



**Questions raised by the community
at the Draft Integrated Planning & Reporting Plans
Information Session held Tuesday 21 May 2013**

Questions Raised	Council's Reply
<p>1. Does the State Government oversee all Integrated Planning and Reporting (IPR) strategies and progress reporting of NSW councils? What feedback to date has Council received, if any?</p>	<p>Councils are required to submit the suite of plans to the Division of Local Government (DLG) once adopted, every four years. As IPR legislation was only introduced in 2009/10 and phased in across all councils over a three year period, the DLG did review all councils and provided individual feedback to each Council. The DLG also periodically updates the accompanying IPR Guidelines and Manual. The Manual contains a list of best practice councils. North Sydney Council has taken on board this feedback and used it to inform the current review of our plans.</p> <p>At present NSW councils are not required to submit their progress reports to the DLG, only to present them to Council for adoption. Councils are also required to make such reports available via their website, which North Sydney Council. To view past progress report visit Council's website: http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Council_Meetings/Policies_Plans/Integrated_Planning_Reporting/Operational_Plan</p>
<p>2. In terms of growth rate comparison, how does North Sydney compare with Green Square and Alexandria?</p>	<p>North Sydney is on par with these areas. We are growing steadily and consistently. We know where growth is required/expected and our planning controls allow for such.</p>
<p>3. In regards to the \$100 spend breakdown, please explain what the State Government charges entail.</p>	<p>State Government charges include a mandatory Fire Levy for fire services (approximately \$1.5m) and fees associated with the procurement of open space.</p>
<p>4. What investment capital does Council have control of? Some might argue that North Sydney is one of the smaller councils in terms of resident or size, but its contribution to NSW is significant.</p>	<p>North Sydney is a medium sized council. Our investments are managed via our Investment Portfolio. Performance against Council's Investment Portfolio is reported monthly to Council.</p> <p>In the State Government's draft Metropolitan Strategy, North Sydney has been identified as a key part of the</p>

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	<p>'Global Sydney Arc'. For more information about the draft Metropolitan Strategy visit http://strategies.planning.nsw.gov.au/MetropolitanStrategyforSydney.aspx</p>
<p>5. How does the 2013/14 \$100 spend breakdown compare with previous years?</p>	<p>Council is proposing only small increases in all budget areas compared to previous years. The difference between years is stated in the financial estimates within the Draft Delivery Program and draft Fees and Charges 2013/14. The recommended scenario within the Draft Resourcing Strategy is Scenario 2.</p>
<p>6. Where does the aspiration come from to make North Sydney a tourist destination? What are North Sydney's major attractions?</p>	<p>This aspiration was identified by both Council and the community through the consultation phase of the development of the Draft Community Strategic Plan. While we don't have as many tourist attractions as the City of Sydney, most visitors come to North Sydney to access our harbour foreshore. North Sydney's tourist attractions include our harbour foreshores and walkways, which are equally valued by visitors and residents, Mary Mackillop Place and the Coal Loader at Waverton. Both Graythwaite and HMS Platypus when restored will also be attractions.</p>
<p>7. One gap in Sydney is the lack of a designated Indigenous Heritage Museum. This is something Council should explore.</p>	<p>The suggestion is noted for future consideration. Council currently works in partnership with neighbouring councils to provide the Aboriginal Heritage Office. This is a joint initiative by Lane Cove, North Sydney, Manly, Warringah, Willoughby, Ku-ring-gai, Pittwater and City of Ryde councils to protect Aboriginal Heritage in these areas.</p> <p>The Office hosts the Aboriginal Heritage Museum and Keeping Place, a museum of Aboriginal artefacts and historical displays covering pre-colonial times to the modern day. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 4.30pm and entry is free. A virtual museum tour is available at http://www.aboriginalheritage.org/</p>
<p>8. What will happen with the Holtermann collection of photographs once the exhibition at the NSW State Library ends? Does Council have access to them?</p>	<p>The NSW State Library has an extensive archive where it stores such works when not on exhibition. Council, through Stanton Library has borrowed items for exhibitions from time to time. Council also partners the Australian Museum to borrow items for its exhibitions.</p>
<p>9. In regards to the refurbishment of North Sydney Olympic Pool, is Council looking to make it fully accessible?</p>	<p>This will be considered in the feasibility study being prepared for the upgrade of the 50m outdoor pool and surrounding lower deck.</p>
<p>10. Is all stormwater drainage subject to</p>	<p>Council has 26 Gross Pollutant Traps, positioned at all</p>

