



North Sydney CBD
Public Domain Strategy
North Sydney Council
October 2018



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

North Sydney Council is working to create a more engaging and resilient CBD that offers a greater range of activities and unique public spaces for workers, residents and visitors.

This 'Place Book' has been prepared to guide the development of the public domain in the CBD of North Sydney. This document establishes a vision for the centre's public spaces, identifies short, medium and long term projects on both private and public land and puts in place an implementation plan to deliver change. The Place book will be used to align both private and public investment in the CBD around a common vision for its future.

It will inform Council's:

- statutory and strategic planning decisions
- future capital works programs
- discussions with state agencies and the development industry.

ATTRACT | CONNECT
DIVERSIFY | SATISFY

A vision for public life in North Sydney's CBD.

WHAT WE HEARD

Previous North Sydney consultation activities and feedback were reviewed to identify feedback relevant to the CBD Public Domain. Ideas and proposals were then developed and the community and stakeholders were given the opportunity to participate in a survey based on these initial ideas. Further consultation activities tested development of these ideas to inform finalisation of the draft strategy.

Consistently we heard that the community feels strongly about the need for the public domain to activate the CBD through the inclusion of activity-based infrastructure which is appealing to both residents and workers.

The public domain should also provide places to gather and facilitate the movement of large numbers of people. There was also strong support for quality, activated pedestrian links that may require road closures or traffic changes.

Stakeholder and community engagement has informed the vision for the CBD so that it reflects community aspirations and ensures the proposals are aligned with public needs and benefits.

STAGES

The Public Space Strategy is being undertaken in two stages:

Stage 1, summarised in this 'Place Book', is an ideas phase that examines the potential of the North Sydney CBD public domain. It identifies:

- community expectations and ideas
- opportunities to better align existing policies
- a framework for future public domain upgrades
- short-medium term projects that address known issues and mitigate the impacts of construction
- longer term, place-specific projects and visionary, high-intervention opportunities.

In Stage 2, to be undertaken in 2019, Council will develop a strategy to deliver the ideas and proposals included in this Place Book. This will ensure public space proposals are achievable, supported across Council and adequately funded.

This Public Spaces Vision document seeks to ensure that future growth in the CBD is complemented by public spaces that improve vibrancy, safety, amenity, and appeal of the centre for workers, residents, students, visitors and investors.

North Sydney requires high quality public spaces befitting its role as part of a globally connected Harbour CBD.



COMMUNITY COMMENT:
'A strong sense of community exists in North Sydney and many families are keen to 'stay and play'.'

Post Office Square.

The issues.

There are a number of issues affecting the public domain in North Sydney CBD:

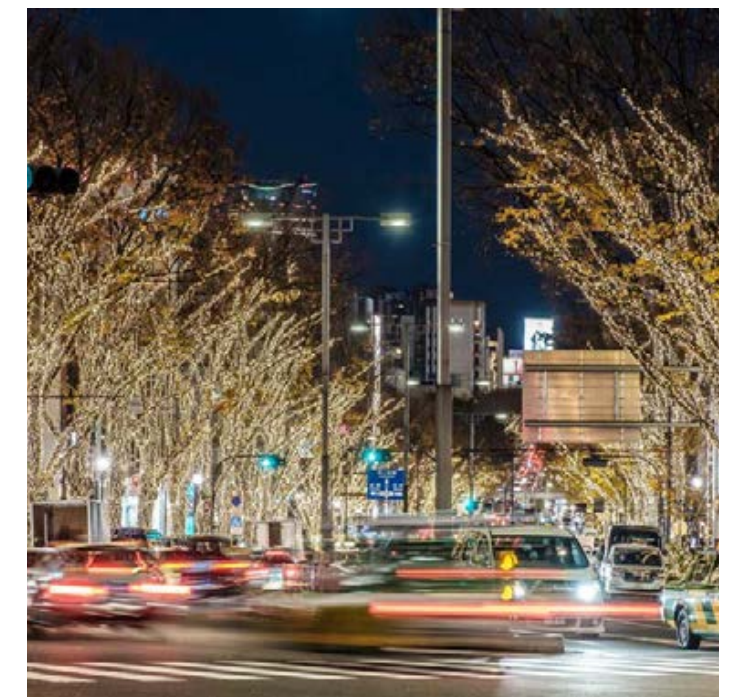
- A general undersupply of plazas and parks.
- Existing public domain lacks delight and warmth.
- Heavy impact of peak hour vehicle movements.
- Empty public spaces after hours and on weekends and a lack of after hour activities.



