated area ensuring people of all ages have access to local places with strong transport connections. As well as access to a range of employment opportunities with the local North Sydney centres to be hubs for jobs, shopping, dining, entertainment, and community activities. The vision for North Sydney includes the support and enabling of placemaking to create safe, liveable, sustainable, and economically productive areas.

This is outlined through the four themes of the LSPS, Infrastructure & Collaboration, Liveability, Productivity and Sustainability. The Neutral Bay local centre, which the proposal site is located within, has a role to be play in achieving the objectives of these themes. The proposal will also contribute to meeting the vision for the following priorities of the North Sydney LSPS 2020 by:

- Delivering diverse housing options that meet the needs of the North Sydney Community (Planning Priority L1)
- Providing a range of community facilities and services to support a healthy, creative, diverse and socially connected North Sydney community (Planning Priority L2)
- Enhancing the commercial amenity and viability of North Sydney's local centres (Planning Priority P3)
- Supporting walkable centres and a connected, vibrant and sustainable North Sydney (Planning Priority P6)

• Developing buildings and places that will contribute to net-zero emissions by 2056 to mitigate climate change, reduce waste generation, energy and water usage (Planning Priority S3).

The development of a mixed-use building comprising a full-line urban supermarket and retail ground plane with commercial and residential dwellings above, will enhance the Neutral Bay local centre which will further add to the realisation of the vision outlined in the LSPS. The proposal will facilitate a future development that directly responds to Planning Priority P3 to enhance the commercial amenity and viability of North Sydney's local centres. It will respond to the identified need for new high quality office space through the provision of mixed use developments comprising ground floor retail and residential uses above. Further, an increase in housing in the Neutral Bay local centre will further strengthen the centre's businesses as the residents utilise the services the centre offers.

6.0 Indicative Development Concept

This chapter of the report describes the Planning Proposal and the urban design principles that set the foundation for its structure. Further detail is provided throughout the environmental assessment in the following chapters.

A number of planning and design principles were established for the site taking into consideration the site-specific opportunities and constraints including but not limited to its locational attributes, surrounding built form context, strategic planning policy context, and the design intent under the MRCPS and Neutral Bay Town Centre Future Directions Report. These principles were then used to guide and inform how the site may be redeveloped in the future under the proposed planning controls. Specifically, it was established that any future redevelopment of the site was to:

- Provide an open, permeable and activated public domain through the inclusion of a new pedestrian plaza and through site link, ensuring any future development would provide a new additional focal point for Neutral Bay, serving residential catchments surrounding the town centre;
- Strengthen the local economy through the inclusion of new employment space, to increase local employment opportunities and reduce the need for local residents to travel to other employment centres.
- Improve pedestrian and vehicular access and movement by concentrating vehicular movement away from Military Road and providing new activated pedestrian links through the site, enhancing connectivity between Miliary Road, Rangers Road and Yeo Street.
- Provide a new built form that is compatible with the intent and desired character for Neutral Bay as set out within the MRCPS and Neutral Bay Future Directions Report.
- Enhance vibrancy and activation within Neutral Bay Town Centre through providing a new best in class Woolworths supermarket supported by cafés, shops and restaurants.
- Encourage sustainable modes of transport by delivering an envelope capable of accommodating bicycle
 parking and a through-site link that will encourage walkability; and
- Achieve high levels of sustainability through the adoption of market leading practices into any future detailed design.
- Ensure that any future built form will deliver a high quality design outcome.

6.1 The Vision

The concept vision for the site and its future redevelopment is centred on fulfilling the intent of the MRCPS, enabling the future delivery of a high quality mixed-use development including a contemporary full-line supermarket together with an active and inviting ground floor plane, above ground commercial employment space and residential on the upper levels, all of which is focussed around a new public plaza and through-site link that will act as a new community heart for Neutral Bay Town Centre and serve local community needs.

The proposal will capitalise on the site's size and strategic location at a prominent location within the Neutral Bay Town Centre and in proximity to the B-Line and mass transit Bus Stands along Military Road. The proposal seeks to deliver a much-improved public domain and increase permeability with the incorporation of a new through-site link connecting Rangers Road and Yeo Street. It will also enable the future delivery of a best in class full-line supermarket, provide additional boutique retail opportunities for shops and dining as well as new commercial floor space that will retain and increase employment opportunities within the Neutral Bay Town Centre.

Woolworths' aim is to support the revitalisation of the Neutral Bay Town Centre by providing a new high quality public domain supported by convenient shopping facilities and fine grain retail and dining opportunities that help activate and bring vibrancy to the centre.

6.2 Indicative Reference Scheme

Koichi Takada Architects (KTA) have prepared an Indicative Reference Scheme for the site (refer to **Appendix A** and **Appendix B** and **Figure 20 and 22**) that seeks to achieve the aforementioned design principles and intended outcomes of the Planning Proposal. The Indicative Reference Scheme demonstrates how the site could be

redeveloped in the future under the proposed amended LEP controls, whilst ensuring an outcome that is broadly consistent with the intent and desired outcomes espoused within the Neutral Bay Future Directions Report. Full details of the Indicative Concept Scheme are contained in **Appendix B,** however the key components of the scheme include:

- A singular integrated built form consisting of a basement level car park and subterranean supermarket, a two
 (2) story building along the site's northern boundary that helps frame the centralised town square, an eight (8)
 storey building along the site's eastern frontage to Rangers Road, dropping down to six (6) storeys as it moves
 to the west along Yeo Street and Military Lane. A building form along Yeo Street that has been designed to
 terrace back in its setback to the street as it increases in height, whilst also including recesses along the
 façade to help modulate the buildings appearance and reduce its visual massing when viewed from Yeo
 Street.
- Building heights that are consistent with the heights stipulated for the site under the MRCPS, and which have been further articulated to break down their linear scale, while the upper levels of the building include a setback to reduce bulk and appearance when viewed from Yeo street. Suitable building footprint depths ensure apartment configurations that optimise solar access, natural cross ventilation and visual amenity.
- A central town square fronting Yeo Street that acts as the focal point for the site and which provides a new gathering place for the community.
- A new double height covered through site link connecting from Yeo Street through to the town square and out to Rangers Road, providing through site access and increasing pedestrian permeability through the town centre.
- Provision of a fully activated ground floor plane across the site through a combination of primarily active retail edges together with commercial and residential lobby entrances.
- Alfresco dining opportunities within the town square and along the covered through site link.
- Above ground commercial uses that will ensure the site increases employment floorspace on site and supports the delivery of more jobs within the town centre.
- New residential apartments on the upper levels of the building that will help provide housing opportunities in a well located part of Sydney with excellent access to public transport and amenities.
- Provision of basement level parking via Yeo Street providing an access outcome consistent with the existing arrangement and helping to minimise congestion along Rangers Road and Military Road.

It is important to note that the Indicative Concept Scheme represents just one possible solution for how the site might be redeveloped under the proposed planning controls. It does not represent the only possible solution to the site's future design which would be subject to further design development and detailed analysis at the future development assessment stage.

6.3 Numerical summary

The key numeric development information is summarised in **Table 5** below.

Table 5 Key numeric development information

Component	Proposed Development Concept	
Site Area	• 4,207m²	
Maximum overall height (storeys)	• 2, 6 and 8 storeys	
Maximum overall height	32.3m (RL115.8)	
Gross Floor Area (GFA)	 Commercial: 2,407m² Woolworths supermarket: 3,282m² Retail: 1,877m² Residential: 8,302m² 	

Component	Proposed Development Concept
Public Plaza Communal rooftop	 1,000m² 700m²
Floor space ratio (FSR)	 Non-residential = 1:1.8 Residential = 1:1.97 Total = 1:3.77
Apartments	 1 bed: 10 2 bed: 14 3 bed: 39 Total: 63
Car parking	 Commercial: 40 spaces Woolworths supermarket: 132 spaces Retail: 32 spaces Residential: 58 spaces Public: 88 spaces Total: 350
Loading and servicing	Direct to boot: 6 pick-up baysTruck loading: 2 bays

6.4 Proposed Built Form

The building envelope proposed under the indicative reference scheme has been informed by the aforementioned design principles. It comprises a mixed use development comprising a singular connected built form focussed around a new town square and pedestrian through site link connecting Rangers Road and Yeo Street. The northern corner portion of the proposed built form fronting Rangers Road has a maximum building height of 32.2m (8 storeys), stepping down to 26.1m (6 storeys) along Yeo Street and Military Lane. The built form has been designed to respond to site specific constraints whilst still achieving a viable development outcome capable of supporting the delivery of a town square, through site link and street upgrades.

A two-storey retail podium sleeving the western boundary is also proposed and is intended to support the creation of a highly activated ground plane, consistent with the desired character and intent for the site under the Future Directions Report for the Neutral Bay Town Centre.

An indicative image of the proposal is shown in Figure 28.

Beneath the town square, the lower ground floor will comprise a full line best in class Woolworths supermarket and the upper ground floor will comprise a series of individual retail tenancies and commercial and residential lobbies surrounding public pedestrian plaza. Travelators and elevator access to the lower ground Woolworths and basement car parking will be provided.

The ground floor plane will provide a continuous through site link from Rangers Road in the north to Yeo Street in the south. The pedestrian plaza and through site link will be activated by the retail tenancies on the upper ground floor which will increase the amount of active retail frontages within the Neutral Bay Town Centre, allowing for more fine-grain retail shopping experience commensurate to the existing nature of retail along Military Road.



Figure 28 Artist impression of built form from Rangers Road

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

6.4.1 Residential component

The indicative reference scheme contains a total of 63 apartments in a variety of 1-bed, 2-bed and 3-bed apartment configurations above a retail, commercial and servicing podium.

The residential component has been designed to begin from Level 3 and has been designed to configure the residential dwellings to maximise casual surveillance of the public plaza, Rangers Road and Yeo Street. The apartments are serviced by six lift cores and common corridors will have access to lifts and ventilation. A communal terrace space and open recreational rooftop offering will also be provided to enhance residential amenity and ensure appropriate building separation and outlook to Yeo Street. All apartments have been configured to take into account high-level Apartment Design Guide amenity considerations such as internal and external size, solar access, cross ventilation and other amenity requirements.

6.4.2 Commercial component

The proposal aims to facilitate commercial land uses on site which will be accommodated across 3 level. Commercial floorspaces amounting to 2,407m² will be concentrated at the eastern portion of the development and will be accessed via commercial lobbies that are entered from Yeo Street.

6.4.3 Retail component and supermarket

The proposed development at the ground floor plane aims to deliver an extension of the pedestrian shopping experience at Military Road onto the subject site by providing a total of 1,877m² of retail GFA.

Ground floor retail development is proposed within the mixed-use building and sleeved along the western site boundary on the ground floor and level 1.

The proposed retail podium will comprise small-medium scale retail tenancies that will be occupied by a range of shops, cafes and restaurants, and which together will support the creation of an attractive, vibrant and welcoming neighbourhood hub centred around the town square.

A full-line Woolworths supermarket located beneath the town square will anchor the development and will span the entirety of the site, amounting to 3,282m². The subterranean arrangement at the lower ground floor is proposed to allow for the creation of the town square at ground level and ensure a fine grain and engaging, people focused town centre environment. The supermarket will be able to accessed from the ground level by pedestrians via an escalator along western boundary.

Figure 29 shows an extract of the lower ground floor plan demonstrating the supermarket intent.

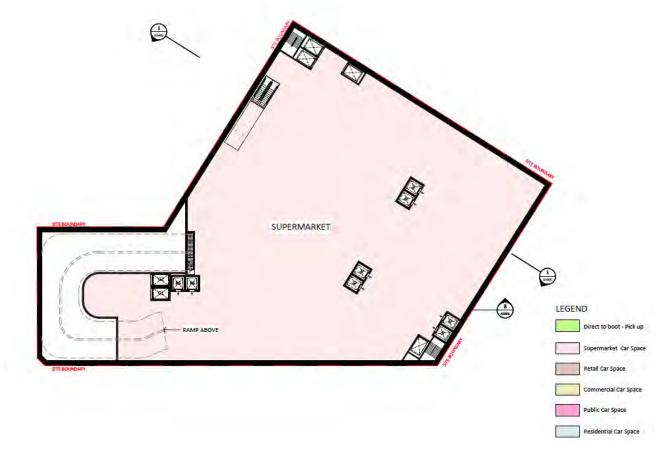


Figure 29 Proposed floorplan concept for the lower-ground supermarket

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

6.5 Through site link and public plaza

A key component of this Planning Proposal is to establish a highly permeable and connected ground floor plane that prioritises pedestrians needs and accessibility. The indicative reference scheme consists of generous internal public spaces connected via a new through-site link and upgraded footpaths with landscaped setbacks.

The proposed public plaza serves to increase the amount of active frontages provided by the site, increasing ground plane activation and allowing for more fine-grain retail and an enhanced pedestrian experience within the town centre. The new plaza will feature a new landscaped area for passive recreation and outdoor space to create a vibrant meeting place.

The proposed through-site link is intended to be a minimum width of 8.1m connecting Rangers Road in the north to Yeo Street in the south. The indicative reference scheme will provide seamless north south connections and the

through site link will provide opportunities for outdoor dining in a high quality public domain setting. In doing so it will become a destination for the local community, enhancing the retail and dining experience within Neutral Bay, and breathing new life into the town centre.

The proposed plaza and through site link will provide a genuine focal point for the local community, and fulfil the role of providing a true town centre for the southern side of Neutral Bay, serving the local community and creating better accessibility to the shopping, dining and transit options at Military Road. **Figure 30** provides an indicative sketch of the proposed through site link.



Figure 30 Artist impression of future through-site link

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

6.6 Landscape concept

A Landscaping Concept Scheme has been prepared by Arcadia and is appended at **Appendix C**. Key design principles for the scheme have been established to guide the design of the future landscaping for the site:

- Diversity ground plane experience
- Establishing a community heart
- Connecting a series of destinations

The indicative landscape scheme will include an active through site link, defined entry, outdoor seating with a new plaza (1,000m²) and communal rooftop open space for residents (1,000m². The following design elements are envisaged for the site to achieve a vibrant marketplace offering:

• **Community lawn:** A raised lawn fronting Rangers Road will provide passive recreational space and accommodate intimate dining experiences to be enjoyed by future residents and the existing Neutral Bay community.

- Social canopy: An outdoor seating area that is freeform and flexible for social gathering and small group events.
- Market place square: The heart of the future development which will be multi-purpose and designed to encourage use by the Neutral Bay community for live performances and key celebrations.
- **Flavour lane:** A fine grain activated pedestrian link between Yeo Street to the market place. The through site link will provide opportunities for outdoor dining and public art.
- **Roof terrace:** A secluded retreat for the residents to enjoy and relax including key amenities of a pool and yoga lawn. At the heart of the terrace a lawn area where residents can gather for communal activities is proposed.



Figure 31 Landscape reference scheme

Source: Arcadia

6.7 Access and Transport

6.7.1 Vehicular Access and Parking

Vehicular access is proposed to be provided via a driveway basement entry located on Yeo Street. The driveway will provide a controlled two-way ramped entrance to the shared five (5) level basement carpark spanned across the entirety of the site. The indicative development concept provides 350 car parking spaces and allocates a proportion of parking spaces to each land use, as outlined below.

Table 6 Car parking allocation per land use proposed

Land Use	Parking Spaces	Parking Level
Woolworths	132 parking spaces	Basement Level 02 & 03
Commercial	40 parking spaces	Basement Level 05
Retail	32 parking spaces	Basement Level 03
Residential	58 parking spaces	Basement Level 05
Public	88 parking spaces	Basement Level 04
Total	350 parking spaces	

6.7.2 Pedestrian Access

The public domain proposed for the site will provide a new through-site link access from surrounding streets to the new public plaza, residential, commercial and retail development. The new through site link will provide greater connectivity across the site, connecting the southern side of Neutral Bay to the site through to Military Road. Access to the residential and commercial lobbies will be made available at the ground floor via the new public domain pedestrian concourse. Public access to the new Woolworths retail component of the site at the lower ground level will be made available by elevators and lifts from the new ground floor plaza pedestrian concourse.

7.0 Planning Proposal

This Planning Proposal seeks to amend the North Sydney LEP 2013 to facilitate the site's future redevelopment. The proposed planning controls will enable the achievement of a mixed use development consistent with the Indicative Reference Scheme described in **Section 5.2**, comprising a new town square, through site link, full-line supermarket, commercial floorspace, residential apartments and specialty retail.

This Planning Proposal has been prepared in accordance with Section 3.33 of the EP&A Act and 'The Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline', which requires the following matters to be addressed:

- Part 1 A statement of the objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed instrument.
- Part 2 An explanation of the provisions that are to be included in the proposed instrument.
- Part 3 The justification for those objectives, outcomes and the process for their implementation.
- Part 4 Maps, where relevant, to identify the intent of the planning proposal and the area to which it applies.
- Part 5 Details of the community consultation that is to be undertaken on the planning proposal.
- Part 6 A project timeline outlining the key steps and timeframes of implementing the changes.

The following section outlines the objectives and intended outcomes and provides an explanation of provisions in order to achieve those outcomes. The justification and evaluation of impacts is set out in **Section 8.0** and **Section 9.0** of this report.

7.1 Overview of proposed amendments

To achieve the strategic vision and indicative redevelopment reference scheme presented at section C, this planning proposal seeks the following amendments to the North Sydney LEP 2013:

- Increase the maximum building height from 16m to 27m and 33m; and
- Increase the minimum non-residential floor space from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1.

7.2 Objectives and Intended Outcomes

The objective of this planning proposal is to seek amendments to the building height control and minimum non-residential floorspace controls as they apply to the site in order to facilitate a mixed-use development outcome consistent with the objectives of the site's B4 Mixed Use Zone. The intended outcome of the Planning Proposal is to enable a future mixed use development comprising a best in class supermarket at lower ground level, new ground level retail tenancies and new above ground commercial floorspace and residential apartments, all of which is to be centred around the creation of a new town square and through site link between Rangers Road and Yeo Street.

The proposal seeks to deliver on Council's intent for the site as outlined within the draft *Future Directions Report* which sets an aspiration to deliver a high level of public benefit for the community, stimulate local employment opportunities and contribute to the supply of residential housing with proximity to key metropolitan transit links.

A summary of the key objectives of this Planning Proposal is provided below:

- deliver a built form outcome that responds to the intent of the draft Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay Town Centre.
- deliver a high-quality mixed use development that exhibits design excellence on a site earmarked for high density residential development.
- assist in facilitating the evolution of the Neutral Bay Town Centre towards a high-amenity mixed-use centre
- enhance pedestrian amenity and connectivity by providing new north-south pedestrian linkages between Yeo Street and Rangers Road.
- enhance the quality of the retail environment within Neutral Bay Town Centre.

- maintain a viable commercial and retail presence on the site, at a scale that will meet the future needs of permanent new jobs to support the strengthening of the Neutral Bay Town Centre local economy; and
- deliver residential development in a desirable location that receives ample access to iconic views, public transport and surrounding civic amenities.
- deliver a diverse mix of residential apartments that will enjoy excellent amenity, taking advantage of the site's strategic location, proximity to services and the exceptional bus network along Military Road with direct connections to other major employment destinations.
- Enable the development of a high-performance building in terms of amenity and sustainability.