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Gross Pollutant Traps?	major entry points into Sydney Harbour. They are not positioned at some of the smaller entry points.
11. Does Council have to contribute to wharf upgrades?	No. They are fully funded by the State Government through Roads and Maritime Services (RMS).
12. Are all Streetscape Committees active?	<p>There are six Streetscape Committees - Cammeray, Cremorne, Crows Nest, Kirribilli, Neutral Bay and Waverton. Some are more active than others. Crows Nest and Neutral Bay are very active, they meet several times per year and their projects are funded by the two Mainstreet Levies applicable in each business area. For more information about Streetscape Committees visit Council's website:</p> <p>http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Projects_Infrastructure/Streetscapes</p>
13. What is Council's contribution to the Alexander Street Carpark, Crows Nest redevelopment project?	<p>This is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project that Council has entered into with Woolworths. There are two land owners in this PPP, Council owns the car park and Woolworths owns the property on which the current supermarket stands. These are almost equal land holdings.</p> <p>Through the redevelopment Council will contribute \$5 million plus land and Woolworths will contribute their land plus all other development. Exact costs are considered commercial in confidence. Once built, Council will own the entire property (i.e. land will be legally transferred to Council). A 99 year lease from Council replaces Woolworths' current 50% ownership of site.</p>
14. Council's fencing program is grossly under designed.	<p>Feedback noted. Because of North Sydney's topography we have many timber fences and retaining walls. Our current timber fences meet Australian Standards AS 2796.2 for sawn and milled hardwood timber and AS 2082-2007 - timber hardwood for structural purposes. The class of hardwood we use in our fences is "F17" which is one of the strongest gradings of timber in terms of stress grading/strength of the timber. Also all the timber framing, including the bracing, are designed and constructed in accordance with AS1720 SAA Timber Structures Code and AS2796 HW Grading.</p>
15. I have contacted Ausgrid several times about faulty streetlights without response. Can Council assist residents to report faults/repair requests to Ausgrid?	<p>Yes. Council can report faults and repair requests to Ausgrid on behalf of residents. Please provide the pole ID number(s) to Council staff via the Call Centre. Council's Engineering and Property Services Division will liaise with Ausgrid.</p>

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<p>16. Whose responsibility is it for planning for climate change and rising sea levels? Is it Council's in regards to wharfs or does this fall to the State Government?</p>	<p>The responsibility for climate change planning lies with all levels of Government, although all individuals must do what we can to collectively minimise the effects of climate change. Council will be looking at the potential impact on North Sydney, including residential areas and seawalls. It is Council's responsibility to plan for areas for which we are responsible, including public assets. Council is aiming to take a mitigation approach in alleviating the impact of potential changes.</p>
<p>17. What are the changes to parking in the budget/IPR plans?</p>	<p>Council commenced using licence plate recognition (LPR) technology to monitor parking on 20 May 2013. LPR technology, which is currently used by NSW Police and in other council areas, is being used to monitor parking in restricted areas without meters.</p> <p>Council has trialled the technology for parking surveys over the past few months and is confident that motorists will not be unfairly fined. The technology will also be used to conduct surveys of North Sydney streets so that the Council can track parking patterns and vacancy rates across the area.</p>
<p>18. Will the use of LPR impact of vehicles with disability permits?</p>	<p>No. Parking Officers are still required to vacate the LPR vehicle if the camera detects an over stay (i.e. non compliance) in order to issue the fine. In doing so they will check if vehicle has a disability or other permit and if so will not issue the fine.</p>
<p>19. Does the LPR technology work at night time?</p>	<p>No. The situational photography does not work at night time.</p>
<p>20. Will the introduction of LPR reduce the number of Parking Officer staff required by Council?</p>	<p>Employment of LPR technology is a more efficient way of managing parking. Parking Officers are still required to issue infringements. Initially there will be no impact on current staffing numbers.</p>
<p>21. Boats and trailers parking in residential streets is an ongoing problem. Will changing parking restrictions assist?</p>	<p>This issue of boat parking is both a Council and RMS issue. The matter is a challenge, particularly for inner city councils due to lack of available on-street parking. This has prompted North Sydney and other similar metropolitan councils to raise the matter on numerous occasions at the Local Government Association annual conference to lobby for road rule amendments, allowing councils to take action against long term parking of boats in congested streets.</p> <p>Under the current regime the most effective method Council can employ to tackle the problem is to introduce parking restrictions on streets (e.g. 8 hours) which will</p>