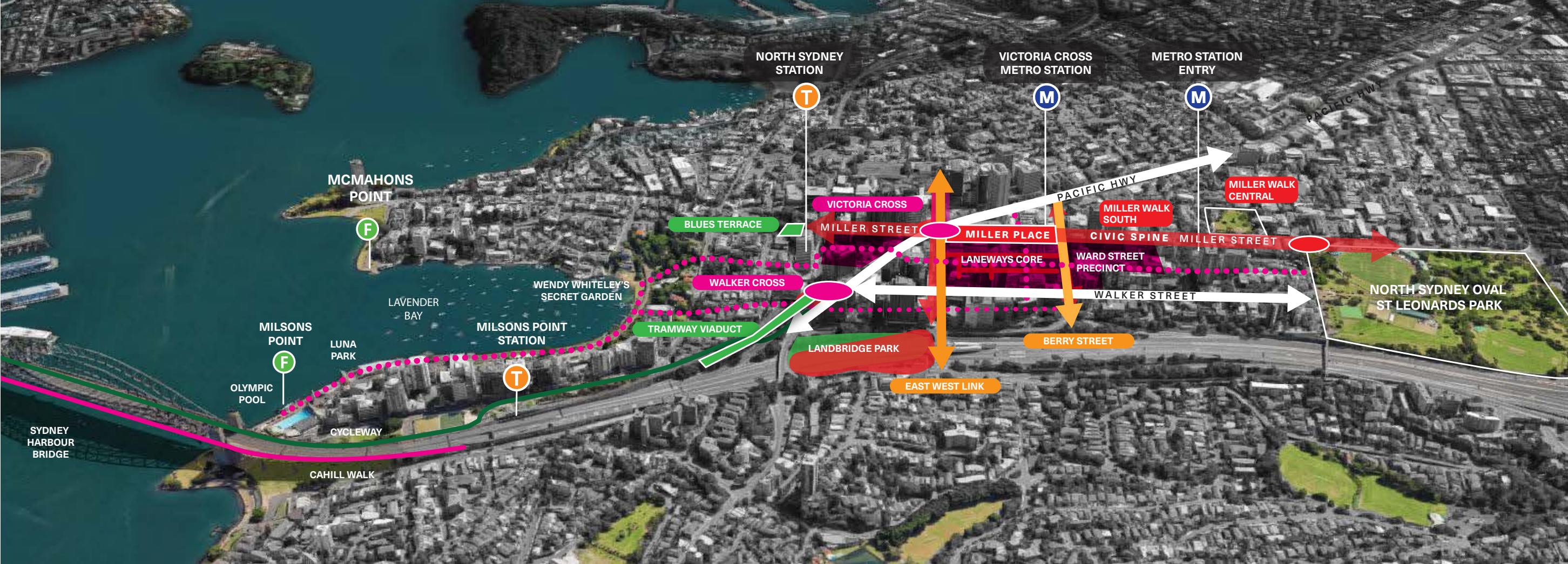
The ideas.

There are four approaches proposed to improve the public domain in North Sydney CBD:

- Increase the quantity of public domain and green space.
- Increase the quality and variety of public domain.
- Slow vehicle speeds and actively encourage walking and cycling.
- Create new city-shaping spaces that connect with cultural, social and transport hubs.



Public Space key moves.



PUBLIC SPACE GAINS	PUBLIC SPACE UPGRADES
+ 3,000M ² MILLER PLACE	3,500M ² MILLER PLACE
+ 2,700M ² MILLER WALK SOUTH	3,000M ² MILLER WALK CIVIC
+ 1,200M ² POST OFFICE SQUARE	5,500M ² LANEWAYS PRECINCT
+ 3,500M ² TRAMWAY VIADUCT	1,000M ² LOWER MOUNT STREET
+ 1,100M ² BERRY SQUARE NORTH	800M ² BERRY SQUARE
+ 1,200M ² WARD STREET PRECINCT	3,500M ² LITTLE WALKER STREET
+ 3,800M ² 10% WIDER FOOTPATHS	600M ² BLUE TERRACE
+ 16,500M² TOTAL	20,900M² TOTAL

KEY MOVES

The biggest strategic opportunities for North Sydney are to be created by the downgrading of vehicles and traffic movements, and greatly increasing the importance of footpaths, pedestrian spaces, walking routes, squares and laneway links.

