

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Balmain Town Hall and Civic Precinct Community working group

1. **Background**

A Notice of Motion was adopted on 20 September 2022 to establish the Balmain Town Hall and Civic Precinct Community working group. The NOM stated:

“On 13 July 2022 a community meeting was held at Balmain Town Hall and a community visioning exercise for the Civic Precinct on Darling Street Balmain began. This Civic Precinct extends from Balmain PCYC to the new Balmain Square and notably includes the Town Hall and Library, Court House, Post Office and Police Station, as well as a variety of other smaller buildings and uses within the precinct.

The community meeting was well attended, and ideas were generously shared both on the night and in the days that followed.

The Civic Precinct is the gateway to Balmain, and it represents the most famous and historic blocks within Balmain, one of the most famous suburbs in Australia. The precinct is of great heritage value and while the buildings themselves remain in reasonable condition, apart from a few of the buildings, as a whole the precinct no longer forms the hub of the community. Restoring and repurposing these buildings in a manner the community can use and value represents an important opportunity and is at the heart of our shared vision as expressed at the first visioning meeting in July".

To progress this shared vision attendees at the meeting called for a community working group to be formed.

1. **Extent of Balmain Civic Precinct**

This was set out in a Notice of Motion on 12 April 2022 and defined the Civic Precinct as: “the whole Balmain Town Hall precinct, from Balmain PCYC to the new Balmain Square”, from Jacques Street to Montague Street.

1. **Purpose of the Community working group**

To progress the shared vision established through recent consultation, the Balmain Town Hall and Civic Precinct Community working group would consider the interests of both local business and residents and put forward consensus views for consideration of key stakeholders consisting of the relevant property owners including:

* The NSW Department of Community and Justice (owner of the Balmain Court House)
* NSW Police
* Inner West Council
* PCYC
* Balmain Post Office

1. **Scope**

Working groups are part of Council’s Community Engagement Framework, providing advice and input to support Council’s decision-making and actions. Consisting of community volunteers, working groups do not have delegation or decision-making powers.

1. **Activities**

The working group will:

* Review and prioritise engagement outcomes received so far
* Identify potential uses for buildings and space within the civic precinct
* Identify opportunities to activate Darling Street and the adjacent buildings
* Explore opportunities for connectivity and synergy between buildings
* Explore opportunities to make the street and building frontages more attractive
* Ensure that any proposals, projects or pathways that are developed are in line with Council’s resources and align with the Inner West Community Strategic Plan.

The working group will document their views on these topics.

1. **Membership**

The working group will consist of:

* Inner West Mayor - Chair
* Ward Councillors
* NSW State Parliamentary Representative
* Six community representatives
* Relevant Inner West Council Staff:
  + Scott Mullen - Strategic Investment and Property
  + Kurt Henkel/Kate Cavanough – Public Domain
  + Caroline McLeod – Libraries and Community Facilities

Council will be permitted to invite observers from select staff/professionals. Other observers can be invited to a meeting based on need or advice on specific subject matter.

1. **Timing of meetings**

The working group will meet over three occasions. Proposed dates are as follows:

* Week commencing 28 November 2022
* Week commencing 6 February 2023
* Week commending 6 March 2023

1. **Secretariat**

Council will provide secretariat support for the working group. This will include any required administrative functions.

1. **Budget**

There is no budget allocated at this time. Consideration will be given as to how the project will be resourced as required.

1. **Term**

The working group will function until a report has been provided which outlines consideration of those issues listed under item 3.

**Ends**