7.3 Explanation of Provisions

7.3.1 Land to which the plan will apply

This Planning Proposal applies to the site known as 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay and is formally described as Lots 1, 2 and 3 in DP 1091373.

The North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 sets out the local planning controls across North Sydney LGA. This planning proposal seeks to amend the NSLEP 2013 to facilitate the proposed mixed-use development outlined in this report.

The existing and proposed NSLEP 2013 controls as well as the amendments are outlined below.

Existing and Proposed NSLEP 2013 Controls

The existing and proposed NSLEP controls are outlined in **Table 7** below.

Table 7 Existing and proposed NSLEP 2013 controls

Provision	Existing NSLEP 2013 Control	Proposed NSLEP 2013 Control
Zoning	B4 Mixed-Use	B4 Mixed-Use (No change)
Height of Building	16m	27m and 33m
Non-residential Floor Space	0.5:1	1.8:1

7.3.2 Zoning

No change is proposed to the zoning application under the current NSLEP 2013 land zoning map. The proposed true mixed use nature of the site will envision residential, commercial and retail development which can all be facilitated under the current zone.

7.3.3 Maximum Building Height

It is proposed to amend the maximum height of building (HOB) control on the site to reflect an increase from 16m to between 27m and 33m within the site (between 6 to 8 storey) to redistribute massing to achieve the indicative mixed-use development. Accordingly, this Planning Proposal seeks to amend the Height of Buildings Map under the North Sydney LEP 2013, as identified in **Figure 32** which is an indicative representation of the amended Height of Buildings Map (Sheet 003 and Sheet 004 extract).

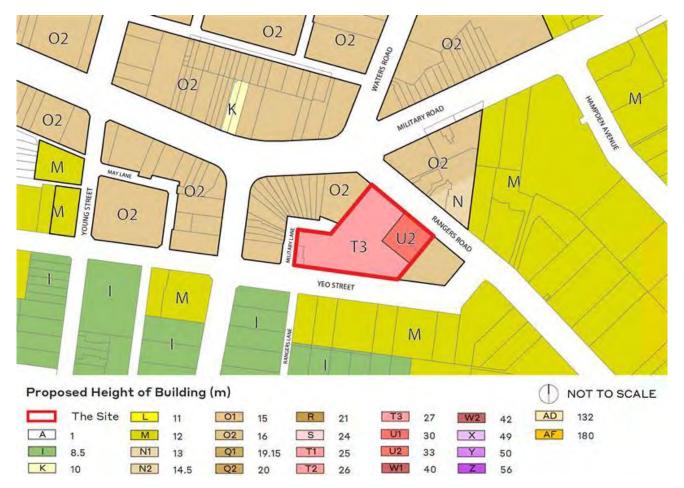


Figure 32 Proposed Height of Building LEP Control for the site

Source: Ethos Urban and NSLEP 2013

1.1.1.1 Non-residential Floor Space Ratio

As North Sydney LEP 2013 does not prescribe Floor Space Ratio controls, it is proposed to amend the non-residential floor space control on the site to increase the minimum requirement of non-residential floor space from 0.5:1 to 1.8:1. It is proposed to amend the Non-residential Floor Space Map under the North Sydney LEP 2013, as identified in **Figure 33** which is an indicative representation of the amended Non-residential Floor Space Map (Sheet 003 and Sheet 004 extract).



Figure 33 Proposed Non-residential Floor Space Control for the site

Source: Ethos Urban and NSLEP 2013

7.4 Mapping

As shown in **Figure 32** and **Figure 33** above, this Planning Proposal seeks to amend the following maps of the NSLEP 2013:

- Height of Building Map Sheet 003
- Height of Building Map Sheet 004
- Non-residential Floor Space Ratio Map 003
- Non-residential Floor Space Ratio Map 004

7.5 Site-specific Development Control Plan

A draft site specific DCP has been prepared and is attached at **Appendix H**. It contains site-specific provisions relating to the following;

- Site layout
- Land uses
- Public Domain
- Built Form
- Building Design
- Active Edges
- Parking, access and servicing

- Landscaping
- Noise
- Wind

The site-specific DCP has been prepared to provide clarity on the intended development outcome for the site through the creation of a set of site specific planning controls that the Council will be able to use in the assessment of any future development proposal.

7.6 Public Benefit Offer

An offer to enter in a Planning Agreement has been prepared by Ethos Urban on behalf of Fabcot Pty Ltd and is included under separate cover (**Appendix F**).

The offer proposes the following contributions: The offer proposes the following contributions:

- Contributions to a total value of \$6,614,724 comprising:
 - Publicly Accessible Square
 - o Construction and provision of a new publicly accessible square and through site link comprising approximately 1,000sqm of paved and landscaped area for public recreation, events and cultural activities. The space will include landscaping, outdoor furniture, lighting as well as all associated engineering works to make sure it functions appropriately. The proposed new square has been included in direct response to Council's stated ambitions for a new town square on this site, and will be designed to meet Council's aspirations for the space and respond to the desires of local residents for a community meeting place.
 - Public car parking
 - o Construction and provision of 88 parking spaces within the basement of the future development for use by the public.
 - Public Wi-Fi
 - o Provision of a new publicly available free Wi-Fi service within the Site.
 - Public Domain Improvements and landscaping
 - o Provision of paving upgrades to the footpaths along Rangers Road and Yeo Street.
 - Public Art
 - o Provision of money for the commissioning and installation of public art within the Site, with a focus on connecting with Country.

8.0 Strategic Justification

8.1 Section A -The Need for a Planning Proposal

8.1.1 Q1 – Is the Planning Proposal a result of an endorsed local strategic planning statement, strategic study or report?

The planning proposal responds to a number of strategic studies and reports, specifically the Military Road Corridor Planning Study and Draft Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay Town Centre, that set the intent for the future revitalisation of the Neutral Bay town centre It is important to note that at the time of finalising this Planning Proposal, after some two (2) years working in consultation with the Council, the newly elected Council resolved to rescind the Council's prior endorsement of both these documents. Given the extent of work that went into preparing the Planning Proposal and Woolworths commitments on land options for 50 Yeo Street, there is a window of opportunity available to carry out this rezoning. Accordingly, Fabcot need to progress the site-specific Planning Proposal rather than wait for the strategic documents to be reviewed and updated, as this could be between 12-24 months to complete. The previously endorsed MRCPS and Future Directions Report provide a clear indication of the Council's and community's desire to see revitalisation and renewal of Neutral Bay town centre. This Planning Proposal has been designed to respond to that aspiration and in doing so provides an outcome consistent with the MRCPS, specifically the proposal:

- Seeks to deliver new retail, commercial and residential floor space to support additional local jobs and housing opportunities, which are identified as the preferred land uses given the site's strategic location;
- Provides a significant public benefit through the provision of a new public plaza and covered through site link connecting Rangers Road and Yeo Street, together this new high quality public domain will contribute to improved pedestrian accessibility, activation and amenity within Neutral Bay town centre; and
- Contributes to the wider 'village atmosphere' through providing inviting spaces to encourage people to stay and enjoy the amenities of the town centre and in turn breathe vibrancy and vitality into town centre.

Further, the Planning Proposal aims to give effect to several planning priorities and actions within the North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS), including the LSPS planning priority to enhance the commercial amenity and viability of Neutral Bay town centre through facilitating a mixed-use development comprising ground floor retail and residential to support the future population.

In addition to the MRCPS and the draft Future Directions Report, the Planning Proposal is also the result of several specialist studies that have been prepared by the project team including:

Table 8 Supporting studies

Study	Consultant	Reference
Planning Proposal	Ethos Urban	
Urban Design Report and Architectural Plans	Koichi Takada Architects	Appendix A and B
Landscape Report	Arcadia	Appendix C
Transport Impact Assessment	JMT Consulting	Appendix D
Social and Economic Report	Ethos Urban	Appendix E

Together, the consultant studies provide a strong and compelling strategic planning case for the Planning Proposal on the following grounds:

The accompanying landscape works represent an opportunity to provide a built form that better integrates
with the surrounding public domain by providing a new town square and pedestrian through site link that is
activated on all sides with retail, café and restaurant uses. Together the new high quality public domain and
active ground plane will make a major contribution to the vitality and vibrancy of Neutral Bay town centre,
and stimulate further investment and renewal of the broader centre.

- The existing road network in the immediate vicinity of the site is adequate to accommodate the proposed concept, and will not result in any undesirable traffic and parking implications.
- The Indicative Reference Scheme is capable of complying with the key amenity standards established by the ADG.
- The overshadowing impacts are considered to be acceptable given the site context, the limited number of impacted properties, and the aspiration to deliver an enhanced town centre with significant new public benefits including the new town square and through site link.

8.1.2 Q2 – Is the Planning Proposal the best means of achieving the intended outcome, or is there a better way?

This planning proposal is the best means of achieving the objectives and intended outcomes. In order to achieve renewal of the site and the delivery of the proposed public domain improvements, the controls under the North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013 must be amended to facilitate approval of future development at the site.

This Planning Proposal achieves the intended outcomes for the site and has been prepared in response to the requirements of the key opportunity site identified in the MRCPS.

In preparing this Planning Proposal, three options were considered to facilitate the intended outcomes as set out in **Section 5.1**. These are listed and discussed below:

- Option 1: do nothing
- Option 2: redevelop the site under the existing planning controls; or
- Option 3: Submit a planning proposal to demonstrate the site's capability for additional uplift value.

Option 1 - Do nothing

Council's MRCPS establishes the need for the site to be redeveloped to support the increased demand for commercial, residential and community facilities. As a key opportunity site, the MRCPS identifies the opportunity for greater housing density, a new community facility and reinvigorated ground plane comprising an active commercial ground plane and public plaza, including a through site link. The statutory planning framework has not been amended to realise the strategic direction outlined in the MRPS and therefore the current planning framework that applies to the site will not enable renewal to occur as identified in the MRCPS.

Therefore, under option 1, the site would remain in its current state, with existing commercial development that does not respond to the growing population, nor fit the strategic role of an urban renewal precinct. Do nothing is therefore not considered an appropriate outcome for the site.

Option 2 - redevelop the site under the existing planning controls

Option 2 involves redevelopment of the site under existing planning controls. This would an outcome that would result in the supermarket being built at ground level and occupy the entire ground plane. Residential uses would then be located above up to the maximum height of 16m. Under this option the Council's aspiration for a new town square, through site link and an increase in the minimum non-residential floorspace would not be able to be realised. Activation of the ground plane would also be compromised as the ground floor supermarket would not be able to provide the same level of fine grain activation as could occur under the Indicative Reference Scheme.

Improving access to jobs and local services through a 30-minute city are key areas of focus in the district and regional strategic plans. The site is currently occupied by a mix of commercial uses that does not optimise the site's ideal location within close proximity to public transport, local services, recreation, education and job opportunities. Retaining the current planning controls would not enable renewal of the site for new local services, diverse housing and improvements to the public domain in a strategic location in the North City District.

Option 2 would therefore not maximise the site's ability to respond to the district and regional strategic plans.

Option 3 - Submit a planning proposal to demonstrate the site's capability for additional uplift value

This Planning Proposal is considered the best means of achieving the objectives and intended outcomes in accordance for the site identified within the MRCPS. This is the preferred option as it represents the best combined outcome because:

- It gives effect to the intended outcomes identified under the MRCPS report, unlocking additional mixed use uplift to support local retail and residential land uses.
- It optimises the site's capacity to accommodate identified demand for retail and housing growth, greater than what is achievable through the existing planning controls. The site under the existing controls is limited to a height of 16m, which restricts its ability to support greater density on site and in turn deliver the new town square and through site link. By contrast, the proposed planning controls will provide the opportunity to:
 - Deliver local employment growth through increased high quality commercial floorspace and new retail facilities;
 - Deliver significant public benefits in the form of new high quality public domain that will revitalise Neutral Bay town centre and act as a catalyst for further investment and renewal;
 - Ensure the highest and best use of the site;
 - Deliver new high quality housing in a location with very high public transport accessibility; and
 - Support increased retail capacity across the Neutral Bay town centre, helping to reinforce its primary retail and employment function within the local community.
- The Planning Proposal will give both Council and the landowner certainty as to the development outcomes expected on the site.
- The Planning Proposal does not seek to identify an overall maximum FSR control for the site. The reason for this is to ensure it remains consistent with the North Sydney LEP 2013 and to prevent the site from becoming an anomaly within the maximum North Sydney LEP Floor Space Ratio Map. Consistent with the rest of North Sydney, the overall gross floor area for any future development on the site will be controlled through a combination of the maximum height of buildings controls, the provisions under the North Sydney Council DCP and requirements under the Apartment Design Guide.

8.2 Section B - Relationship with the Strategic Planning Framework

8.2.1 Q3 – Will the Planning Proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional, sub-regional or district plan or strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?

This Proposal is consistent with the *Greater Sydney Region Plan*, North District Plan and the MRCPS report. The Proposal's compliance with the stated objectives and actions of both plans is discussed in greater detail below.

Greater Sydney Region Plan: A Metropolis of Three Cities

The *Greater Sydney Region Plan* is the overarching strategy for growing and shaping the Greater Sydney Area. It sets a 40-year vision (to 2056) and establishes a 20-year plan to manage growth and change for Greater Sydney in the context of social, economic and environmental matters. The plan was adopted in March 2018 and seeks to reposition Sydney as a metropolis of three cities – the western parkland city, central river city, and the eastern harbour city. In the same vein as the former *A Plan for Growing Sydney*, the Plan provides 10 high level policy directions supported by 40 objectives that inform the District Plans, Local Plans and Planning Proposals which follow in the planning hierarchy.

The proposal is consistent with the following directions under the Plan, which govern growth and development in Sydney (refer to **Table 9**).

Table 9 Consistency with Greater Sydney Region Plan

Direction	Consistency of the proposal with the Direction
A city supported by infrastructure	 The proposal supports the delivery of higher capacity development in line with the recent infrastructure completion of the B-Line and associated bus priority upgrades undertaken by local and state government (i.e TfNSW).
A city for the people	 The proposal supports people to walk, cycle and use public transport through improved pedestrian connections (including a through site link to Yeo street), end of trip facilities and provision of bicycle parking and maintenance facilities. The delivery of 1,000m² new public plaza will be activated by retail uses to create a vibrant and safe open space for the community and include opportunities for major artwork and street furniture to promote a great place to stay.
Housing the city	 The proposal will facilitate 63 residential dwellings comprising a mix of 1, 2 and 3 beds. The development seeks to optimise the site to continue its existing role as a key retail anchor, but now supported by new residential dwellings that will further cement the vibrancy and vitality of Neutral Bay town centre.
A well-connected city	The proposal seeks to deliver additional retail, commercial and residential floorspace, and in doing so will connect new jobs to high frequency public transport services. This will take advantage of substantial investment in public transport infrastructure and support the achievement of a '30-minute city.'
Jobs and skills for the city	The proposal will deliver a new high quality retail anchor supported by new boutique retail stores, cafes and restaurants, which will create significant new additional jobs in these industries. In addition to this new high quality commercial floorspace will ensure the ongoing role of Neutral Bay as a commercial centre and promote jobs growth in white collar industries.
A city in its landscape	The proposal does not affect any protected biodiversity or remnant or significant vegetation. Increased public domain and landscaping will be provided within the site that will contribute to increased landscaping, greater biodiversity outcomes, and help reduce the urban heat island effect.
An efficient city	 A key initiative of the proposal is to deliver a more sustainable development that is presently provided. ESD targets will be set as part of the future detailed development application.
A resilient city	 The proposal has sought to minimise exposure to natural hazards by ensuring that future development is not affected by flooding. The environmental initiatives implemented through the development will contribute to enhanced environmental outcomes and seek to mitigate impacts related to climate change.

North District Plan

The North District Plan underpins the Greater Sydney Region Plan and sets the 20-year vision for the District through 'Planning Priorities' that are linked to the Region Plan. Under this Plan, this site is strategically located within the Neutral Bay Town Centre of the North District. Key priorities of the District Plan which this Planning Proposal give effect to are elaborated below.

Table 10 summarises how the site will give effect to the relevant planning priorities.

Table 10 Consistency with the North District Plan

Planning Priority	Consistency/ Comment	
A City supported by infrastructure		
N1. Planning for a city supported by infrastructure	Aligning land use and infrastructure planning ensures that infrastructure is maximised, and that growth and infrastructure provision are aligned. The Planning Proposal will facilitate the future delivery of residential dwellings in a location serviced by the B-line and other bus services. In this regard it is aligned with bus priority infrastructure upgrades delivered by TfNSW.	
	Woolworths wishes to collaborate with Council to deliver an enhanced public open space focused on activation and improving the public domain experience. It is envisaged that Rangers Road Plaza, in partnership with Council will provide a key public domain space activated by shops, restaurants and cafes along the edges, creating a vibrant open space for the community.	
A city for people		
N4. Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities	The site benefits from the Neutral Bay Town Centre services and is within close proximity to open space. The proposed new town square will support social gatherings and foster strong social connections through creating a key place for social gathering. The site is also well connected to local bus routes, cycling links and walkable services to promote a healthy community.	
Housing the city		
N5. Providing housing supply, choice and affordability with access to jobs. services and public transport	The site is strategically positioned to accommodate residential uses, increasing supply within proximity to a local centre and public transport infrastructure. Redevelopment of the site presents the opportunity to deliver and increase housing diversity within the town centre. There is a need to ensure housing supply and choice with greater diversity in housing products to meet the growing needs of the community and future population.	
A city of great places		
N6. Creating and renewing great places and local centres, and respecting the District's heritage	The proposal will facilitate social cohesion and celebration of community through the delivery of the new town square close to cycling and public transport connections. This will include an active ground plane with the opportunity to support and enhance the local night time economy, as well as respond to the community's social and recreational needs.	
A well-connected city		
N12. Delivering integrated land use and transport planning and a 30-minute city	The '30-minute city' model is a long-term aspiration for Sydney whereby jobs and services and strategic/metropolitan centres are accessible within 30 minutes by public transport. This site is in walking distance to local services and is well-placed to benefit the '30-minute city' model, by providing housing supply and retail opportunity within a highly accessible location and thereby improve access to jobs and services.	
A city in its landscape		
N20. Delivering high quality open space	The proposal will include the delivery of open space through the new town square and through site link. This will improve walking and cycling connections and contribute to the overall open space network of the local government area.	

MRCPS: Neutral Bay Town Centre – Future Directions Planning Study

Despite Council rescinding the Neutral Bay Town Centre - Future Directions Planning Study in January 2022, the MRCPS outlines Council's intent for key planning control changes to facilitate improved build form outcomes in

the interest of the community. The site is identified as a key opportunity site to support taller mixed use buildings and new open space and community facilities.