New public spaces will be created by closing some streets to through traffic where possible, widening footpaths and upgrading existing spaces that are currently in poor condition or unconnected to the public realm.

There are three important linking elements; the Civic Spine on Miller Street, the laneway system running north—south and the east—west pedestrian link along Mount Street.

The challenge of Public Space.

EXISTING PUBLIC DOMAIN INCLUDING
FOOTPATHS PER WORKER 2016 (60K)

0.75m²/person

With growth of 20,000
new workers this rate
will fall to

0.55m²/person ↓

COMPARISON:

BARANGAROO SOUTH 2.0m²/person

OPTUS MACQUARIE PARK 2.0m²/person

JUST TO MAINTAIN THE STATUS QUO
A MINIMUM OF

16,000m² of new
space* is needed
↑

*Space gained from road
closures, footpath widenings,
upgrades, rooftops.

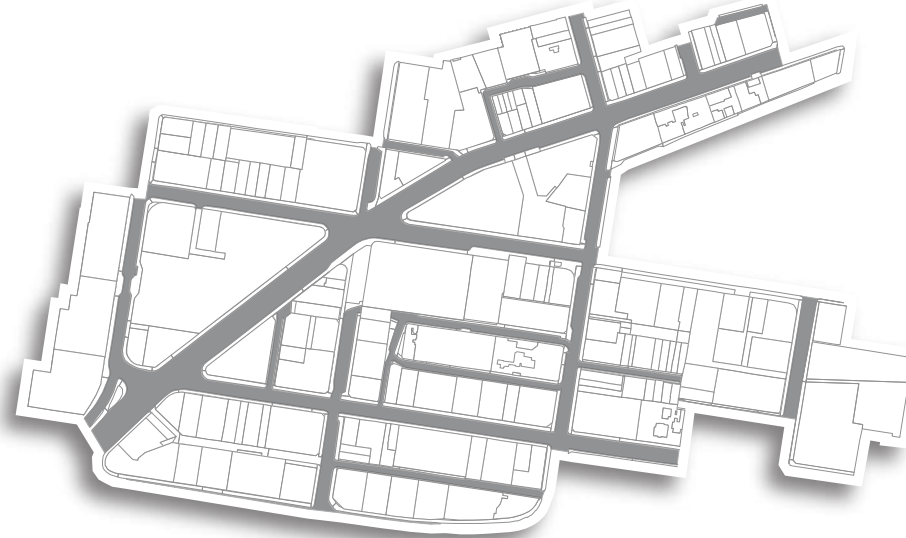
By 2036 pedestrian activity will increase
by 54% adding 22,000 people to streets
and public spaces every weekday.

Potential Public Space gains.

WHAT MAKES UP THE PUBLIC DOMAIN IN THE CBD



EXISTING PUBLIC FOOTPATH AREAS

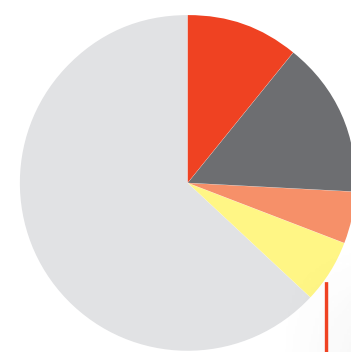


EXISTING ROAD SPACE



EXISTING PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SPACES
AND PROPOSED PUBLIC SPACES

Very little additional public space has been gained over the last half a century through the development process.



