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St Leonards Crows Nest Draft Local Character Statement – Submission

The Precinct supports the content of the Draft Local Character Statement in principle, but feel the Plan is not delivering on the majority of the Guiding Principles.

The predicted population increase in the St Leonards Crows Nest area over the 20 years to 2036 is almost 100% up to 26,400 people. This compares with a predicted population increase for the North District Plan area over the same period of 22%, and for Greater Sydney 36%. **A more realistic, acceptable and sustainable population target needs to be set for St Leonards Crows Nest.**

For the PLACE Guiding Principles:

- Significant sites, high-rise buildings and inadequate solar protection are hemming in Crows Nest and residential areas in Wollstonecraft and the low to medium-rise residential area of St Leonards. **Access to sunlight and wind impacts need to be prioritised**

For the LANDSCAPE Guiding Principles:

- **More public open space needs to be created, funded, and delivered as a matter of urgency.** The area is already well below reasonable open space guidelines, especially when considering many of the population live in apartments.

For the BUILT FORM Guiding Principles:

- **Taller buildings** and higher densities should be concentrated around St Leonards Core, and **must stop at Oxley Street**. Development of sites between St Leonards station and Oxley Street should be designed to avoid a solid wall of tall buildings and wind tunnels and protect solar access. We do not want high rise anywhere along the Pacific Highway south of Oxley Street so that Crows Nest Village will be protected.
- “Gradual sensitive height transitions” are not being provided in the Lane Cove Council area of the Plan – **high rise of up to 50 storeys overlooking low-rise areas is not acceptable. Equally so for Crows Nest.**

For the LAND USE Guiding Principles:

- There **should be significantly less provision for high rise residential** – more needs to be done to provide for the “diverse range of employment opportunities”, “better mix of office spaces for different business sizes and

types”, and to “provide a mix of housing types.....to ensure that households at all stages of life are encouraged to live in the area”.

For the MOVEMENT Guiding Principles:

- **A detailed traffic management plan is needed** before further rezoning and high rise developments are approved.
- “Connectivity improvements to and around St Leonards and Crows Nest stations” and “opportunities to safely cross the Pacific Highway” must be prioritised to handle the expected 10,000 pedestrian movements per hour in peak hour.

As a final comment, the concept of the Draft Local Character Statement is to be applauded. But it appears a significant portion of the Draft 2036 Plan was written before this Character Statement was finalised, and many of the aspects of the Character Statement are not reflected in the Draft 2036 Plan.

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