Table 11 illustrates how the proposal will support the delivery of a future outcome for the site's that is largely consistent with the identified objectives and requirements:

Table 11 Consistency with the MRCPS: Neutral Bay Town Centre – Future Directions Planning Strategy

Objective/ requirement	Consistency of the proposal
Objectives	
Support local jobs, local shops and housing opportunities	The site is strategically positioned to accommodate residential uses, increasing supply within close proximity to public transport and local services. Redevelopment of the site will deliver a mix of 1, 2 and 3 bed apartments, contributing to meeting the need of greater diversity in housing products. The proposal will also provide a mix of retail and commercial uses to support local jobs and strengthen the local economy
Create a new public plaza fronting Rangers Road	A 1,000m ² town square and through site link comprising a unique landscaping concept and tree canopy is proposed. The town square will provide recreational passive spaces and contribute to enhancing the vibrancy and sense of place for Neutral Bay Town Centre.
Improve pedestrian amenity and access between Rangers Road and Yeo Street	A through site link is proposed between Rangers Road and Yeo Street, providing north-south connections and increased accessibility to the south of Neutral Bay Town Centre.
Deliver a new community facility, bicycle parking and public parking	Bicycle and public parking are capable of being delivered on site. The proposal will deliver improved community benefit through the new town square and through site link. It is anticipated that the adjacent north-western site (185 Military Road, Neutral Bay) will be redeveloped in the future to include the new community facility that is envisaged by the Future Directions Report. Given that the site that is subject of the Planning Proposal is delivering the town square and through site link, it is considered appropriate and equitable for this site and 185 Military Road to share the responsibility for funding and delivering the community benefits.
Support the village atmosphere	The proposal will revitalise the site to enhance the Neutral Bay town centre through increase public benefits and improved public domain with the delivery of a new town square and through site link. The proposed development aligns with the study direction to ensure future growth that results in a more attractive place for workers, residents and visitors.
Requirements	
1. Provide additional non-residential floor space with a minimum 2.0:1 FSR	A minimum non-residential FSR of 1.8:1 is proposed for the site. While this is slightly below the figure espoused in the MRCPS and Future Directions Report, the mount of non-residential floorspace significantly exceeds that which is provided on site at present and will make a significant contribution to local job creation and reinforcing the primary retail and commercial role of the town centre.
2. Residential towers should appear slender, maximise above podium habitable facades to all sides	The proposal reflects appropriate massing that is sympathetic with the existing and desired future character of the area. The proposed residential built form is appropriately setback and comprises an appropriate bulk and scale appearance when viewed from the streetscape.

Objective/ requirement	Consistency of the proposal
3. Provide a new community facility (1,000m²) (see Chapter 2.1)	The proposal will deliver a new 1,000m² town square that will include new centralised open space and a through site link. This will provide significant public benefit through providing increased north-south connections as well as new open public space for passive recreation. Given the proposal is delivering this major public benefit it is considered appropriate that the new community facility be delivered as part of the future redevelopment of the adjacent north-western site (185 Military Road, Neutral Bay). This approach allows for the equitable delivery of public benefit across the two parcels of land that form as part of the Opportunity Site and which are identified for uplift under the Future Directions Report.
 4. Deliver 1,250m² new public domain including: A 1,000m² new public plaza with an underground supermarket A through-site-link to Yeo Street A 2.5m whole of building setback that expands the tree canopy along Rangers Road and Military Road 	A key component of the proposal is the delivery of a new town square (1,000m²) and through site link. The new town square will comprise a unique landscaping concept and form a centrally located open space within the broader Neutral Bay Town Centre. The proposed through site link running through the site will provide seamless north-south connections and encourage increased foot traffic into the public plaza. The detailed design of landscaping will be determined within a future development application. While the proposed town square is slightly smaller in area than that anticipated under the MRCPS and Future Directions Report, the scale of the space is still significant and will enable the delivery of a high quality centralised open space as illustrated in the Landscape Report (Appendix C). Importantly, the town square will support opportunities for play, social gathering, live performances, alfresco dining etc. It is therefore sufficient to support a wide variety of functions to service the community and will play an important role in focussing activity and a sense of community within the town centre.
5. Deliver a 14-space public commuter bicycle parking facility	The proposal is capable of accommodating future bicycle parking which will be delivered as part of a future detailed development application.
6, Activate street edges along Rangers Road, Military Road, the new plaza, through-site-link and part of Yeo Street	The proposal will revitalise the site through a mix of retail spaces fronting Rangers Road, Yeo Street and the new public plaza. The proposal will result in a significant improvement to the amenity and quality of the public domain as well as generate increased pedestrian activity and interaction. Outdoor seating is also envisioned along the frontages facing the public plaza and Yeo Street to achieve more genuine activation.
7. Deliver loading and basement access through Military Lane or potentially along Yeo Street, subject to a transport study	Basement access for loading is proposed off Military Lane. Access for car parking is provided off Yeo street. (Refer to the Transport Impact Assessment at Appendix D for further detail).
8. Mitigate wind impacts to the public plaza	The proposal will deliver a positive urban design outcome with improved wind comfort, wind safety and daylight levels in the public open space. Detailed testing will be completed as part of a future detailed development application.
9. Provide access to underground uses within a building facade to limit structures on the plaza	Pedestrian access to the subterranean supermarket is proposed via travelators forming part of the Rangers Road frontage. The proposed access is well integrated within the building frontage and has been designed to open up into the public plaza.

Strategic Merit Test

The Local Environmental Plan Making Guideline sets out that in order to answer this question, a planning proposal needs to justify that it meets the Strategic Merit Test. The consistency of this Planning Proposal with the mandated assessment criteria is set out below.

8.2.2 Q3a) Does the proposal have strategic merit?

The Planning Proposal demonstrates strategic merit as:

- The site upholds high strategic value as it located in a well connected and serviced area of the North City District. The site is well-aligned with the growth directions of the Greater Sydney Regional Plan and North City District plan in supporting the vision of a 30-minute city.
- The proposal is consistent with the North Sydney LSPS, which envisages the future renewal of Neutral Bay town centre, including new built form, public domain improvements and new public spaces, additional residential accommodation and new employment generating floorspace.
- The site is located within an established centre at Neutral Bay and the Planning Proposal will facilitate a significant mixed-use development which will provide an opportunity to accommodate the future population with new housing and job opportunities within close proximity to public transport. The proposal directly unlocks residential floorspace to support future population's growing and changing needs.
- The site's location in close proximity to the local bus routes, provides an opportunity to deliver land uses within the local centre commercial and retail services as well as the surrounding strategic centres, aligned with the 30-minute city vision.
- The infrastructure is already in place to support activation. The proposal will deliver intensified land uses given walking distance to the B-line local bus route.
- The proposal's future land uses will promote social cohesion and celebration through the delivery of a new high quality town square and through site link that will bring together the community and reinforce the role that the town centre plays for its local community. The place led approach adopted for the project will therefore ensure that the proposal makes a significant contribution to achieving great places to live, work and play.
- The proposal responds to the increasing growth pressures for increased local job opportunities and improved public domain and community facilities.
- The proposal provides an outcome that is generally consistent with the Military Road Corridor Study and Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay. While these documents were rescinded by North Sydney Council in January 2022, they were prepared following years of community engagement and were endorsed during the time when the Planning Proposal was being prepared. They were supported by a robust evidence base and therefore should be a key consideration for the Planning Proposal.

8.2.3 Q3b) Does the proposal have site-specific merit?

The proposal is considered to have site-specific merit because:

- Achieves the overarching vision for the site and aligns with the principles of the MRCPS of which Council consider still relevant and apply for the renewal of the site.
- The proposed planning controls (building envelope) align with the planning controls outlined in the Neutral Bay Town Centre Future Directions Report 2021, strategically identified as a key opportunity site to support taller mixed use buildings and new open space and community facilities.
- The proposal effectively meets the site requirements and objectives identified under the Neutral Bay Town
 Centre Future Directions Report 2021 and promotes the orderly and economic use of the site, allowing for the
 best possible urban design and public amenity outcome to be delivered, whilst delivering on Council's wider
 strategic objectives for local employment and residential floorspace opportunities.
- The proposed development will be supported by adequate car parking within its basement, and detailed traffic modelling and analysis confirms that it will not result in unacceptable traffic impacts on the local road network (see **section 8.5** and **Appendix D**).

- The proposed development will not have an unacceptable amenity impact on the surrounding area when taking into consideration the site's location and physical context together with the intent and aspirations for the future renewal and revitalisation of the Neutral Bay town centre.
- The proposal will deliver a significant public benefit in the form of a new 1,000m² town square and through site link, as well as streetscape improvements along Rangers Road and Yeo Street. These major public benefits will elevate the town centre's ability to serve its local community and provide a catalyst for much needed further investment and renewal.
- A draft site-specific Development Control Plan has been prepared that sets out detailed planning controls to
 provide certainty that the key design and development principles set out within this Planning Proposal and
 Indicative Reference Scheme are achieved in the future.
- In addition to the above, the proposed building envelope has been subject to a broader environmental assessment (refer to **section 9.0**). In particular, it has been determined that the existing infrastructure and services on the site will be capable of supporting the future redevelopment of the site.

8.2.4 Q4 – Is the planning proposal consistent with a council LSPS that has been endorsed by the Planning Secretary or GSC, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?

The Planning Proposal will give effect to Council's Local Strategic Planning statement, Council's community strategic plan and the previously endorsed, but just recently rescinded MRCPS and Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay town centre.

North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement

The North Sydney Local Strategic Planning Statement (LSPS) was adopted in 2020. Neutral Bay is identified as a local centre which is expected to generate economic activity from the local resident population, and support local employment opportunities and retail needs. The local centre also serves an important function in the North Sydney LGA economy, supporting smaller businesses alongside the larger commercial hubs

Table 12 summarises how the site will give effect to the relevant planning priorities in the LSPS.

Table 12 Consistency with the North Sydney LSPS

Planning Priority	Consistency/comment		
Infrastructure and collaboration			
Local planning priority II: Align growth and development with infrastructure that supports the needs of the North Sydney community	The site contributes to the alignment of growth supported by infrastructure and has the capacity to deliver future land uses within walking distance of local bus routes.		
Liveability			
Local planning priority L1: Diverse housing supply, choice and affordability with access to jobs, services and public transport.	The proposal will deliver high density housing in close proximity to local bus routes, jobs and services, given the size of the site, there is a opportunity to provide housing that will respond to the community's changing housing needs.		
Local planning priority L2: Provide a range of community facilities and services to support a healthy, creative, diverse and socially connected North Sydney community	The proposal includes the delivery of a 1,000m ² of town square that will contribute to increasing the provision of recreational facilities to meet the current and future needs of the community. This will specifically accommodate passive recreation users seeking a greenspace within the town centre, as well as cater to all abilities and ages.		
Local planning priority L3: Create great places that recognise and preserve North Sydney's distinct local character and heritage	The site upholds the opportunity to build on the established identity and create a great place that represents the culture of the community, contributing to the overall renewal of the Neutral Bay town centre.		

Planning Priority	Consistency/comment
Productivity	
Local planning priority P3: Enhance the commercial amenity and viability of North Sydney's local centres	The proposal directly responds to improving the commercial amenity and viability of Neutral Bay through facilitating future retail and employment opportunities to support local jobs and businesses. The proposed new town square, through site link and public domain upgrades along Rangers Road and Yeo Street will also enhance the safety, amenity, services and overall appeal of the local centre.
Local planning priority L6: Support walkable centres and a connected and sustainable North Sydney	The site presents an opportunity to align future land uses and integrate with transport infrastructure so that more people can get to work, school or local services within 30 minutes.
Sustainability	
Local planning priority S2: Provide a high quality, well-connected and integrated urban greenspace system	The proposed 1,000m² town square will contribute to the open space network and provide passive recreational opportunities.

8.2.5 Q5 – Is the planning Proposal consistent with any other applicable State and regional studies or strategies?

The future built form presents the opportunity to incorporate sustainable design initiatives and work towards mitigating climate change by 2050. The indicative reference scheme provides a range of Green Star targets of the commercial/community building and the fit-out of the supermarket.

In addition, high BASIX water and energy targets together with high NABERS ratings targets will be implemented. Woolworths intends to provide a range of measures aimed at ESD, which are to be further resolved as part of the future detailed design and DA process.

8.2.6 Q6 – Is the Planning Proposal consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies?

Yes. An assessment of the Planning Proposal against relevant State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPPs) is set out in **Table 13** below.

Table 13 Consistency with State Environmental Planning Policies

SEPP	Consistency N/		N/A	Comment
	Yes	No		
State Environmental Planning Policy No 55 – Remediation of Land	✓			SEPP 55 aims to promote the remediation of contaminated land for the purpose of reducing the risk of harm to human health or any other aspect of the environment. It specifically requires consideration when rezoning land and in determining development applications, and requires that remediation work meets certain standards and notification requirements. The site has been occupied by a commercial building with four basement levels for some time. Nevertheless, SEPP 55 and any potential contamination issues will accordingly be addressed as the planning process progresses through to a detailed DA. In any event, given the central CBD context and the age of the building stock there is considered to be a low likelihood of contamination
State Environmental Planning Policy No. 65 – Design Quality of Residential Apartment Development	√			The proposal's residential component has been designed to meet the requirements of SEPP65 and the accompanying Apartment Design Guide. High level consideration of key principles has been undertaken such as apartment size, layout, typology, solar access,

SEPP	Consistency N/A		N/A	Comment
				natural cross ventilation, communal open space and the like, which is suitable for this stage of the planning process.
SEPP (Housing) 2021	√			The proposal is capable of delivering future affordable housing options to contribute to the diversity of housing types available in Neutral Bay Town Centre.
SEPP (Transport and Infrastructure) 2021	✓			The future DA under the proposed planning controls will be considered traffic generating development requiring referral to TfNSW. Under pre and post-Gateway consultation however, TfNSW will be consulted with respect to the proposal and the intended access, traffic and parking measures to ensure an appropriate outcome.

8.2.7 Q7 – Is the Planning Proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (s.9.1 directions)?

Yes. An assessment of the Planning Proposal against applicable section 9.1 Directions is set out in **Table 14** below.

Table 14 Consistency with section 9.1 directions

Direction	Consis	tency	NA	Comment
	Yes	No		
1 Planning Systems				
1.1 Implementation of the Minister's Planning Principles			-	These were revoked on 14 March 2022.
1.2 Implementation of Regional Plans	✓			The Planning Proposal is consistent with the Regional Plan and District Plan as discussed in Section 8.2.1 above.
1.3 Development on Aboriginal Land Council Land			-	
1.4 Approval and Referral Requirements	✓			This Planning Proposal is consistent with this Direction in that it does not introduce any provisions that require any additional concurrence, consultation or referral.
1.5 Site Specific Provisions				A particular development scenario is envisaged for the site. The proposed provisions will allow for the envisaged development to be carried out on the site. The Planning Proposal will not contain or refer to drawings that show details of the development proposals.
1.6 Parramatta Road Corridor Urban Transformation Strategy			-	Not applicable
1.7 Implementation of North- West Priority Growth Area Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan			-	Not applicable
1.8 Implementation of Greater Parramatta Priority Growth Area Interim Land			-	Not applicable

Use and Infrastructure			
Plan			
1.9 Implementation of Wilton Priority Growth Area interim Land Use and Infrastructure Implementation Plan		-	Not applicable
1.10 Implementation of Glenfield to Macarthur Urban Renewal Corridor		-	Not applicable
1.11 Implementation to of the Western Sydney Aerotropolis Plan		-	Not applicable
1.12 Implementation of Bayside West Precincts 2036 Plan		-	Not applicable
1.13 Implementation of Planning Principles for the Cooks Cove Precinct		-	Not applicable
1.14 Implementation of St Leonards and Crows Nest 2036 Plan		-	Not applicable
1.15 Implementation of Greater Macarthur 2040		-	Not applicable
1.16 Implementation of the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy		-	Not applicable
1.17 North West Rail Link Corridor Strategy		-	Not applicable
3 Biodiversity and Conserva	ntion		
3.1 Conservation Zones		-	Not applicable
3.2 Heritage Conservation		-	Not applicable
3.3 Sydney Drinking Water Catchments		-	Not applicable
3.4 Application of C2 and C3 Zones and Environmental overlays in Far North Coast LEPs 26		-	Not applicable
3.5 Recreation Vehicle Area		-	Not applicable
4 Resilience and Hazards			
4.1 Flooding		-	Not applicable
4.2 Coastal Management		-	Not applicable

Direction	Consistency	NA	Comment
4.3 Planning for Bushfire Protection		-	Not applicable
4.4 Remediation of Contamination Land	√		A Preliminary site investigation plan has been prepared by Geo-Logix and attached at Appendix I. The potential for contamination on the site is considered relative benign and therefore the site is suitable for the proposed amendment in height.
4.5 Acid Sulfate Soils		-	Not applicable
4.6 Mine Subsidence and Unstable Land		-	Not applicable
5 Transport and Infrastruc	ture		
5.1 Integrated Land Use and Transport	✓		 This Direction applies due to this Planning Proposal relating to a business zone. The Direction states that a Planning Proposal must be consistent with the aims, objectives and principles of: Improving Transport Choice – Guidelines for planning and development (DUAP 2001), and The Right Place for Business and Services – Planning Policy (DUAP 2001). The Planning Proposal is broadly consistent with the aims, objectives and principles of the above documents in that it will provide a mix of retail, commercial and residential accommodation in an area well serviced by high frequency public transport. In doing so it will maximise the use of the public transport network.
5.2 Reserving Land for Public Purpose		-	Not applicable
5.3 Development near regulated airports and defence airfields		-	Not applicable
5.4 Shooting ranges		-	Not applicable
6 Housing			
6.1 Residential zones	√	-	The site is zoned B4 Mixed use zone which permits residential development. The proposal integrates new housing that contributes to a diverse housing offering in the LGA that is in close proximity to infrastructure and services.
6.2 Caravan Parks and Manufactured home estates		-	Not applicable
7 Industry and Employmen	nt		
7.1 Business and Industrial zones	✓		The proposal is consistent with the current B4 Mixed use zoning which is to be retained.

Direction	Consistency	NA	Comment
7.2 Reduction in non- hosted short term-rental accommodation period		-	Not applicable
7.3 Commercial and Retail Development along the Pacific Highway, North Coast		-	Not applicable
8 Resources and Energy			
8.1 Mining, Petroleum Production and Extractive Industries		-	Not applicable
9 Primary Production			
9.1 Rural zones		-	Not applicable
9.2 Rural lands		-	Not applicable
9.3 Oyster Aquaculture		-	Not applicable
9.4 Farmland of State and Regional Significance on the NSW Far North Coast		-	Not applicable

8.3 Environmental, Social and Economic Impacts

8.3.1 Q8 – Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected as a result of the proposal?

The planning proposal will not result in any impact on critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities or their habitats, given the site's urban location.

8.3.2 Q9 – Are there any other likely environmental effects as a result of the Planning Proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?

A detailed assessment of the environmental effects as a result of the Planning Proposal is identified in **Section 9.0** of this justification report. Relevant management measures are identified where appropriate and, on this basis, no unacceptable impacts are likely to result from the Planning Proposal or future development on the site.

8.3.3 Q10 – Has the Planning Proposal adequately addressed any social and economic impacts?

Yes. The social and economic impacts arising from the Planning Proposal is identified in **Section 8.0** of this justification report. The social and economic impacts will be positive.

8.4 Section D - State and Commonwealth Interests

8.4.1 Q11 – Is there adequate public infrastructure for the Planning Proposal?

The site is located in an established urban area and has access to existing public transport, infrastructure and services. Further investigations will be undertaken as part of the preparation of the DA to determine whether any upgrade of existing utilities is required to enable the proposal.

8.4.2 Q12 – What are the views of State or Commonwealth public authorities consulted in accordance with the Gateway determination?