11% FOOTPATHS
29,000 M²

15% ROADS
40,500 M²

6% PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLES SPACE
17,000 M²

6% NEW PUBLIC SPACE
+ 20,000 M²

KEY

- Existing publicly accessible areas
- Potential public space gains



Don Bank Museum

Garden Oasis

Pacific Highway

Focus on pedestrians & cyclists

St Peters Church

1889 Post Office

St Peters Park

Upgraded park

Post Office Square

Close Mount Street

Blue Terrace

Upgrade harbour view space

Gas Lane

Upgraded link

Victoria Cross

Pedestrian Friendly

Miller Place

New CBD heart

Berry Street

A leafy boulevard

Miller Walk

Linking CBD and parks

North Sydney Station

Link to Wynyard and Chatswood

Greenwood Plaza

Upgraded terrace and gardens

Victoria Cross Station

Link to Barangaroo and Crows Nest

Walker Stairs

Upgraded link

Mount Street

Shared Zone

Denison Street

Upgraded lanes with retail

Ward Street Precinct

New lanes and squares

Walker Cross

Pedestrian Friendly

Berry Square

Upgraded

Tramway Viaduct

New urban spaces

Little Walker

Upgraded laneway

Walker Street

Outdoor Dining

Open Space

For future review

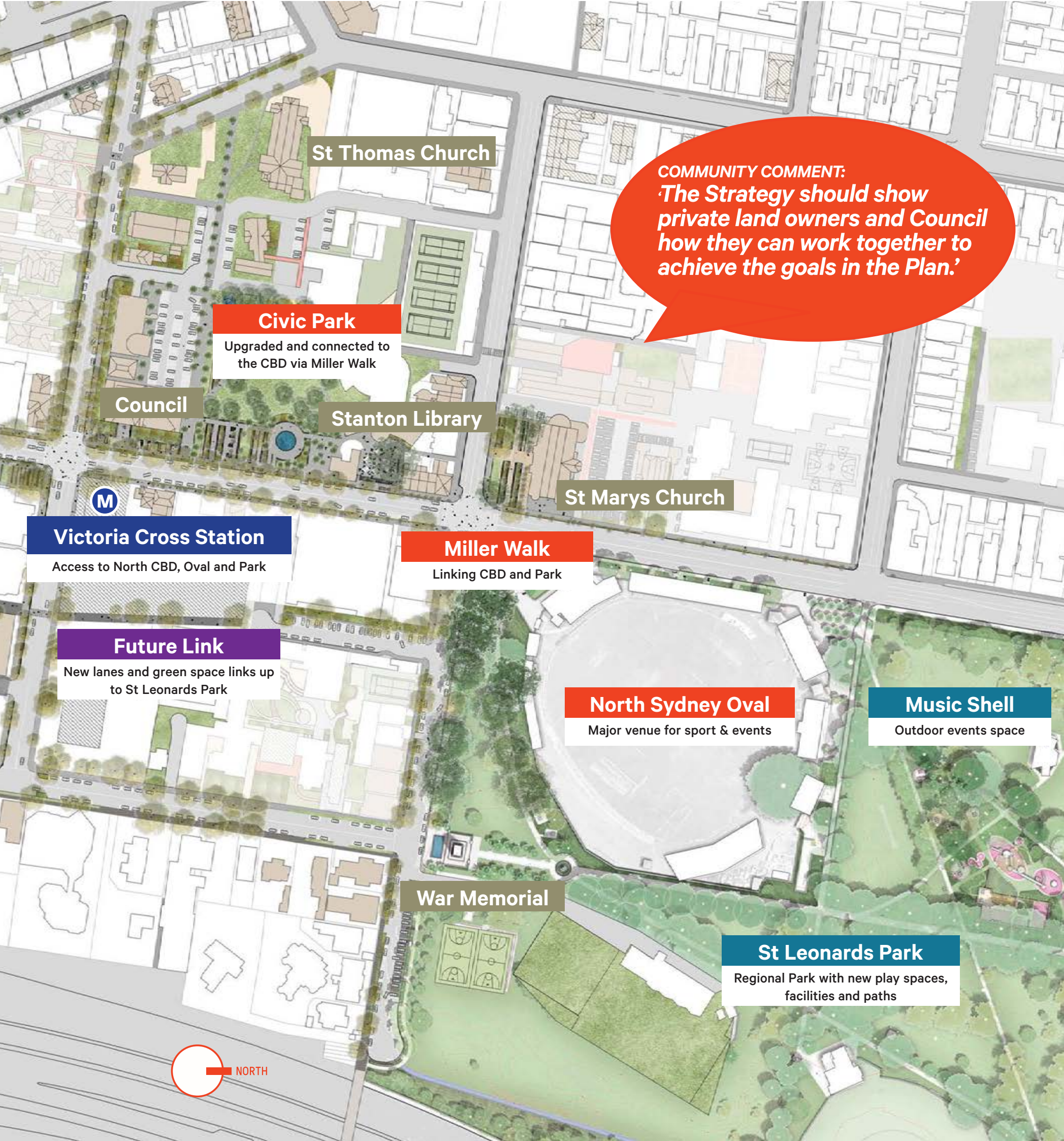
(indicative area only)

Mount Street

Upgraded pedestrian link to Alfred St Precinct

The new Victoria Cross Metro Station, currently under construction and due to open in 2024, is a major opportunity to rethink how the CBD works for residents, workers and visitors.

