



# Improving Connections

## Precincts

The AMP Circular Quay Precinct has the potential to link Circular Quay with the main financial district, linking the traditional city CBD and financial services area to the Quay.





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#### **Key Precinct Aspirations**

#### North - South Connectors

An opportunity exists to loosely define a character and function for each of the three north-south streets.

#### Loftus Street

#### A permeable, green pedestrian environment

- \_Potential to create a permeable, green pedestrian environment
- \_Improve the pedestrian environment, explore opportunities to link Gresham and Alfred Streets with street trees that complement the existing species in Macquarie Place Park
- \_Potential to pedestrianise the northern end of Loftus Street, subject to the introduction of light rail
- \_The gentle topography makes for an easy and pleasant walk to the city
- \_Activate street edges with retail uses
- \_Explore opportunities to introduce new paving to footpaths and streets
- \_Potential to improve the perception of a pedestrian friendly environment at Bridge Street at intersections
- \_Reduce or improve existing bus overlay areas where possible to enhance pedestrian permeability and general amenity
- \_Potential to improve the connectivity and relationship between Macquarie Place Park and Jessie Street Gardens



#### Legend

A permeable, green pedestrian environment
An activated retail and entertainment street
A civic, cultural and commercial address street

#### Young Street

#### An activated retail and entertainment street

- \_Potential to create an activated and vibrant retail and entertainment street
- \_Improve connectivity between the 2 blocks and investigate potential for a shared condition to Young Street to improve the pedestrian environment
- \_Activate street edges with retail uses
- \_Create better pedestrian permeability through the precinct with additional and improved laneways and through site links
- \_Extend the pedestrian and retail environment into the laneways
- \_Explore opportunities to link Farrer Place and Alfred Street with improved pedestrian surfaces and street tree planting
- \_Potential to improve the perception of a pedestrian friendly environment at Bridge Street at intersections
- \_Reduce or improve existing bus overlay areas where possible to enhance pedestrian permeability and general amenity

#### Phillip Street

#### A civic, cultural and commercial address

- \_Potential to create a civic, cultural and commercial address
- \_Build on existing hotel, museum and major commercial Phillip Street addresses
- \_Improve pedestrian environment along Phillip Street with potential to upgrade Bridge Street intersection
- \_Improve pedestrian permeability through the precinct with additional and improved laneways and through site links
- \_-Activate street edges with retail uses
- \_Maintain existing key public views from Phillip Street to the Harbour
- \_Reduce or improve existing bus overlay areas where possible to enhance pedestrian permeability and general amenity
- \_Investigate opportunities to improve street furniture and finishings



Loftus Street



Macquarie Place Park

#### **Pedestrian Circulation**

The precinct has an opportunity to enhance pedestrian circulation and access by considering a range of measures, such as upgrading footpaths and creating new pedestrian through site links.

The precinct should consider the following principles from the *City of Sydney Public life Sydney* document:

\_A connected pedestrian network

- \_An accessible public domain
- \_New car free streets
- \_A set of primary walking links
- \_ Widen footpaths

#### North-south aspirations

- \_Potential to pedestrianise the northern end of Loftus street (subject to the introduction of light rail) to connect with Macquarie Place and Gresham Street
- \_Strengthen the north-south pedestrian routes and encourage an improved pedestrian environment at Bridge street intersections
- \_Potential to widen and upgrade footpaths where possible
- \_Explore opportunities to upgrade the pedestrian amenity of streets and lanes (paving, lighting, signage etc)
- \_Provide continuous awnings along Loftus, Young and Phillip Street
- frontages where possible