The views of State and Commonwealth public authorities will be known once consultation has occurred in accordance with the Gateway determination of the Planning Proposal.

8.5 Community Consultation

The proponent has and continues to consult and keep a dialogue with key adjoining and adjacent landowners. Formal public consultation will also take place in accordance with Sections 3.34 and 3.35 of the EP&A Act. This is likely to involve notification of the proposal:

- On Council's website;
- · In newspapers that circulate widely in the City of Sydney Local Government Area; and
- In writing to the adjoining and nearby landowners; relevant community groups; and the surrounding community in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

It is noted that confirmation of the public exhibition period and requirements for the Planning Proposal will be given by the Minister as part of the LEP Gateway determination. Any future DA for the site would also be exhibited in accordance with Council requirements, at which point the public and any authorities would have the opportunity to make further comment on the proposal.

It is also likely that Woolworths will undertake its own consultation and engagement process for the Planning Proposal in the future when it goes on public exhibition. The outcomes of this community engagement process will be reported back to Council once complete.

9.0 Technical assessment

This section considers the key planning issues associated with the Planning Proposal as well as those associated with a future development generally consistent with the Indicative Reference Scheme.

As outlined in **Section 5.0**, an Indicative Reference Scheme (**Appendix A**) was developed by KTA to help inform the preparation of the Planning Proposal and to test and demonstrate how a future development could be accommodated on site in accordance with the proposed height control. Accordingly, the outcomes of these investigations and analysis have largely guided the content of this Planning Proposal.

By adopting this approach, the built outcomes and associated impacts of the Planning Proposal (and subsequent DA) can be defined, tested and clearly understood.

9.1 Built form and Scale

9.1.1 Height and Massing

The proposed built form and massing has been informed by the future vision for the site set out in MRCPS. The MRCPS identified that Neutral Bay town centre is losing local jobs in favour of new residential developments, affecting the vibrancy and diversity of the existing town centre. This has created immense demand for future development to provide commercially viable floor space and a strong activated public domain which is able to build on the existing café culture and night-time economy.

The proposed podium form will establish an appropriate scale that does not result in an overwhelming impact on the amenity of the public domain to create a welcoming human-scale neighbourhood centre. The proposed 2-storey podium sleeving the western boundary of the site will complement the proposed mixed use building to establish the site as a hub and create village feel with sufficient not-residential floorspace to generate interest and vibrancy.

Above podium level, the indicative height and massing of the proposed built form has responded to the desired land use outcomes and strategic intent of the MRCPS, including the delivery of a new public plaza (1,000m²), through site link and mixed-use commercial and residential development. The proposed massing for the site has been developed taking into consideration the built form outcomes espoused in the *Future Directions Report* for Neutral Bay town centre. Whilst this is the case, the indicative reference scheme height of six and eight storeys is directly consistent with the building heights identified for the site under the *Future Directions Report* and MRCPS as shown in **Figure 34** and **Figure 33** below.

Further, the immediate and surrounding context comprise an established 9-13 storey height character as shown in **Figure 36**, and therefore the proposal is considered an appropriate scale relative to the existing area. As shown in **Figure 37** the existing buildings directly surrounding the site exceed the LEP 16m maximum building height as follows:

- 183-185 Military Road, Neutral Bay has a maximum building height of 18.6m
- 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay has a maximum building height of 22.7m
- 9-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay has a maximum building height of 19.1m

The proposed maximum height of eight storeys will only result in 3.4m (one storey) above the existing 50 Yeo Street building.

Notably, the proposal does not encompass the entirety of land nominated as 'site 3' under the MRCPS. Despite repeated attempts, Woolworths have been unable to acquire the land at 185 Military Road. The inability to acquire 185 Military Road and resulted in Woolworths acquiring land at 50 Yeo Street instead to create a single parcel of land of sufficient size to build a new town square and accommodate a full line supermarket below ground. Without the benefit of having the 185 Military Road, the massing and design outcome for the rest of Opportunity Site 3 has been required to be reconsidered to ensure that the future project is able to fund the desired public benefits including the new town square, through site link and streetscape improvements.

The proposal will result in overshadowing impacts that are consistent with the anticipated shadow cast by the nominated heights of the MRCPS. Although the site does not lie entirely within the nominated opportunity site 3, 50 Yeo Street is indicated with a maximum storey height of 6 storeys which is proposed to be maintained. Therefore, the proposal aligns with the existing built form and MRCPS.

Figure 38 and **Figure 39** illustrates an appropriate bulk and scale outcome that delivers significant community benefit through a new public realm that will reinvigorate the southern portion of Neutral Bay Town centre being commensurate with the MRCPS.



Figure 34 Height and massing controls for the site nominated as 'Site 3'.

Source: North Sydney Council

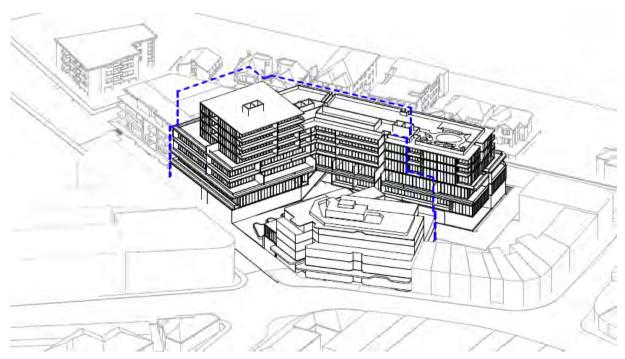


Figure 35 Proposed built form compared to MRCPS masterplan (blue outline)

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

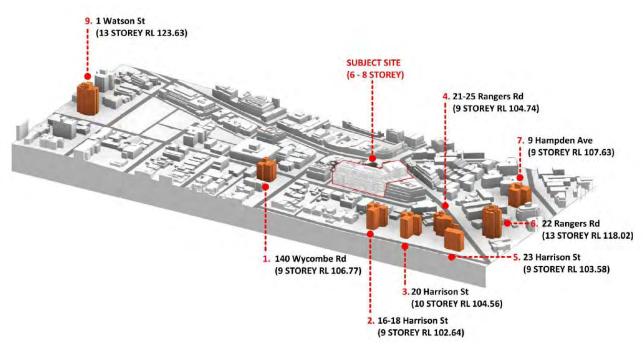


Figure 36 Existing surrounding building height context

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

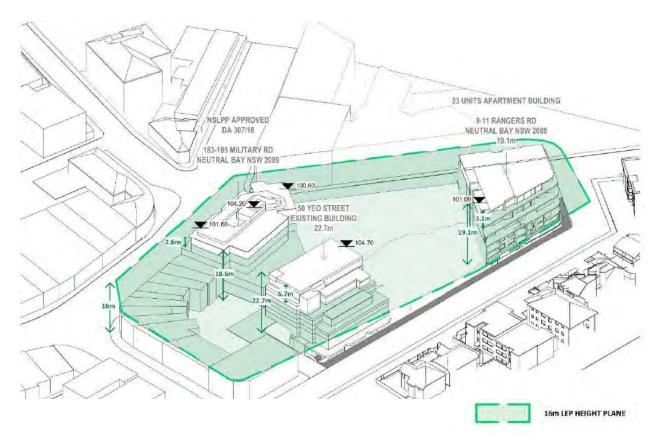


Figure 37 building heights of existing development immediately surrounding the site

Source: Koichi Takada Architects



Figure 38 Indicative reference scheme from Rangers Road

Source: Koichi Takada Architects



Figure 39 indicative reference scheme public plaza

Source: Koichi Takada Architects

9.2 Visual Impact

The indicative reference scheme has been designed to deliver a well-scaled and visually interesting built form. The proposal comprises high arch forms to create an inviting and open environment, leading to the public plaza.

Whilst the design is indicative, the proposal adheres to the desired future setbacks for the site contained within the MRCPS and Future Directions Report, providing a 2.5m podium setback from the Military Road streetscape and a further 3m setback from the podium to upper levels. A greater podium setback in this location allows for a greater public domain at Rangers Road interface. This is especially important as it will reclaim precious pedestrian space at the corner of Military Road and Rangers Road, which can become congested with commuters during the AM peak period due to the positioning of Bus Stands A, B and C.

Further, the indicative reference scheme comprises several soft landscaping opportunities and green features along the facades and roofing to reduce the overall visual impact as a dominant feature within the Neutral Bay skyline.

9.3 Residential Amenity

The indicative reference scheme has been developed having regard to the requirements of State Environmental Planning Policy 65 and the accompanying Apartment Design Guide (ADG). Although the ultimate built form on the site will be determined at a future detailed design stage, the concept design is capable of achieving an acceptable level of internal amenity for future residents with regard to solar access, natural ventilation and privacy. Based on the indicative apartment layout illustrated on the architectural plans, the following is noted:

- The residential component consists of 63 apartments suited to a variety of lifestyles. An indicative dwelling mix is 1 bedroom (15%) 2 bedroom (22%) and 3 bedroom (61%).
- Each apartment has access to a secure private open space such as a balcony or winter garden with minimum areas of 10-41m2 based on apartment size. Additional communal open space facilitated by rooftop amenities will be provided for residents.
- A minimum of 2 hours direct sunlight between 9:00am and 3:00pm in mid-winter will be enjoyed by 70% of the apartments. Similarly, 60% of apartments will be naturally cross ventilated.

Further, the building separation distances envisaged in the proposal respond to the requirements of SEPP 65 and the ADG as they relate to habitable rooms facing habitable rooms in anticipation of the eastern and western building interfaces.

9.4 Overshadowing

An overshadowing analysis of the Indicative Reference Scheme has been prepared by KTA and is included at **Appendix A**. The study has examined the overshadowing resulting from the Indicative Reference Scheme compared to the shadow produced by the proposed built form under the MRCPS and *Future Directions* Report together with the existing commercial building at 50 Yeo Street.

The overshadowing analysis indicates that buildings on the southern side of Yeo Street are affected by some overshadowing and/or would be affected by overshadowing under the built form outcome set out within the MRCPS and the Future Directions Report. The analysis also shows that the Indicative Concept Scheme will result in some additional overshadowing to properties located at 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, and 63 Yeo Street. Refer to **Table 14** below for further details.

Table 15 Overshadowing impacts

Property	Additional overshadowing caused by the Proposal compared to the built form under the Military Road Corridor Planning Strategy
53 Yeo Street	Some additional shadowing will fall on the front façade of 53 Yeo Street from 10am to 1pm on 21st June
55 Yeo Street	Some additional shadowing will fall on the front façade of 55 Yeo Street from approximately 11am through to 2pm on 21st June
57 Yeo Street	Some additional shadowing will fall on the front façade of 57 Yeo Street from approximately 2pm through to 4pm on 21st June
59 Yeo Street	Some additional shadowing will fall on the front façade of 59 Yeo Street from approximately 3pm through to 4pm on 21st June
61-63 Yeo Street	Some additional shadowing will fall on the front façade of 61-63 Yeo Street from approximately 3pm through to 4pm on 21st June

While the proposal will result in some additional shadowing to these properties it is worth noting that:

- The majority of additional shadow cast by the proposal sits within the anticipated shadow cast under the MRCPS and the existing DCP controls.
- The shadow cast by the Concept Proposal is wholly contained with the MRCPS shadow between 9am and 10am on 21 June.
- For the most part additional shadowing caused by the proposal will fall on the rooftops of buildings on the southern side of Yeo Street.
- Many of the buildings on the southern side of Yeo Street have their main living area facing away from the street, with bedrooms and utility rooms along their Yeo Street frontage.
- Some of these buildings have high solid street fencing, which when combined with the fall of the land away from Yeo Street, result in the lower levels of these buildings being in shade for much of the day.

- Existing mature street trees are positioned along the entirety of Yeo Street and it creates an existing shaded environment, particularly at the lower levels of the building facades.
- At all other times, the shadow cast from the proposal sits within either the existing shadow footprint or the shadow footprint cast by the built form under the MRCPS.

Taking into consideration the above the additional overshadowing impacts are considered acceptable when also factoring in the site-specific context as part of the Neutral Bay town centre, and the significant public benefits that will be delivered as a result of the site's future redevelopment.

Notably, previous overshadowing concerns raised in relation to PP2022/1633, have been rectified through the reduced building heights, with the extent of shadow impact upon the properties located on Yeo Street being significantly less.

9.5 Transport

A Transport Impact Assessment has been prepared by JMT Consulting as attached at **Appendix D**. The report provides an analysis of existing transport conditions, including the surrounding road network, site access and parking and public transport provisions. The study also provides an assessment of the proposed access, parking and servicing/loading arrangements, proposed parking rates, additional traffic movements resulting from the Planning Proposal and impacts to the adjacent roads, together with public transport, walking and cycling measures.

9.5.1 Existing conditions

The site's existing supermarket use contains approximately 100 on-site car parking spaces with access provided from Yeo Street. On-site loading access is provided via Military Lane. Access to the site is primarily gained from the surrounding area is gained via the surrounding main road network including Military Road which is classified as a State Road as well as Regional Roads such as Spofforth Street, Belgrave Street, Ernest Street and Rangers Road located south-east of the site. Service vehicles will deliver goods to the site from Military Lane, which is accessed off Yeo Street, a local road managed by Council (indicated in **Figure 40**).

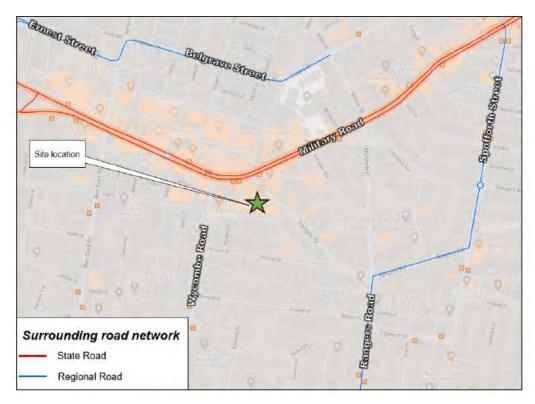


Figure 40 Existing road network

Source: JMT Consulting

The site is located adjacent to the Military Road corridor which is one of Sydney's busiest and most important bus corridors that caters for a wide range of services to different destinations. The current bus network contains a variety of all-stops, limited stops and express services, joining and leaving the corridor at several locations. A number of bus stops are located directly opposite the site on Military Road as well as Wycombe Road.

The pedestrian environment in the vicinity of the site is quite high with good quality footpaths provided along all streets of all surrounding streets. This includes signalised pedestrian crossings on all legs of the signalised intersections at Military Road / Wycombe Road and Wycombe Road / Yeo Street. A zebra crossing is also provided adjacent to the site across Yeo Street near the intersection with Rangers Road. An existing cycleway network surrounds the site, specifically 'Route 5' which provides connection between the North Sydney CBD and Mosman via Neutral Bay.

9.5.2 Vehicular Access and car parking

Access points

Vehicles will access the on-site car parking area through a series of ramps located on the southern boundary of the site via Yeo Street as shown in **Figure 41**. Service vehicles accessing the loading dock will be separated from the general vehicles and enter the site via Military Lane in a forward direction.

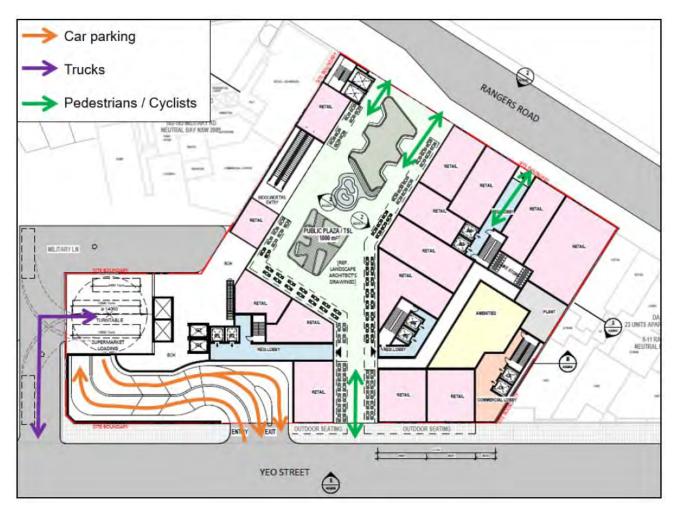


Figure 41 Indicative reference scheme access

Source: Koichi Takada Architects and JMT Consulting

Retail car parking

The North Sydney DCP 2013 notes the following maximum parking rates for retail uses:

- Supermarkets 4.0 spaces per 100m2 GFA (1 space / 25m2)
- Speciality retail 1.67 spaces per 100m2 GFA (1 space / 60m2)

The indicative reference scheme proposes 164 parking spaces for retail uses which is consistent with Council's maximum parking rates for the proposed supermarket (132 parking spaces) and retail uses (32 parking spaces). It is noted that the catchment of the supermarket typically extends for a 3-5 km radius which is well outside walking distance. Many residents living in the immediate area, within viable walking distance of the retail centre, will also require car parking when undertaking a 'family shop' at the full line supermarket given the impracticalities of carrying multiple shopping bags back to their residences.

Given people undertaking weekly shopping trips are reliant on car as a mode of access, people will either park on surrounding streets or drive to nearby supermarkets where parking is more easily accessible. There is therefore a benefit in providing adequate parking to sustain a full line supermarket so that residents of the local area will not have to drive to other nearby regional shopping centres to undertake their weekly shopping trips. Other benefits to providing on-site basement parking for visitors include:

- 1) Providing the option of onsite car spaces allows customers to load their shopping into their car, thus reducing the litter of trolleys in the public realm and along surrounding streets.
- 2) Basement parking for customers reduces demand for parking on surrounding streets and encourages customers to park in the basement.

Residential car parking

For an indicative total of 63 residential apartments (with a unit mix as detailed within **Appendix A**) Analysis undertaken by JMT Consulting demonstrates that the proposed parking provision of 58 spaces under the indicative reference scheme complies with the maximum permissible parking provision allowable under the North Sydney DCP 2013. The proposed residential parking provision is therefore considered satisfactory.

Commercial car parking

The North Sydney DCP 2013 specifies a maximum car parking rate of 1 space per 60m². Based on the 2,407m² of commercial GFA provided up to 40 car parking spaces could be delivered on the site. The reference scheme includes 40 parking spaces for the commercial uses, complying with the requirements of the North Sydney DCP 2013.

Public car parking

88 Public spaces are proposed for the benefit of existing businesses and visitors of the Neutral Bay town centre. This public sub-terranean parking responds to the identified need of both local residents and businesses of the village – businesses in particular noted that the lack of car public parking was impacting the viability of their businesses. The importance of public car parking to support the vibrancy and feasibility of the Neutral Bay town centre is recognised in the MRCPS.

Loading dock

The reference scheme includes an on-site loading dock which can accommodate up to three vehicles at any one time, including one heavy rigid vehicle (HRV) 12.5m in length, one medium rigid vehicle (MRV) 8.8m in length and one small rigid vehicle (SRV) 6.4m in length. A swept path analysis confirms that all vehicles have the ability to enter and exit Miliary lane in a forward direction. The loading dock has been designed in accordance with the requirements outlined in the relevant Australian Standard (AS2890.2, 2018) and is considered suitable to accommodate the needs of the site based on the development yields associated with the reference scheme.