The vision.



COMMUNITY COMMENT:
The Strategy should show private land owners and Council how they can work together to achieve the goals in the Plan.

North Sydney in 2032.

100 YEARS
ON THE
'OTHER SIDE'



A place for life and people.

The objective of this strategy is to establish a framework of new ideas and opportunities for a revitalised and expanded public domain for North Sydney's CBD.

The stimulus of recent state and private sector investment will have a significant impact on the CBD over the next decade. The delivery of the Victoria Cross Metro Station by the NSW Government provides transformational infrastructure that will improve access to the CBD. However, the projected commercial and residential growth that will accompany the metro means increased strain on the already stressed public realm of the North Sydney CBD.

Now is the time to set the framework for the public domain, that allows council, state government agencies and the development sector to deliver positive city-making changes. This project seeks to find both incremental achievable changes, along with major city shaping ideas that will set a new path for a lively, active, inviting and comfortable CBD for future generations.



Urban Frame.

CBD Street Hierarchy

Creating an attractive, consistent, and legible grid of streets using granite paving with more public seating, street trees, lined with shops and services and dining on the footpath.

High quality streets,
lanes and public spaces.

KEY

- ▲ Cafe/Shop/Business Entry
- ▲ Building/Commercial Foyer
- Frontages on Urban Frame
- ◆ Smartpole



Civic Spine.

Transforming Miller St

Creating a high quality, authentic main street that connects people with places, history, landmarks, greenspace, activity, attractors and transport on an interesting leafy, granite paved boulevard.

A new focus that links public uses and outdoor spaces along Miller Street.

KEY

- ▲ Cafe/Shop/Business Entry
- ▲ Building/Commercial Foyer
- Frontages on Urban Frame
- ◆ Smartpole

Miller Place. The new heart of North Sydney.

6500 m²

Total public space at the new station. More seating, gardens, and trees. New space for events and lunch crowds.



A pedestrian haven.
A focus for public life,
events and activities.



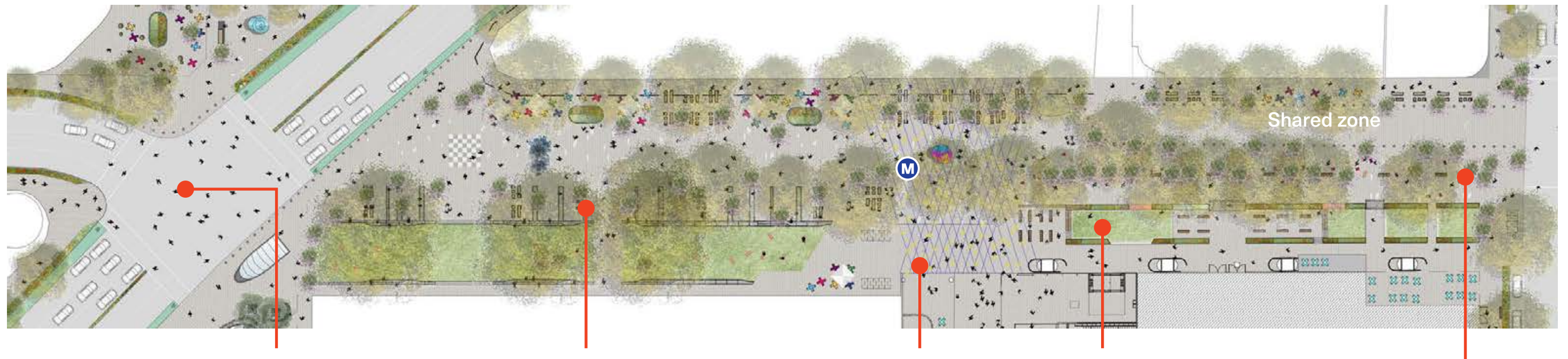
Easier crossings.

Active retail edges.

More public art.

Places to sit.