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	<p>require boats to be moved. However residents will also have to move vehicles to ensure they are not fined.</p> <p>This method can also result in some boats shifting to other nearby streets that do not have restrictions.</p>
<p>22. When Council allows development does it incur a fee or contribution?</p>	<p>It depends on the type of development - medium to high rise residential and commercial developments pay contributions known as Section 94 developer contributions. Council's Section 94 Contributions Plan applies to all land in the North Sydney local government area. Additional contributions apply to specific areas only and these are defined within the Plan.</p> <p>The Plan also documents the rationale and justification for the contributions and the contribution rates applicable. It also includes works schedules which indicate the facilities to be provided. Section 94 contributions are adjusted annually by the consumer price index, and are detailed in the Council's annual Fees and Charges Schedule.</p>
<p>23. Can Council encourage a developer to build a small theatre in North Sydney?</p>	<p>Council will continue to attempt to attract such a development to the area as there is demonstrated community need/desire for such a facility. It links to the reactivation of the street level within the North Sydney CBD. The most recent attempt was with the Shopping Word redevelopment in Berry Street, North Sydney but that fell through as it requires attracting a willing developer.</p>
<p>24. Pre the Local Government elections there was a lot of lobbying by the North Sydney Chamber of Commerce for the revitalisation of the CBD. Is this a priority for the new Council? And is where is the review of late night trading provisions up to?</p>	<p>Yes. The new Council is supportive of revitalising the North Sydney CBD. Strong sentiments for such came out of the Community Strategic Plan review consultations by both Councillors and the wider community.</p>
<p>25. Are roof top bars permitted in the LGA?</p>	<p>Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP 2001) and Development Control Plan (DCP 2002) do not contain specific provisions relating to roof top bars. 'Taverns' are a permissible use within the Mixed Use and Commercial zones but their location within a building is not prescribed. A development application for a bar located on a roof top would be considered through the development assessment process. Any proposal to locate these on building roof tops will be assessed with particular regard to amenity impacts in surrounding areas.</p> <p>Small bars have been established in Crows Nest and</p>

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	<p>Neutral Bay and seem to be working well. Controls relating to small bars are located within the NSW Liquor Act.</p> <p>Given its easy accessibility, large working population and growing mixed-use fringe residential population, the North Sydney Centre commercial core is a good location for the establishment of small bars. However the interface between commercial and residential amenity needs to be effectively managed.</p>
<p>26. Is Council in favour of converting old office blocks into residential apartments?</p>	<p>Examples of this are happening at present. The fringe of the North Sydney CBD is now zoned mixed use, therefore allowing for the introduction of more residential properties in this area. However the core of the CBD remains commercial.</p>
<p>27. Where is the Ennis Road, Kirribilli development up to?</p>	<p>This is an RMS project. To date Council has negotiated most of the outstanding issues with RMS. The proposal has not yet been to the Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP) for determination. Council is aware that in order for the development to happen, RMS plans to sell the rights to a developer to do the project.</p> <p>For more information about this project refer to Council's website: http://www.northsydney.nsw.gov.au/Projects_Infrastructure/Other_Local_Projects/Milsons_Point_Railway_Station_Upgrade</p>