9.5.3 Traffic Impact Assessment

Traffic generation

Trip generation rates for future traffic has been derived from comparable surrounding traffic and regional development:

- Residential Per unit: PM peak hour: 0.19 vehicle trips and Saturday peak hour: 0.22 vehicle trips
- Commercial Per trips/space: PM peak hour: 0.5 vehicle trips
- Retail Per square meters: PM peak hour: 8.44 vehicle trips and Saturday peak hour 7.56 vehicle trips

The forecast arrival and departure directions for visitors to the supermarket, based on the trade catchment for the centre, have been determined to spread the traffic load and minimising the impact on the surrounding road network.

Modelling of intersection performance

In support of the Planning Proposal extensive traffic investigations have been completed. The analysis concluded that the traffic movements on Yeo Street still remain well below the road capacity once the concept scheme is constructed and delivered. In addition to Yeo Street detailed traffic modelling has also been undertaken (in accordance with Transport for NSW guidelines) on surrounding intersections - including Military Road. The modelling shows, with the Planning Proposal in place along with the additional public car parking, drivers will experience fairly minor increase in wait times of no more than 20 seconds – with delays typically lower than 10 seconds. Overall, the modelling undertaken indicates that the proposal is not anticipated to result in unacceptable traffic impacts on the surrounding road network.

It is also worthwhile noting that a significant level of traffic already travelling along key roads in the vicinity of the site such as Military Road do so for the purpose of accessing nearby retail centres such as Big Bear Shopping Centre.

While not specifically considered in the traffic analysis, all traffic associated with the proposal would not be 'new' – instead trips (particularly from those in the local area not currently served by a full line supermarket) would be intercepted at Neutral Bay that would otherwise have continued along Military Road towards these existing centres. Therefore, in this context the net traffic generation and associated road network performance as documented is considered to provide a conservative forecast of potential impacts.

9.5.4 Summary

Key findings of the transport assessment are as follows:

- Vehicle access to the site for general vehicles would be provided on Yeo Street, close to the existing access
 point for the site.
- Service vehicle access to an on-site loading dock is to be provided by Military Lane to segregate cars in the basement and trucks using the loading dock providing a strong safety outcome.
- The proposal brings with it a number of transport benefits one of the most significant being improvement in traffic safety including the ability for all trucks to enter and exit the loading dock in a forwards direction.
- Car parking and bicycle parking on the site for all uses will be delivered in accordance with the parking rates
 outlined in the North Sydney DCP, with the final number of spaces to be determined at the Development
 Application stage of the project.
- The proposal includes 88 public car parking spaces, which benefit existing businesses and visitors of the Neutral Bay town centre and align with recommendations of the Military Road Corridor Planning Study.
- Traffic modelling undertaken indicates that the proposal is not anticipated to result in unacceptable traffic impacts on the surrounding road network with all intersections in the vicinity of the site continuing to operate at acceptable levels of service.
- The impacts of the proposal along with the additional public car parking, will result in drivers experiencing a fairly minor increase in wait times of no more than 20 seconds with delays typically lower than 10 seconds, therefore not result in unacceptable traffic impacts.
- The increase in vehicles travelling through intersections around the site as a result of the proposal is generally modest at less than 20 vehicles per hour or one vehicle every three minutes.

- The NSW Government's future Western Harbour Tunnel and Beaches Link project will benefit the Military Road corridor by reducing the extent of regional traffic flows, with Transport for NSW projecting a 10% reduction in traffic along the corridor.
- Travel demand management measures have been suggested to improve the mode share of public transport and active transport. These items should be considered further at subsequent stages of the project.

In the above context, the traffic and transport impacts arising from the Planning Proposal are considered acceptable.

9.6 Contamination

A Preliminary Site Investigation has been undertaken by Geo-Logix and is attached at **Appendix I**. Following a desktop analysis of the site, the report concludes:

- · The site and surrounds have a mixed history of residential and commercial land use
- The site was used for the purposes of residential until the mid 1970s when it was developed as the Neutral Bay Shopping Village.
- In the mid 2000s the shopping centre was redeveloped as the current Woolworths Shopping Centre which includes a basement carpark level.
- Excluding dry cleaning operations that occurred onsite and in its immediate proximity offsite, the operational site history in respect of potential contamination is considered relatively benign.
- There is potential for dry cleaner related soil and ground water contamination to exist on site.

It is on this basis that the site is considered suitable for the proposed amendment to the height limit and a further detailed site investigation will be undertaken at any subsequent DA stage.

9.7 Social and Economic Impacts

A Social and Economic Impact Report has been prepared by Ethos Urban (**Appendix E**). The planning proposal will facilitate the redevelopment of the site, delivering a number of positive social outcomes, including the following:

Social impacts

- Increased convenience and amenity for the local community, including integrated shopping and dining, a new civic plaza and improved though-site links, in addition to residential and commercial activity on site.
- Increased local employment opportunities through the creation of enhanced commercial floorspace, and an expanded retail offer.
- Increased convenience for local workers as well as residents, with the subject site in close proximity to public transport.
- Health and wellbeing benefits for the local community with the co-location of uses and through-site links, encouraging active travel (walking) and lifestyles.
- Improvements to local amenity and streetscape through the project design and ground plane provisions including an enhanced and expanded civic domain.
- In particular, the proposed plaza and through-site links will provide a genuine focal point for the local community, creating a true town centre for the southern side of Neutral Bay, serving residential catchments primarily to the south and east of the site, and creating improved accessibility to Military Road.

Economic impacts

- The proposed development is estimated to result in direct investment of approximately **\$134 million** in the local area during the construction stage.
- Approximately 263 direct and 421 indirect FTE jobs are planned to be generated during the construction stage.

- Taking into account existing uses at the subject site, the proposed development has the potential to support an additional **143 jobs** (FTE) when fully occupied and operational.
- Increased economic output with the activities are employment supported by the development. The ongoing jobs resulting from the proposed development are estimated to generate some **\$17.2 million** in value added to the economy each year (2022 dollars).
- Increased activation of the Military Road precinct, including after normal business hours and on weekends, with the project to generate additional pedestrian traffic to the direct benefit of local businesses.
- Enhanced access for residents to key community facilities and convenience-based retail uses (including supermarkets, food and groceries).
- Improved retail offer and price competition within easy walking distance of a large number of local residents.
- Alignment with government strategies to increase amenity and employment.

10.0 Conclusion

This Planning Proposal has been prepared by Ethos Urban to support a Planning Proposal to North Sydney Council, seeking amendments to the *North Sydney Local Environmental Plan 2013*, to facilitate the redevelopment of 1-7 Rangers Road and 50 Yeo Street, Neutral Bay for a new mixed use building up to a height of 27m and 30m and a non-residential FSR of 1.8:1. Amendments to the North Sydney Development Control Plan 2012 will also be required to support this outcome.

The Planning Proposal is underpinned by a shared vision with Council to allow additional site-specific uplift on this site to deliver a new mixed-use development together with significant community benefits in the form of a new through site link and public plaza. The proposal will deliver a new generation mixed use building including a subterranean supermarket, speciality retail and commercial floorspace to support new jobs and strengthen the local economy. It will make a valuable contribution to the renewal and revitalisation of the Neutral Bay town centre and help catalyse further investment in the area.

More specifically, this Planning Proposal will establish the planning framework to facilitate:

- A high-quality mixed-use building offering a diverse mix of housing which will support the future population growth and changing household needs in Neutral Bay Town Centre.
- Extensive community benefits through a new public plaza destination where people will gather, socialise and choose to stay.
- The delivery of a through site link that will revitalise the ground plane and further open up the site to connect residential catchments to the south and east.
- Significant public domain upgrades to achieve a completely new and reinvigorated street level outcome, supporting fine-grain, activation and permeability.
- Optimal employment outcomes for the site, given that it is unlikely to be redeveloped under the current planning controls.
- A valuable contribution to the revitalisation of a cluster of ageing and detracting buildings, located on a prominent corner within the Neutral Bay and the Military Road Corridor.
- A substantial amount of additional local jobs that will help stimulate the local economy contribute to the areas post-COVID economic recovery.

This Planning Proposal is considered justified for the following reasons:

- The proposal generally aligns with Council's vision and intent for the Neutral Bay town centre, as set out in the MRCPS and the Future Directions Report for Neutral Bay;
- The proposal is consistent with the objectives of the EP&A Act, in that it promotes the orderly and economic use and development of land;
- The proposal will deliver a significant benefit to the site in the form of a new 1,000m² town square and pedestrian through-site link;
- The proposal is consistent with the strategic planning framework for the site;
- The development concept which the Planning Proposal aims to facilitate is suitable for the site with limited planning issues as follows:
 - the development concept will help reinforce the role of the Neutral Bay town centre;
 - the development concept will deliver design excellence;
 - the development concept will not result in unacceptable amenity impact when considered against the built form outcome espoused under the MRCPS and Future Directions Report;
 - the development concept will have not result in an unacceptable impact on the local road network; and
 - the development will deliver new jobs and housing in a location well served by infrastructure and public transport.

• The proposal is consistent with the applicable SEPPs and Ministerial Directions. .

The site is a sizeable, latent, highly appropriate location for such a proposal. This Planning Proposal demonstrates that it can suitably accommodate Woolworth's vision to deliver a high-quality mixed-use scheme anchored by a best in class supermarket, whilst also minimising environmental impacts and delivering a built form that responds to the context and aspirations for the Neutral Bay town centre. More broadly, this report outlines that the Planning Proposal has demonstrable strategic and site-specific merit and will deliver the vision and implementation of Council's MRCPS, given it supports greater density for employment generating uses and delivery of significant public benefits.

In light of the above, we would have no hesitation in recommending that the Planning Proposal proceed through the Gateway to public exhibition.

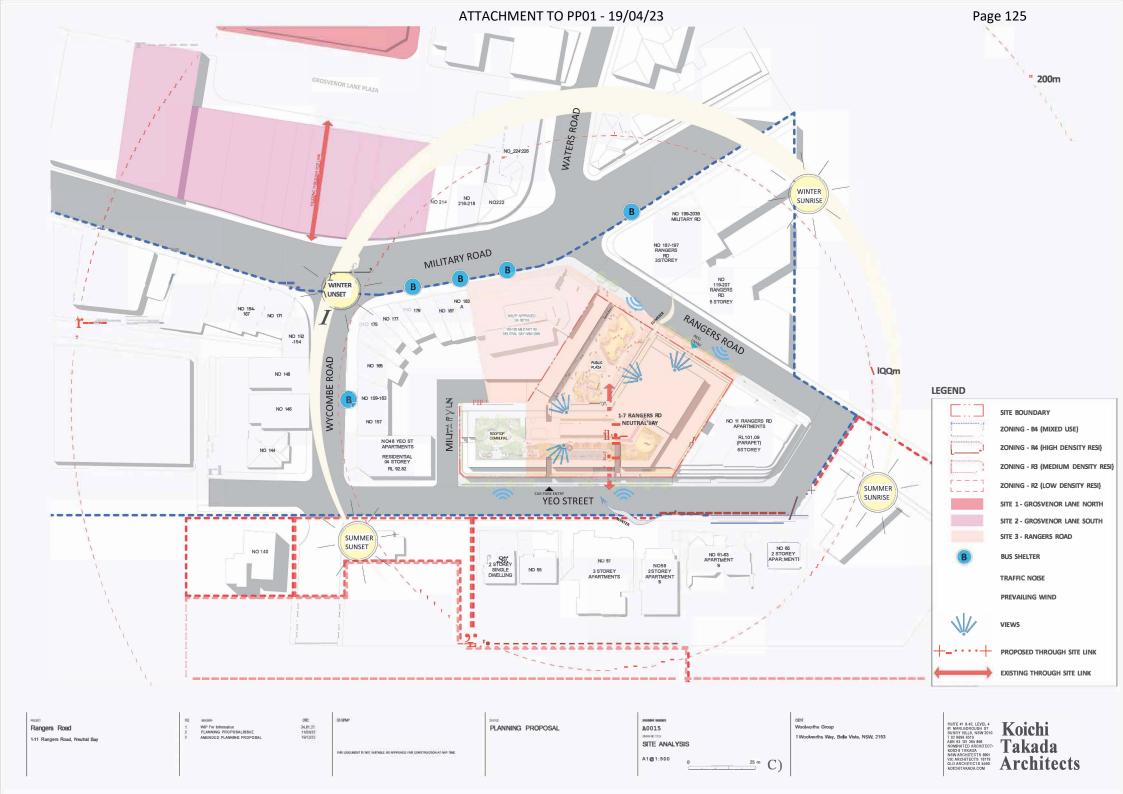
11.0 Project Timeline

Once the planning proposal has been referred to the Minister for review of the Gateway Determination and received a Gateway determination, the anticipated project timeline will be further refined, including at each major milestone throughout the planning proposal's process.

Table 16 below outlines the anticipated timeframe for the completion of the planning proposal.

Table 16 Anticipated timeframe to Planning Proposal process

Milestone	Anticipated timeframe		
Lodgement of Planning Proposal	December 2022		
Assessment of Planning Proposal by Council	January 2023 – April 2023		
Report to LPP on the assessment of the PP	May 2023		
Report to Council on the assessment of the PP	June 2023		
Referral to Minister for review of Gateway determination	July 2023		
Date of issue of the Gateway determination	August 2023		
Commencement and completion dates for public exhibition period	October 2023 – November 2023		
Commencement and completion dates for government agency notification	October 2023 – November 2023		
Consideration of submissions	December 2023		
Consideration of planning proposal post exhibition and associated report to Council	January 2024		
Submission to the Department to finalise the LEP	February 2024		
Notification of instrument	April 2024		





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1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

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Level	B02	B03	B04	B05	GRAND TOTAL
Woolworths	75	57			132
Commercial	253	123		40	40
Retail	27.3	32	:-:	200	32
Public	200	5 5 8	88	ses "	88
Residential	3	7.90	*	58	58
Total	75	89	88	98	350



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Rangers Road 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

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Woolworths	75	57		225	132
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Retail	37.3	32	100	(2)	32
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Total	75	89	88	98	350



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Level	B02	B03	B04	B05	GRAND TOTAL
Woolworths	75	57			132
Commercial	253	123		40	40
Retail	27.3	32	:-:	200	32
Public	200	5 5 8	88	5 0 5	88
Residential	3	7.90	*	58	58
Total	75	89	88	98	350



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Level	B02	B03	B04	B05	GRAND TOTAL
Woolworths	75	57			132
Commercial	253	123		40	40
Retail	22.3	32	:-:	(*)	32
Public	263	5 5 8	88	5 4 3	88
Residential	130	7.90	*	58	58
Total	75	89	88	98	350



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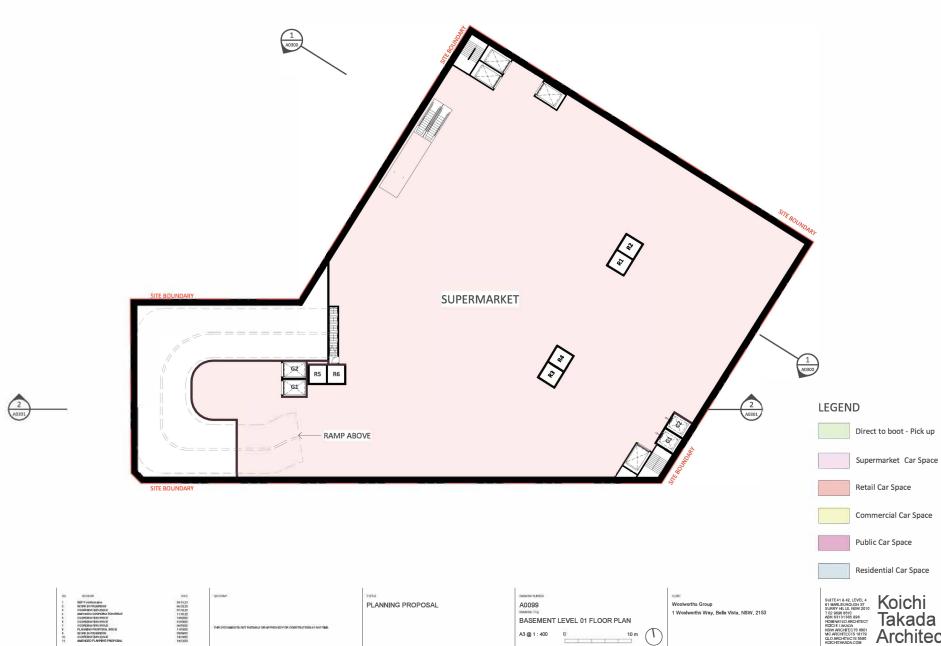
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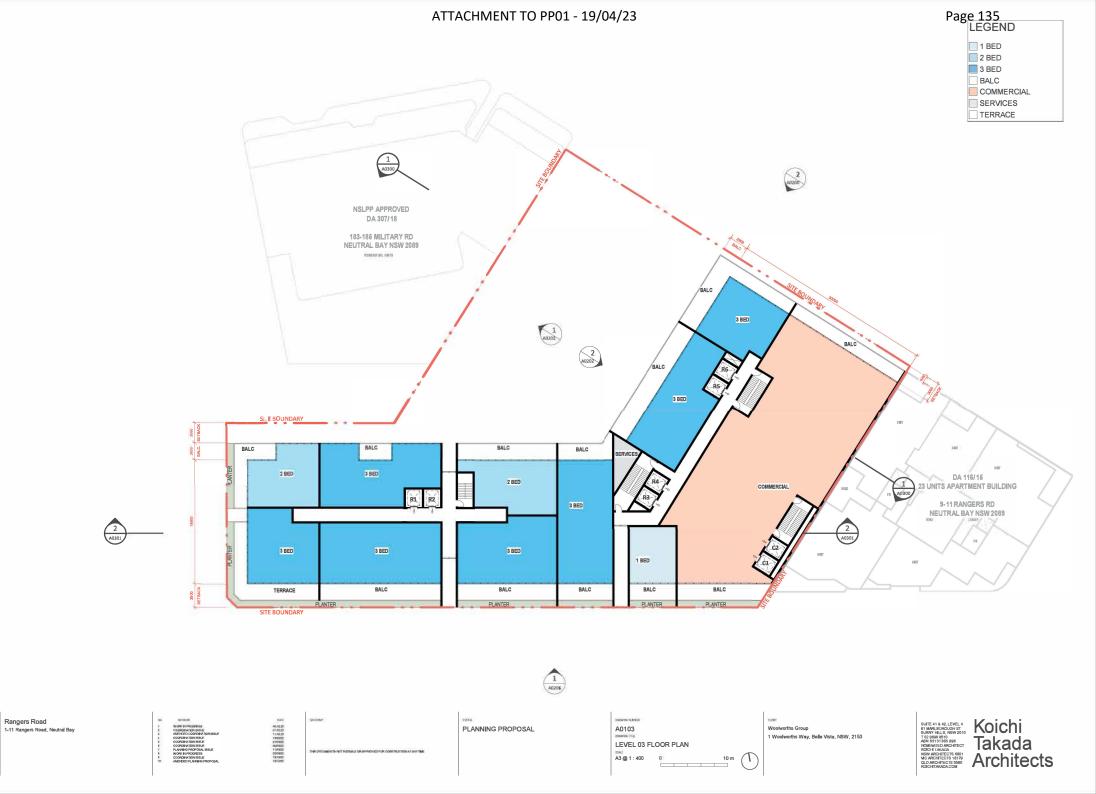
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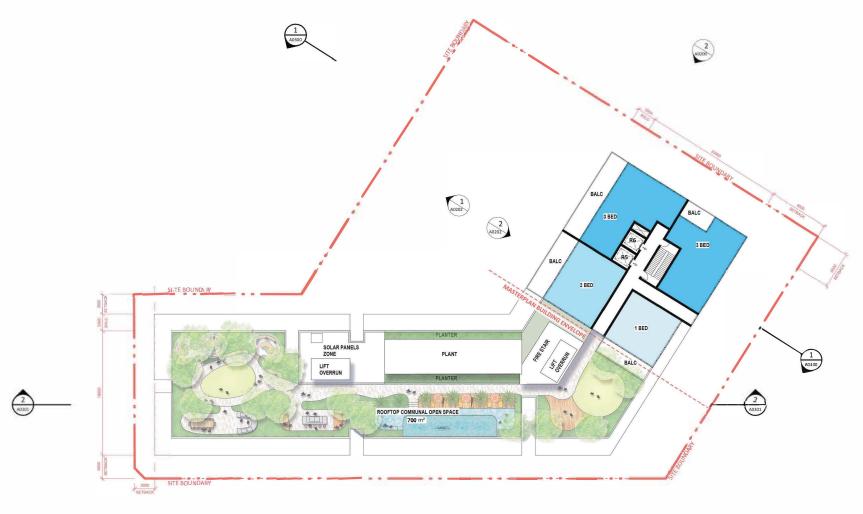