Seasonal and festive.



Victoria Cross intersection

New lawn, seating edges, kiosks and outdoor dining

Victoria Cross Station entrance

New raised garden and seating edges with outdoor dining

Berry Street intersection and vehicle access

MILLER PLACE

Upgrade the intersection of Miller Street and Pacific Highway to improve pedestrian safety and amenity.

Potential scramble crossing location to give pedestrian priority and reduce waiting times.

Upgrade MLC lawns and gardens. Additional seating, tables and garden areas to accommodate more people and activate the precinct.

Retailers, kiosks and cafés activate the built form edges.

Events space in the central area.

Main entrance to new Metro Station, links through to Denison and Spring Street.

Overhead lighting and public art.

New gardens and lawns that visually connect the MLC lawns to Miller Walk through to the Civic Park, Stanton Library North Sydney Oval and St Leonards Park.

Additional outdoor public seating, tables and garden areas.

Potential scramble crossing at Berry Street to improve pedestrian priority.

Shared zone vehicle access to Northpoint car park areas and loading dock.

New wayfinding, public art and tactile signage.

Berry Street.
A leafy boulevard.

5000 m²

of upgraded footpaths
and squares. New
architecture with
shops and dining on
the street.

A new A-grade
address for business,
cafés and retail.





Pedestrian priority.



Active frontages.



Upgraded Berry Square.



Tree lighting.



Laneway connections.



Slow traffic speeds

Miller Place & Victoria Cross Station

Berry Square

Ward Street Precinct

Little Walker Street

BERRY STREET

Slow traffic and return street to two way direction.

Encourage outdoor dining.

Buffer planted gardens on kerbs and under trees to discourage jaywalking and improve visual amenity.

Plant additional trees where space allows.

A potential scramble crossing to be established with the closure of Miller Place allowing diagonal crossing pedestrian only movement phases.

The Miller Place closure effectively creates a new public square on Berry Street with good sunlight access.

Berry Square upgrade planned.
Berry Square extended to north side of Berry Street as part of the Ward Street Masterplan.

New buildings, community facilities and public spaces to improve continuity of active frontages, awnings, trees, gardens and outdoor dining.

New trees planted where space allows.

Northern connection to laneway environment of Little Walker.

Tramway Viaduct A brand new public space.

3500 m²

Of new innovative
public space, community
gardens, terraces,
workspaces, meeting
tables and workout
and hang out
spots.

A series of gardens and
recreational spaces to
escape the CBD.





Toll Booths.



Heritage interpretation.



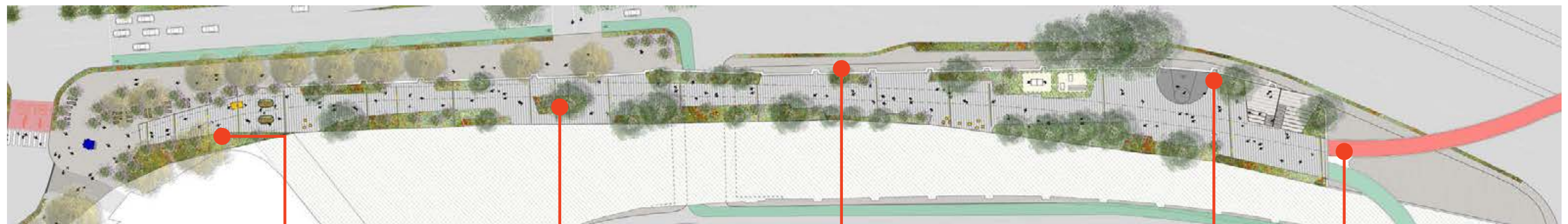
New stair links.



Catenary lighting.



Sports facilities.



New 'Toll Booth Plaza' entrance from Blue Street

Connecting the Tramway Viaduct to Blue Street will connect the new public spaces on grade to the centre of North Sydney and be highly accessible to all people.

New cafes, outdoor dining, table tennis and work benches.

Planting, seating, fitness stations, outdoor eating and working

All planting will need to be on the concrete deck, requiring planter boxes and raised garden beds.

Seating, places to exercise, hang out, work, eat and meet friends.

Community garden spaces.

Widen footpath below and add buffer planting and new trees and cycleway to Milsons Point

The lower footpath connecting Walker Street to Alfred Street south to be planted out with additional trees and a wider footpath and cycleway link added.