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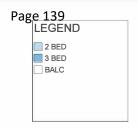
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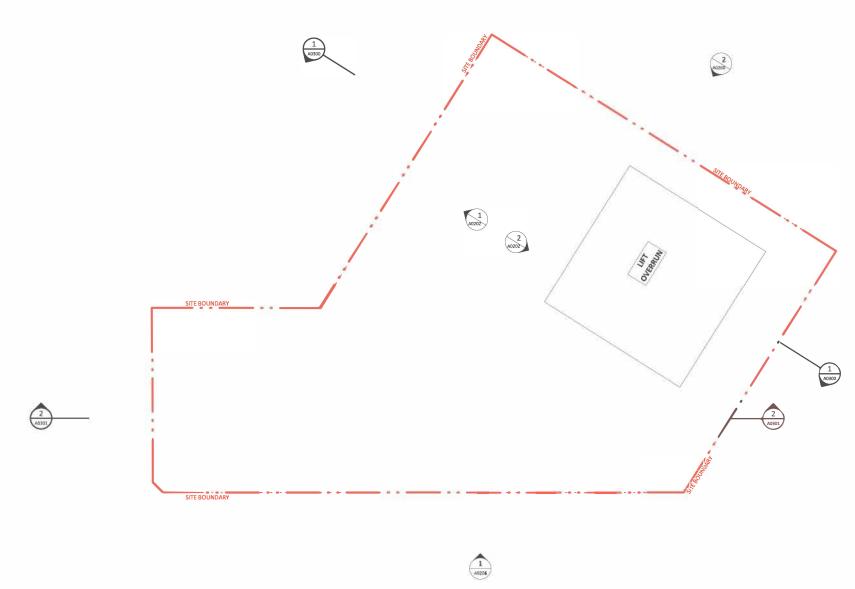
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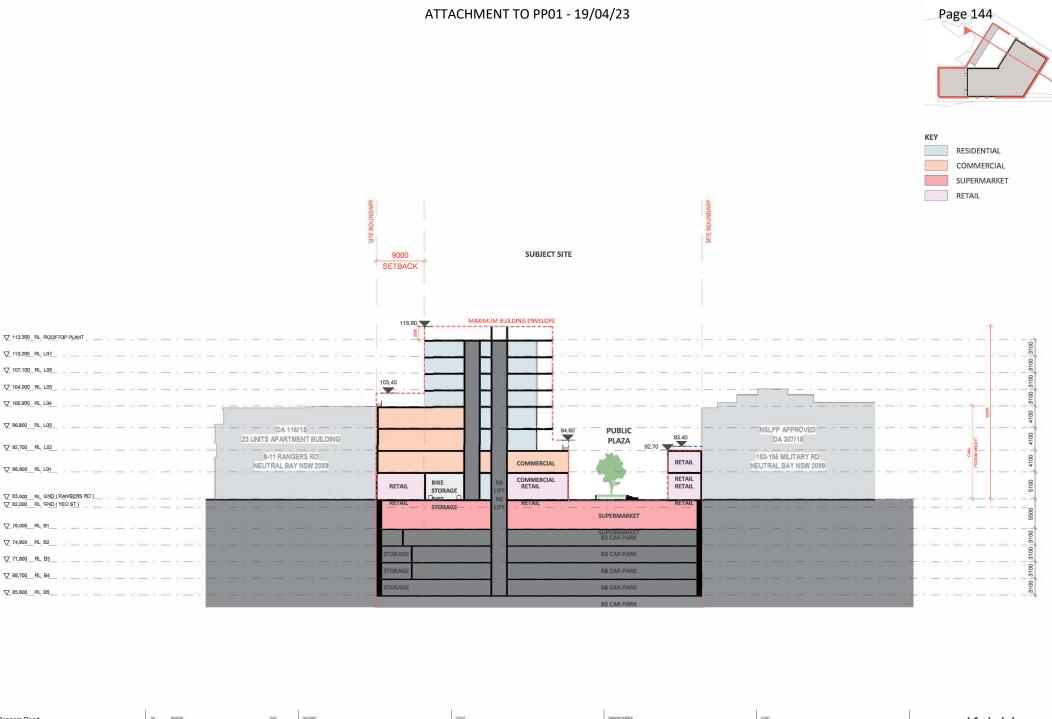
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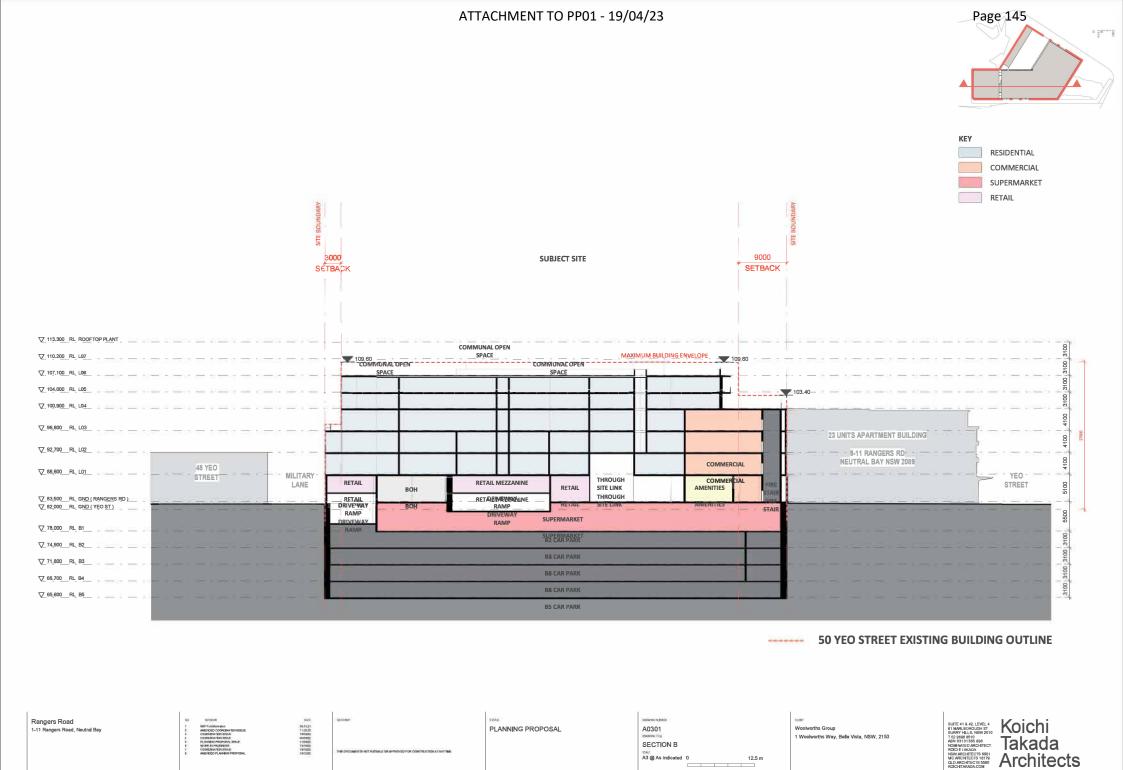
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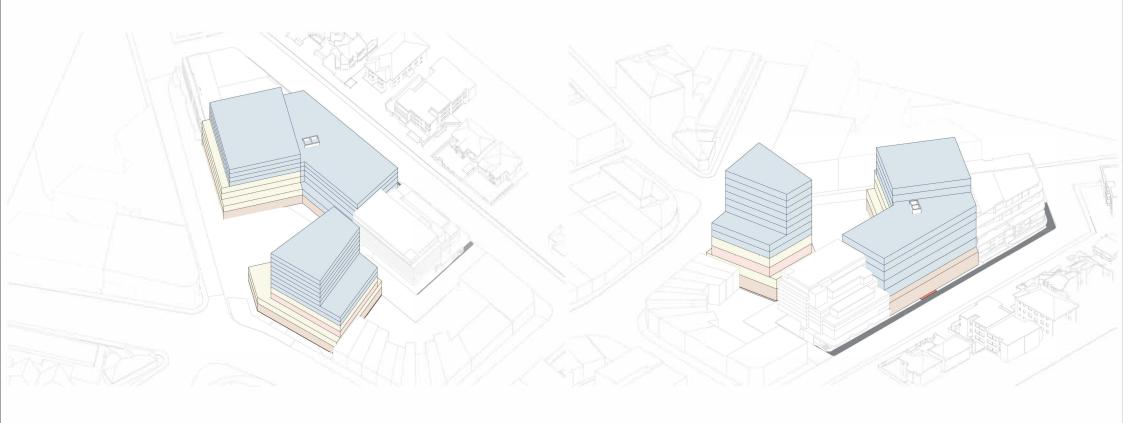
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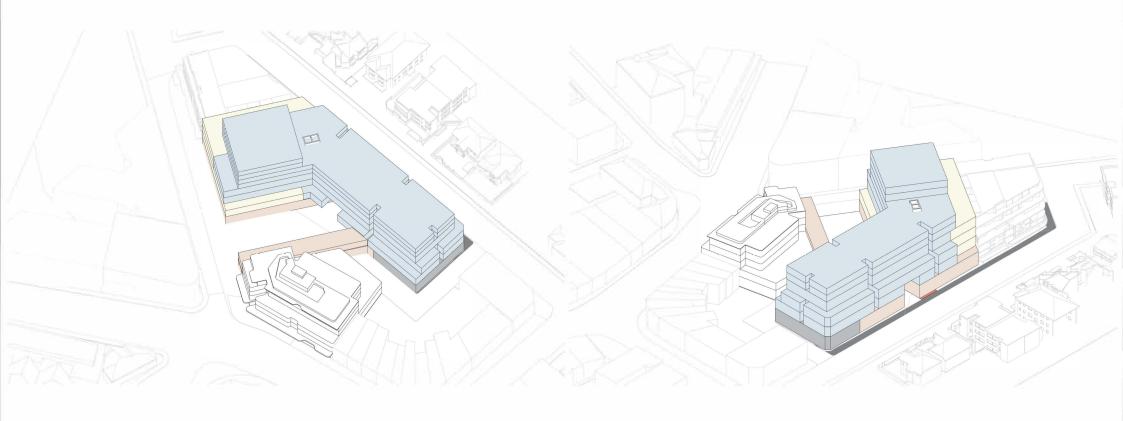
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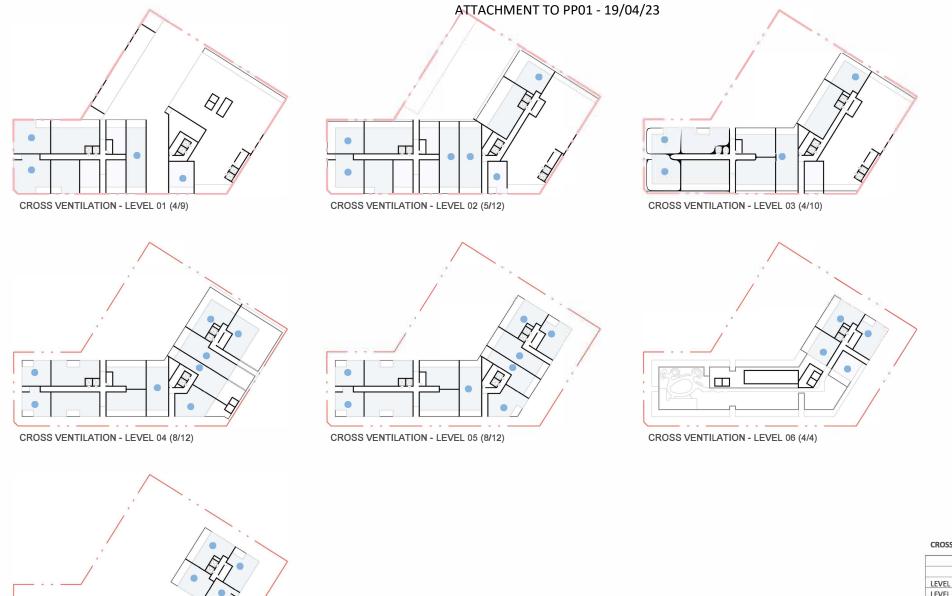


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	JPS/FAB	TOTAL UNITS	%	ó
LEVEL 01	4	9	44	%
LEVEL 02	6	12	50	%
LEVEL 03	4	10	40	%
LEVEL 04	8	12	67	%
LEVEL 05	8	12	67	%
LEVEL 06	4	4	100	%
LEVEL 07	4	4	100	%
TOTAL	38	63	60	%

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1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

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SOLAR MATRIX

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LEVEL 01	5	9	56	%
LEVEL 02	8	12	67	9
LEVEL 03	7	10	70	9
LEVEL 04	9	12	75	9
LEVEL 05	9	12	75	9
LEVEL 06	3	4	75	9
LEVEL 07	3	4	75	9
TOTAL	44	63	70	9

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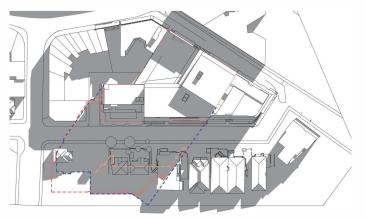
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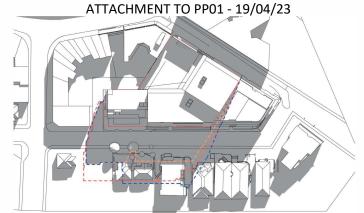
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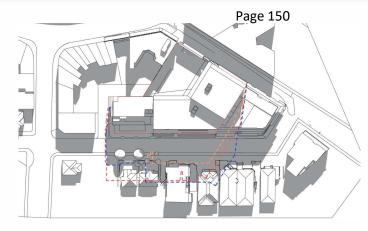
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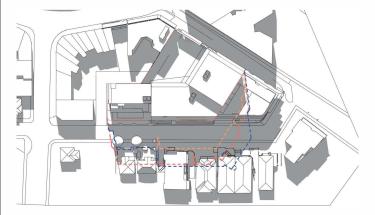
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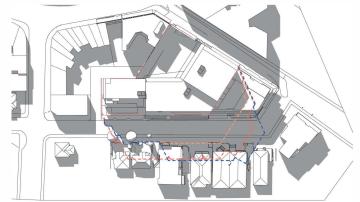




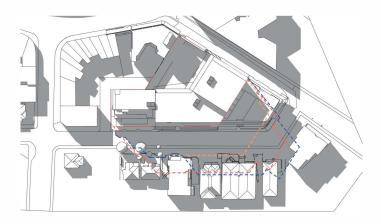
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NOTE:

ORANGE DASHED LINE INDICATES
OUTLINE OF DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE
MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST
INCLUDED)

NOTE:

BLUE DASHED LINE INDICATES
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RED DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF PROPOSED MASSING SHADOW

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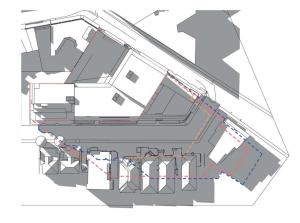
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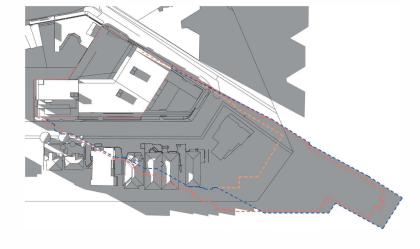
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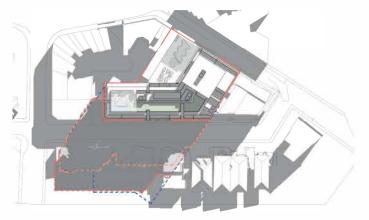
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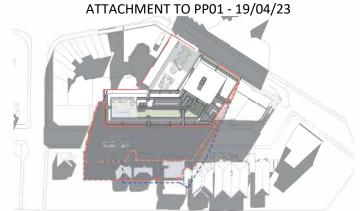
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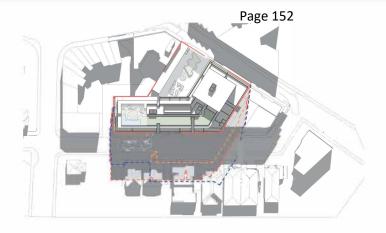
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1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153

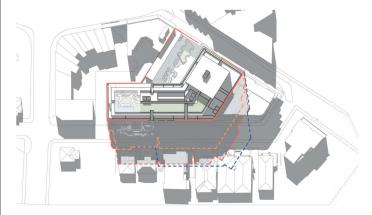
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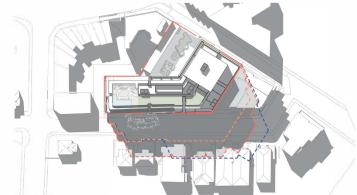




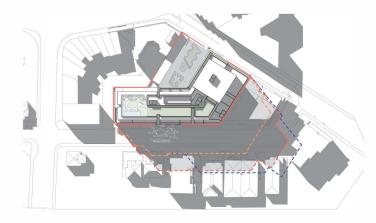
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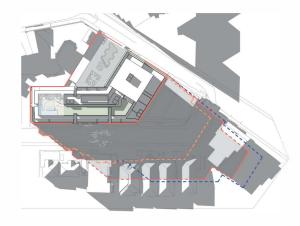
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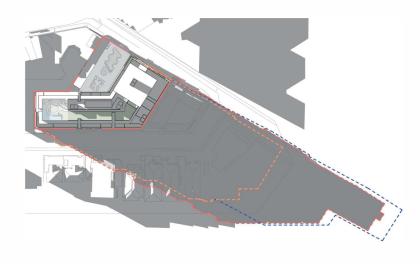
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June21_1500_ PROPOSAL



June21_1600_ PROPOSAL

NOTE:

ORANGE DASHED LINE INDICATES
OUTLINE OF DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE
MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST
INCLUDED)

NOTE:

BLUE DASHED LINE INDICATES
OUTLINE OF MASTERPLAN MASSING
SHADOW (50 YEO ST INCLUDED)

NOTE.