Viewing platform, seating, basketball hoop, and table tennis

A destinational space to hang out, shoot hoops, play ping pong, watch the view or sit in the sun.

Potential links to Harbour Bridge footbridge and cycleway

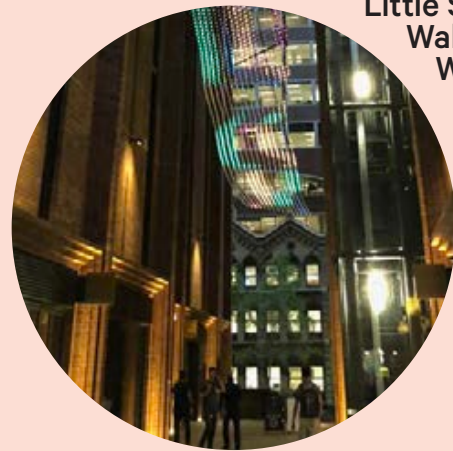
Future links to Kirribilli village shops, southern entry to Milsons Point Station and eastern footbridge and western cycleway on the Harbour Bridge can connect here to the southern end of the stub.

TRAMWAY VIADUCT

Delivery & Implementation.

Laneways Upgrades

Start renewal of lanes centred on Denison, Little Spring, Little Walker and Ward Street.



2020

Ward Street Precinct start

Commence works on major renewal area with new laneways, squares and public buildings.



Miller Walk South

Upgrade the Miller Street setback in coordination with Ward Street upgrades.



2022

Miller Walk Central

Upgrade Civic Park, and Council and Library forecourts with new gardens, seating, artworks and lawns.

2024

Victoria Cross Station Opens

The opening of the Metro Station will boost public transport access to North Sydney.



2019

Wayfinding North Sydney

Roll out new signage for the CBD and local precincts.

Building Interface Guidelines

Roll out better building and public domain requirements for new development in the CBD.

Lighting Strategy

Commence upgrade of public domain lighting, heritage building and street tree lighting.

Awning & Signage Strategy

Update and adopt new awning and signage strategy

2021

Close Mount Street to create the new Post Office Square

Create new public space in front of landmark heritage.



2023

First Sod Bridge Centenary 28 July 1923

Early works commenced on Harbour Bridge and North Sydney Station.

'Blue Terrace'
Upgrade the plaza on Blue Street and open up the view to the Harbour.



Ceremony of the turning of the first sod of the Northern Railway Approach to the Bridge

The Mayor, who was received with loud applause, said: "I have the honor of presiding at this celebration a prelude to one of the greatest events about to take place in modern history, the construction of the Sydney Harbour Bridge"



2024

Berry St Miller Place

Scramble crossing at Berry St north end of Miller Place

2026

Western Harbour Tunnel Opens (to be confirmed)

The further extension of the motorway system linking the north shore to the inner west.



NORTH SYDNEY 2032

100 YEARS ON THE OTHER SIDE



100



2030

*Bridge arch locked
19 AUGUST 1930*

2032

Sydney Harbour Bridge Centenary

A major celebration Friday 19 March 2032

Miller Place Opens

Closure of Miller Street to traffic to create a new civic heart of the civic spine.

2024

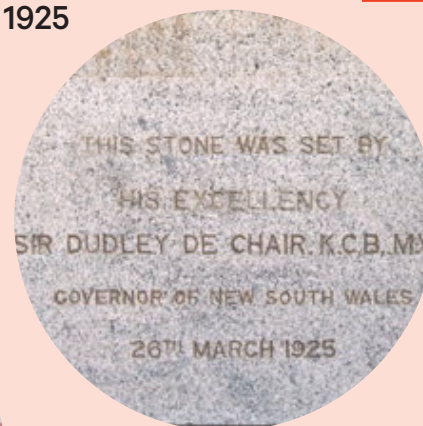


2025

100 years since start of Harbour Bridge works

Foundation stone laid 26 March 1925

2028



Tramway Viaduct

Open to the public with community gardens, cycleway and pedestrian links to Milsons Point, Kirribilli and the Harbour Bridge, directly linking Sydney City and North Sydney's CBDs.



Urban Design & Lead Consultant



Community Consultation



Landscape Architecture

ASPECT Studios

Architecture & Urban Design

Stewart Hollenstein

Transport