RED DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE
OF PROPOSED MASSING SHADOW

Rangers Road
1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

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PLANNING PROPOSAL

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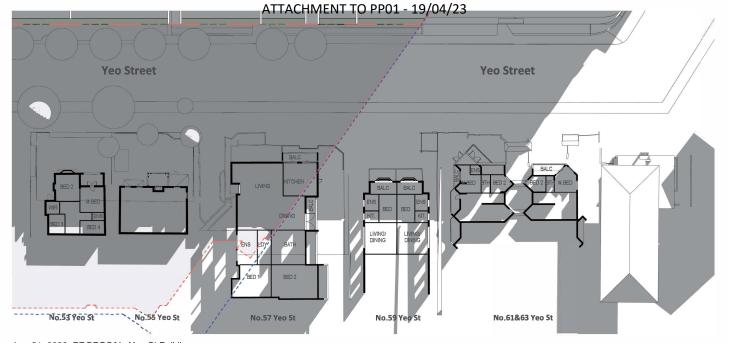
SHADOW DIAGRAM - PROPOSAL

SHADOW DIAGRAM - PROPOSAL

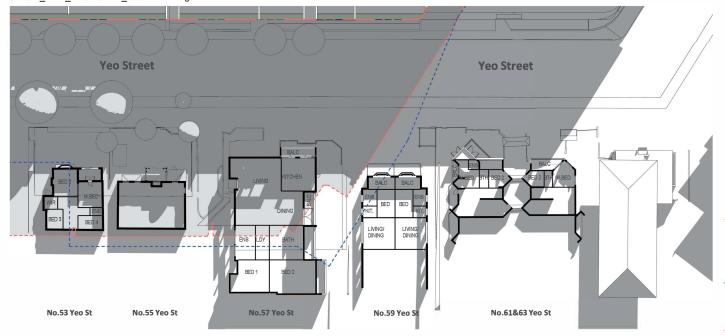
A3 @ 1:2000 0 50 m

Woolworths Group
1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153

SUTE 41 & 42, LEVEL 4
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June21_0900_PROPOSAL_Yeo St Buildings



June21_1000_PROPOSAL_Yeo St Buildings

Rangers Road

1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

WE, 00, 20 W², 00, 20 11,00, 20 16,00,00 WA, 03, 02 11,00, 02 16,00, 02 16,00, 02

PLANNING PROPOSAL

A0422 SHADOW DIAGRAMS - PROPOSAL (Yeo St) 01 A3 @ As indicated 0

1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153

NOTE:

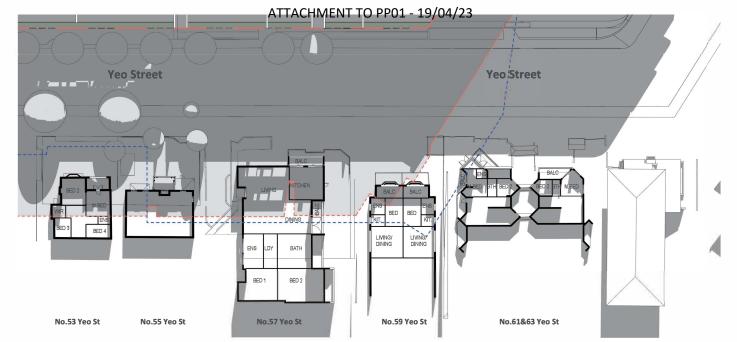
ORANGE DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST INCLUDED)

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BLUE DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF MASTERPLAN MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST INCLUDED)

RED DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF PROPOSED MASSING SHADOW

SUTE 41 & Q. LEVEL 4 e1 MARIZ DATIGOS ET ENERY MLIS. NOW 2010 JAN 583 1398 589 TORNINATED PROPRIETO NODE 1 MARIZA ACCEPTION COLOR 18 1079 QLD PROPRIETO 18



June21_1100_PROPOSAL_Yeo St Buildings



June21_1200_PROPOSAL_Yeo St Buildings

Rangers Road 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

WE, 00, 20 W², 00, 20 11,00, 20 16,00,00 WA, 03, 02 11,00, 02 16,00, 02 16,00, 02

PLANNING PROPOSAL

A0423 SHADOW DIAGRAMS - PROPOSAL (Yeo St) 02 A3 @ As indicated 0

1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153

NOTE:

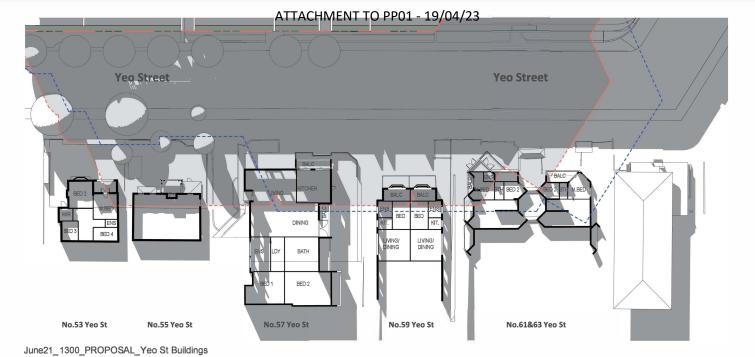
ORANGE DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST INCLUDED)

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RED DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF PROPOSED MASSING SHADOW

SUTE 41 & C. LEVEL 4 61 MARE JORGUL 67 104 MR 11 198 89 TOM NOT 11 198 199 CLA PROTECTS 89 CLA



Yeo Street

Yeo Street

Yeo Street

No.53 Yeo St No.55 Yeo St No.55 Yeo St No.57 Yeo St No.59 Yeo St No.61&63 Yeo St

June21_1400_PROPOSAL_Yeo St Buildings

ORANGE DASHED LINE INDICATES
OUTLINE OF DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE
MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST
INCLUDED)

NOTE:

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OUTLINE OF MASTERPLAN MASSING
SHADOW (50 YEO ST INCLUDED)

NOTE

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OF PROPOSED MASSING SHADOW

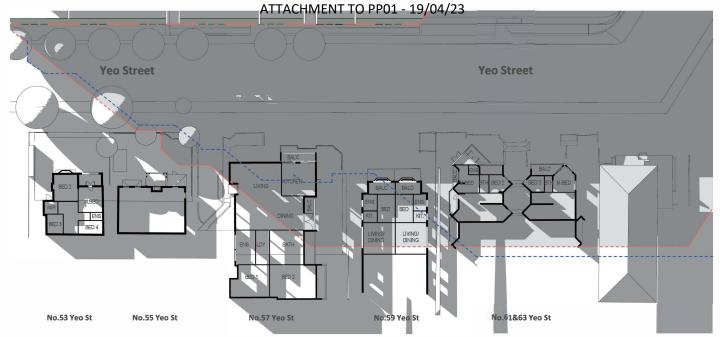
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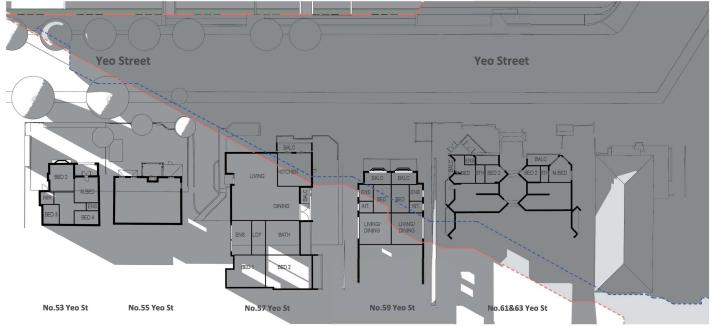
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PLANNING PROPOSAL

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June21_1500_PROPOSAL_Yeo St Buildings



June21_1600_PROPOSAL_Yeo St Buildings

Rangers Road 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

03/00/20 60/00/20 11/03/20 11/03/20 16/03/20 11/04/20 11/04/20 11/04/20

PLANNING PROPOSAL

A0425 SHADOW DIAGRAMS - PROPOSAL (Yeo St) 04 A3 @ As indicated 0

1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153

NOTE:

ORANGE DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST INCLUDED)

NOTE:

BLUE DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF MASTERPLAN MASSING SHADOW (50 YEO ST INCLUDED)

RED DASHED LINE INDICATES OUTLINE OF PROPOSED MASSING SHADOW

SUTE 41 & Q. LEVEL 4 e1 MARIZ DATIGOS ET ENERY MLIS. NOW 2010 JAN 583 1398 589 TORNINATED PROPRIETO NODE 1 MARIZA ACCEPTION COLOR 18 1079 QLD PROPRIETO 18



YEO STREET (LOOKING SOUTH) - SOLAR STUDY JUNE 21 - 0900



YEO STREET (LOOKING SOUTH) - SOLAR STUDY JUNE 21 - 1000



YEO STREET (LOOKING SOUTH) - SOLAR STUDY JUNE 21 - 1100



YEO STREET (LOOKING SOUTH) - SOLAR STUDY JUNE 21 - 1200



EXISTING BUILDING SHADOW
PROPOSED BUILDING SHADOW
MRCPS (MASTERPLAN)

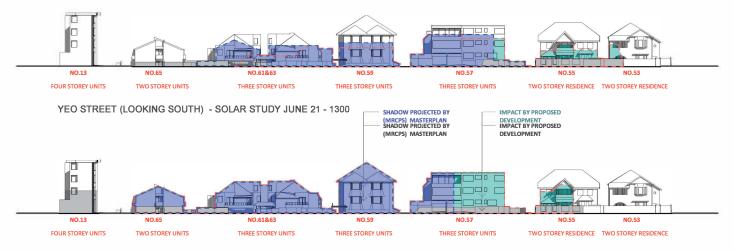
REAR / SOUTH OF YEO STREET ELEVATIONS OBTAINED FROM SURVEY DATED 6.12.21

Rangers Road 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay SWOOD COORDINATION SIGN FAMILIES FROM SIGN FAMILIES FROM SIGN MISSING DIT MISSING PROPORM. (14/14/13 (14/14/13 (14/14/13 (14/14/13) (passage)

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PLANNING PROPOSAL





YEO STREET (LOOKING SOUTH) - SOLAR STUDY JUNE 21 - 1400



YEO STREET (LOOKING SOUTH) - SOLAR STUDY JUNE 21 - 1500



EXISTING BUILDING SHADOW PROPOSED BUILDING SHADOW

MRCPS (MASTERPLAN)

REAR / SOUTH OF YEO STREET ELEVATIONS OBTAINED FROM SURVEY DATED 6.12.21

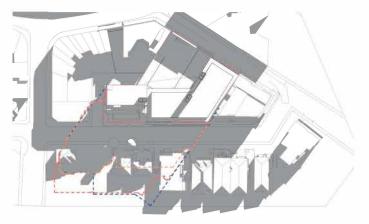
Rangers Road 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

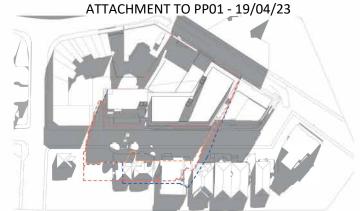
PLANNING PROPOSAL

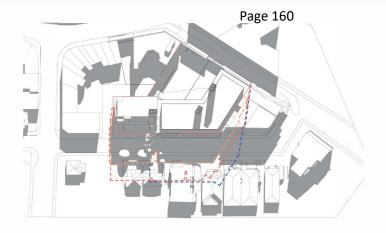
A0427 ELEVATION SOLAR STUDY (South Yeo St) - 02

A3 @ As indicated 0

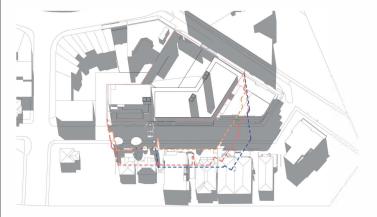
1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153 2.5 m



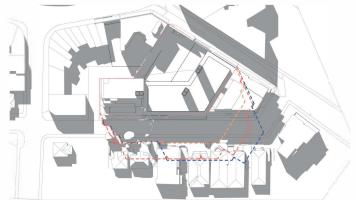




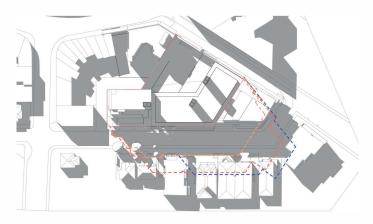
June21_0900_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE



June21_1000_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE



June21_1100_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE



June21_1200_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE

June21_1300_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE

June21_1400_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE

NOTE:

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OUTLINE OF DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE
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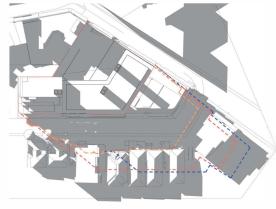
Rangers Road 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay I PAYOUR RESPONSE TO PRI RESPONSE TO PRI AMERICA O PLANDERS PROFOSA 0.000 09/19/03 07/04/03 16/19/03 Lies contributes that strawers developed that considerate services in the strawers of the stra

PLANNING PROPOSAL

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Woolworths Group

1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153



June21_1500_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE

June21_1600_DCP MAX. ALLOWABLE

ORANGE DASHED LINE INDICATES
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SUTE 41 & 42, LEVEL 4 Koichi

Rangers Road 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay oi. PAVIORE PEISFORGE TO PRI MARICEO III AVAING PROPO 17/9409

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PLANNING PROPOSAL

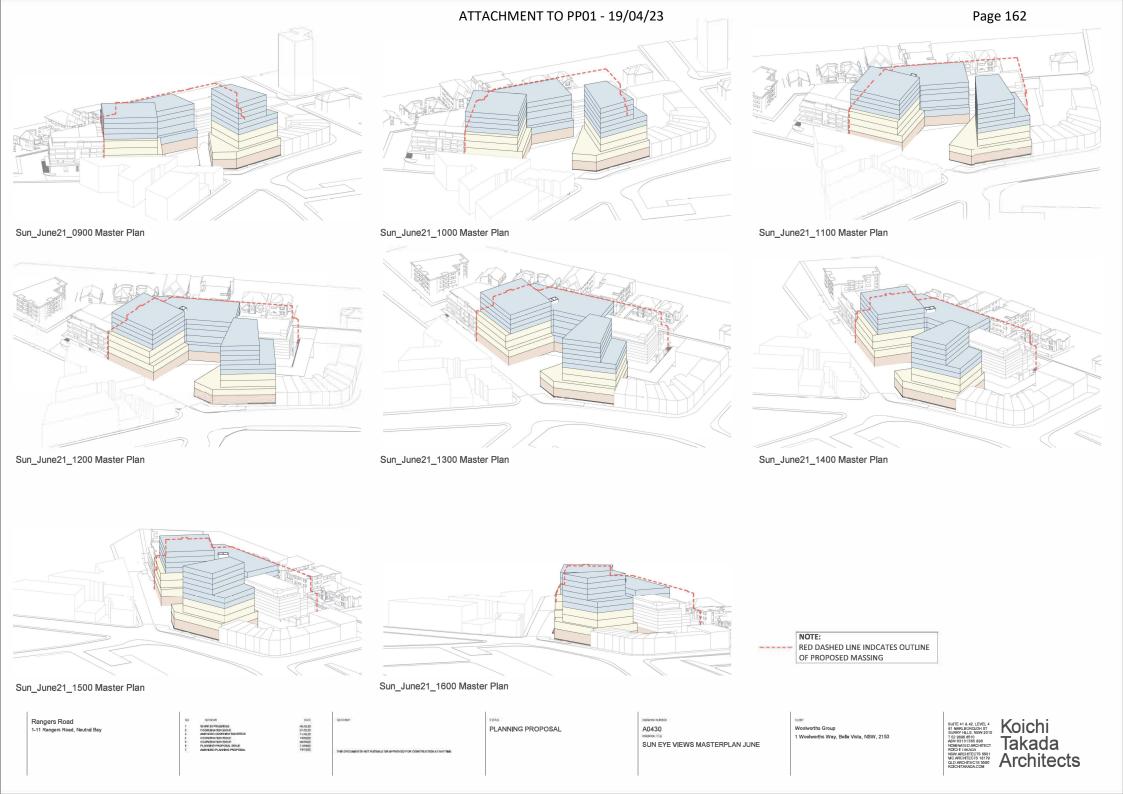
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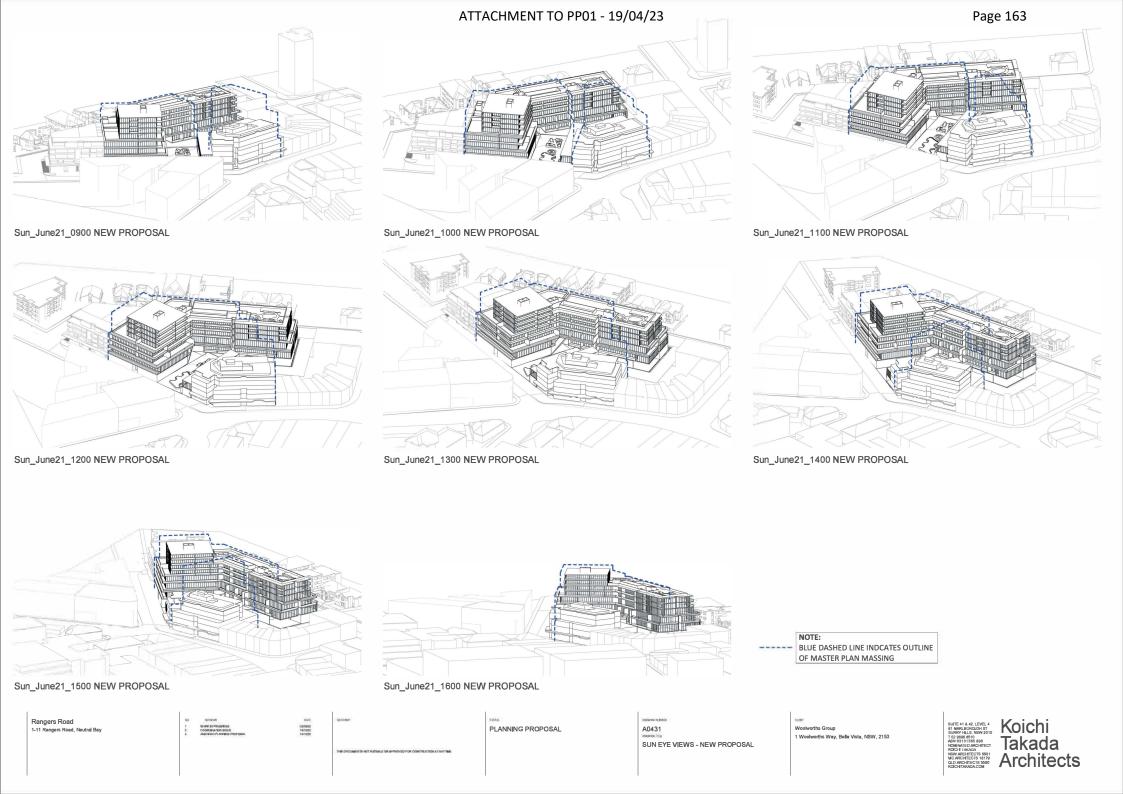
SHADOW DIAGRAM - DCP MAX, ALLOWABLE

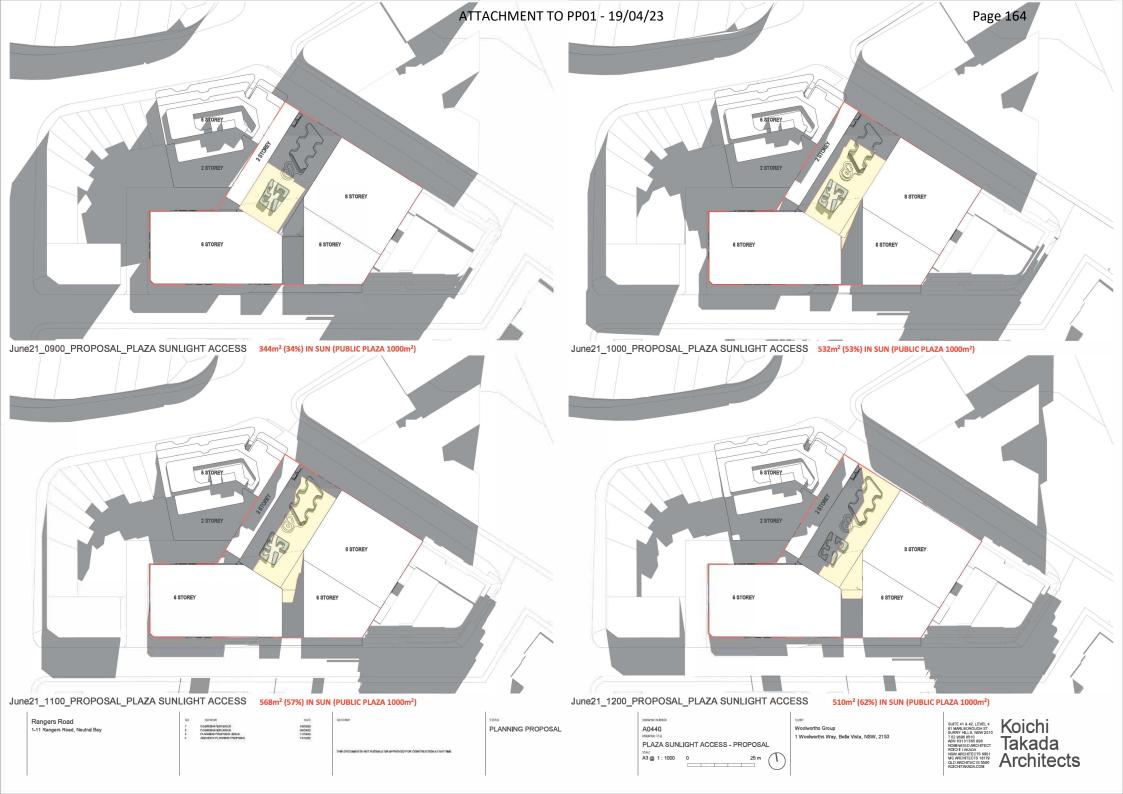
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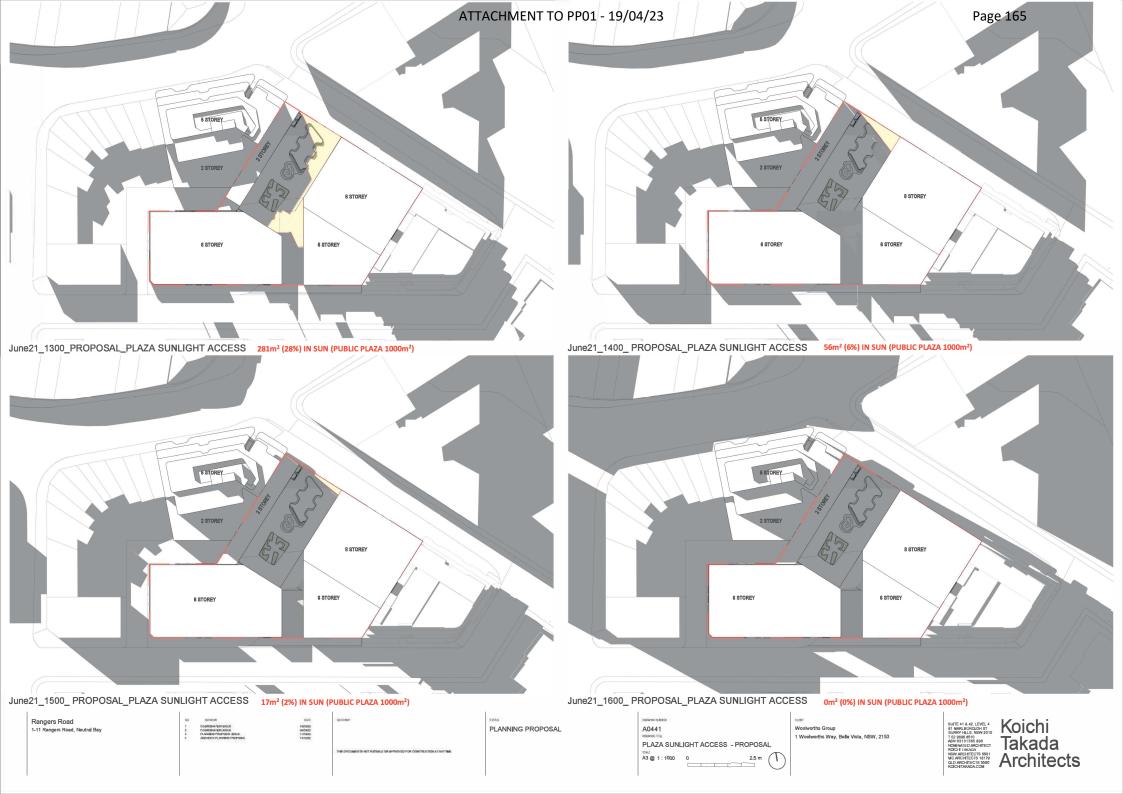
A3 @ 1: 2000 0 50 m

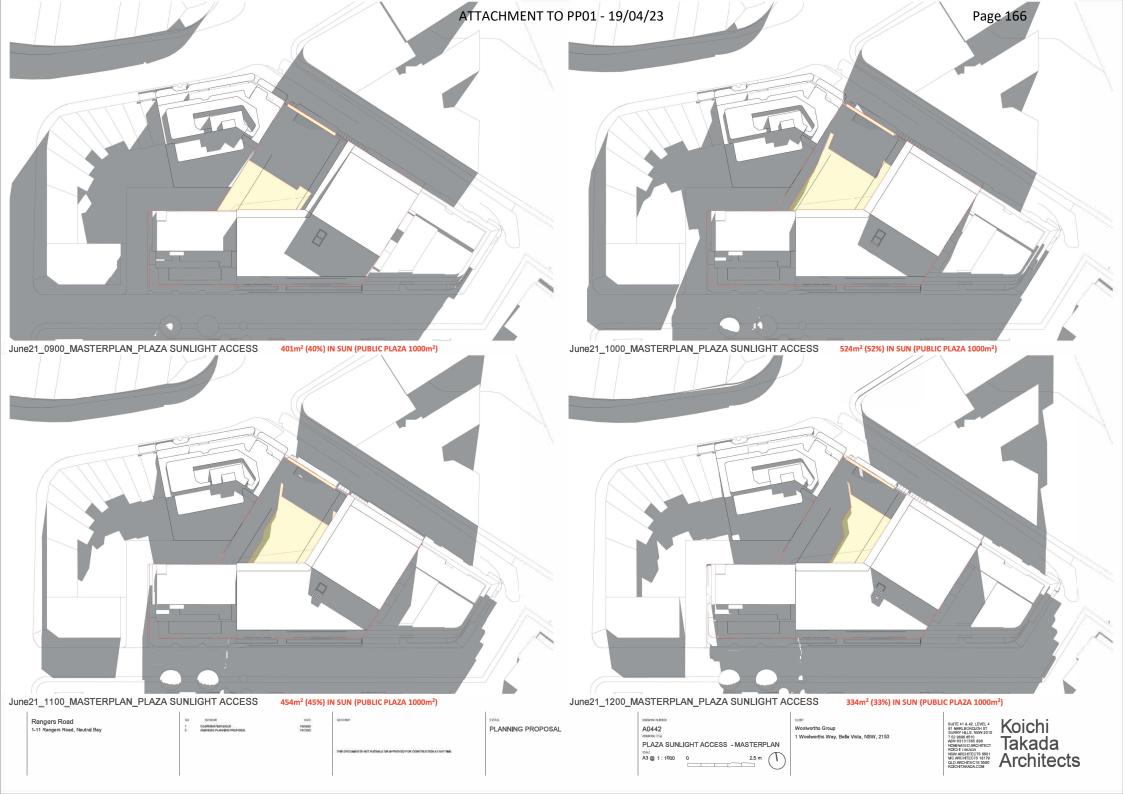




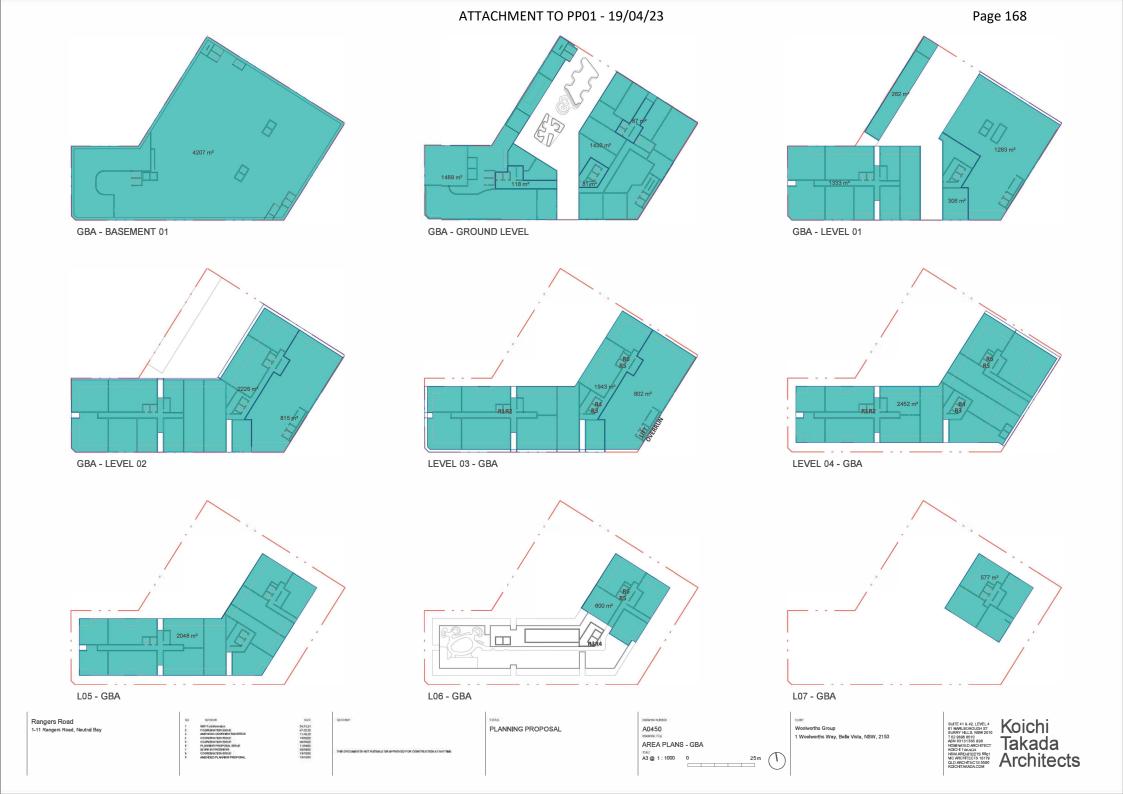


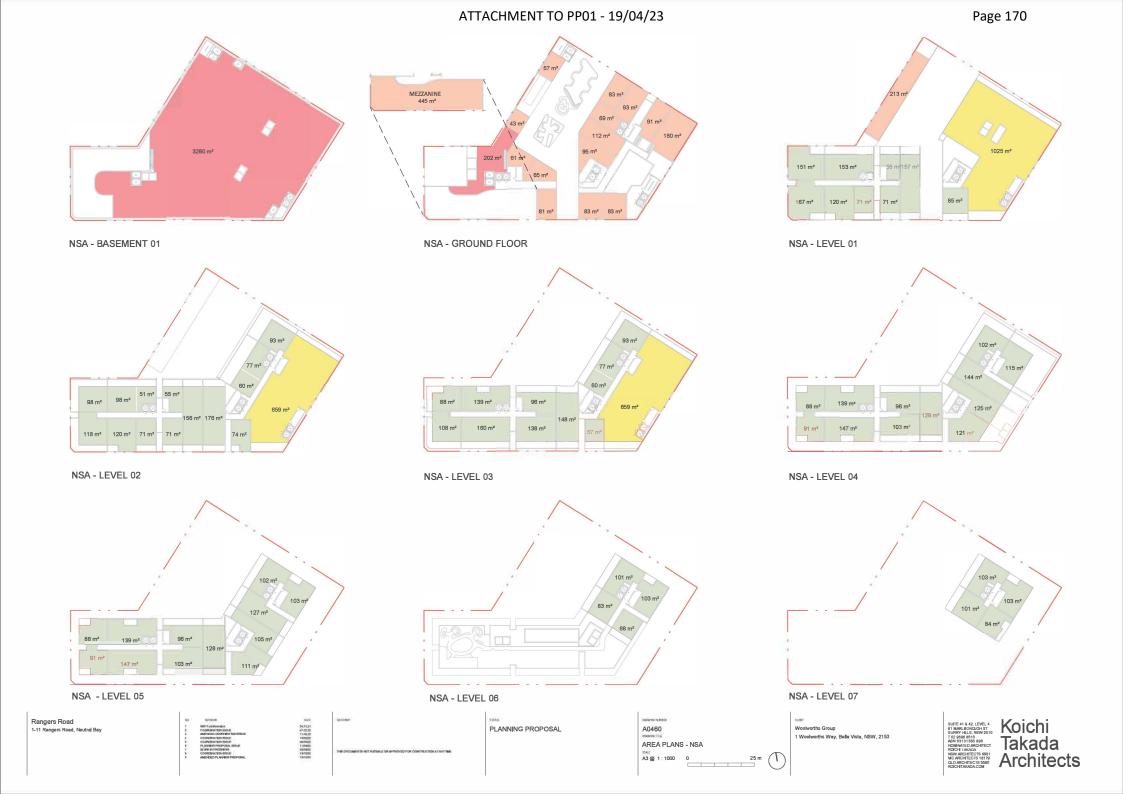












AREA CALCULATIONS

	F3K KEQU	IKEMEN 13	
		NON-RES. FSR	ł.
SITE	AREA	RQMNT'	TARGET
SITE 3A	3303	2 to 1	6606
SITE 3B	904	1.2 to 1	1084.8
TOTAL	4207		7690.8



Level	RESIDENTIAL (m2)	NON- RESIDENTIAL (m2)
Basement	0	4207
GF	286	2922
Level 1	1639	1525
Level 2	2226	815
Level 3	1943	802
Level 4	2452	
Level 5	2048	
Level 6	600	
Level 7	577	
Level 8	0	
Level 9	0	
Level 10	0	
Level 11	0	
Total	11771	10271
Grand Total	22042	

GFA			
Level	RESIDENTIAL (m2)	RETAIL (m2)	COMMERCIAL (m2)
Basement	0	3282	C
GF	153	1664	64
Level 1	1274	213	1025
Level 2	1523	0	659
Level 3	1358	0	659
Level 4	1604	0	0
Level 5	1546	0	0
Level 6	423	0	0
Level 7	421	0	0
Level 8	0	0	0
Level 9	0	0	0
Level 10	0	0	0
Level 11	0	0	
Total	8302	5159	2407
Grand Total	15868		
GFA/GBA(%)	72%		

Level	RESIDENTIAL (m2)	RETAIL (m2)	COMMERCIAL (m2)
Basement	0	3280	0
GF	0	1843	0
Level 1	1030	213	1025
Level 2	1318	0	659
Level 3	1164	0	659
Level 4	1399	0	(
Level 5	1340	0	(
Level 6	355	0	(
Level 7	391	0	(
Level 8	0	0	(
Level 9	0	0	(
Level 10	0	0	(
Level 11	0	0	
Total	6997	5336	2343
Grand Total	14676		
NSA/GFA(%)	92%		

FSR CALCULATIONS

NON-RESIDENTIAL GFA

AREA	7566	
FSR TARGET	7690.8	
DIFFERENCE	-125	
ACTUAL	1 to 1.80	

RESIDENTIAL GFA

AREA	8302	
FSR TARGET	N/A	
DIFFERENCE	N/A	
ACTUAL	1 to 1.97	

TOTAL		
AREA	15868	
FSR TARGET	N/A	
DIFFERENCE	N/A	
ACTUAL	1 to 3.77	

APARTMENT MATRIX

APARTMENT MATRIX (JPS/FAB)

		1BED	2BED	3BED	TOTAL
ì	GROUND				
	LEVEL 01	4	1	4	9
	LEVEL 02	4	1	7	12
	LEVEL 03	1	2	7	10
	LEVEL 04	0	4	8	12
	LEVEL 05	0	4	8	12
	LEVEL 06	1	1	2	4
	LEVEL 07	0	1	3	4
Ì	TOTALS	10	14	39	63
		16%	22%	62%	APTS
				100%	77

	JPS/ FAB	TOTAL UNITS	%
LEVEL 01	4	9	44%
LEVEL 02	6	12	50%
LEVEL 03	4	10	40%
LEVEL 04	8	12	67%
LEVEL 05	8	12	67%
LEVEL 06	4	4	100%
LEVEL 07	4	4	100%
TOTALS	38	63	60%

	JPS/ FAB	TOTAL UNITS	%
LEVEL 01	5	9	56%
LEVEL 02	8	12	67%
LEVEL 03	7	10	70%
LEVEL 04	9	12	75%
LEVEL 05	9	12	75%
LEVEL 06	3	4	75%
LEVEL 07	3	4	75%
TOTALS	44	63	70%

DCP CAR PARKING - RESIDENTIAL

BEDS	NO.	RATE	(Figure)	BAYS REQ'D
1 BED	10	0.5	5.00	5
2 BED	14	1	14.00	14
3 BED	39	1	39.00	39
Visitor	63	0	0.00	0

DCP MOTORCYCLE PARKING - RESIDENTIAL

ITEM	NO.	RATE	(Figure)	BAYS REQ'D
car bays	58	0.1	5.8	6

TOTAL	6
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DCP CAR PARKING - RETAIL & COMMERCIAL

Use	Area	Rate	(Figure)	BAYS REQ'D
Retail	1877	1 per 60m2	31.28	32
Supermarket	3282	4 per 100m2	131.28	132
Commercial	2407	1 per 60m2	40.12	40
Community	0	1 per 60m2	0.00	0
TOTAL				204

TOTAL	Į.l.	262

TAL	1	262
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Rangers Road PLANNING PROPOSAL 1-11 Rangers Road, Neutral Bay

A0461 AREA SCHEDULE

1 Woolworths Way, Bella Vista, NSW, 2153