#### Legend

IIIIIII Publically accessible route through building

- Desire line through public spaces
- Potential for improved pedestrian priority



#### **Pedestrian Circulation**

#### East - west aspirations

- \_Improve east-west pedestrian permeability through the precinct
- \_Encourage a variety of scales of new laneways to facilitate and complement active frontages
- \_Strengthen existing laneways and explore opportunities to upgrade
- pedestrian amenity of streets and lanes (paving, lighting, signage etc) \_Provide a continuous paved surface to laneways to draw people through the site
- \_Potential to widen and upgrade footpaths where possible
- \_Improve connectivity and pedestrian environment between the Bridge & Alfred and Young & Loftus blocks across Young Street
- \_Introduce curb extensions to Young Street to create a safe and improved pedestrian environment to activate the precinct



#### Legend

Publically accessible route through building

Desire line through public spaces



Potential for improved pedestrian priority





## **Pedestrian Circulation**

## **Overall Strategy**

- \_Improve east-west pedestrian permeability through the precinct
- $\_\mbox{Create}$  a vibrant and fine grain pedestrian laneway network and encourage
- a variety of scales of laneways, arcades and public spaces \_Strengthen the north-south pedestrian routes and explore opportunities to
- improve the pedestrian amenity of streets
- \_Potential to pedestrianise the northern end of Loftus street (subject to the introduction of light rail)
- \_Improved pedestrian connectivity between the blocks with potential for improved pedestrian priority to Young Street



#### Vehicular Access

#### Parking and service vehicle access

The reconfiguration of vehicle circulation and reduction of basement entry points is fundamental to the creation of an active and accessible pedestrian laneway precinct that maximises active street front uses.

At the Young and Loftus block, a united basement extending under the lane offers the opportunity for a single basement entry location rather than 3, allowing Loftus Lane to be pedestrianised and activated with the east/ west portion of Loftus Lane providing local traffic access to basements only. AMP is to work collaboratively with the City of Sydney to potentially reconfigure loading access to Customs House and pedestrianise Customs House Lane.

For the Bridge and Alfred block the separate basements for the Bridge Street and Alfred Street towers can be connected resulting in a consolidation and reduction in basement entry points. A shared entry point on Young Street and exit point on Phillip Street will reduce vehicle movements around the Alfred Street/Young Street loop and create a better connected precinct and more pedestrian friendly environment.

Following the introduction of future light rail line there is the potential to pedestrianise Loftus Street north of Reiby Place.



#### Legend





#### **Public Transport**

#### Bus movement

The existing bus routes serving the Circular Quay interchange are; \_Eastern Suburbs services terminating on Phillip or Young Streets travelling via Elizabeth Street, and

\_Inner West and Southern region services terminating on Loftus Street travelling via George Street, Town Hall and Wynyard.

The existing bus arrangements provide set down and layover zones on Phillip Street and Young Street to feed into pick up zones in Alfred Street in both directions, and layover zones on Loftus Street to feed into pick up zones in Alfred Street in one direction. The number of services and the corresponding layover requirements mean that all three streets are dominated by buses which impacts the quality of the streetscape, the pedestrian environment and the potential activation of the streets.

Following the introduction of a future light rail line, it is envisaged that many of the Inner West and southern bus services will terminate or be redirected at Central or Town Hall – not continuing on to Circular Quay. This would significantly reduce congestion within the CBD and remove buses utilising Loftus Street as a layover location.

The master plan supports the long term vision for the removal or reduction of bus layovers in Circular Quay. However, in the immediate term an important outcome for the precinct is to improve connectivity between the Young and Loftus block with the Bridge and Alfred block. This is proposed through the relocation of some layover spaces on Young Street between the two blocks and the creation of a no-layover zone with a shared street condition that gives priority to the pedestrian.



#### Legend

NO bus layover
Traffic flow and circulation
Light Rail
Bus set down /layover zone
Bus stop





#### **Circulation - Cycles**

The proposed regional cycle network provides an opportunity for the precinct to become well connected to Sydney suburban areas with a dedicated cycle network. The implementation by the City of Sydney of the cycle network can help reinforce the key principles from the City of Sydney (CoS) by:

\_Creating and maintaining a comfortable and bicycle friendly environment in Sydney to encourage more residents, visitors and workers onto bicycles; \_Improving cycling safety.

\_Promoting the benefits of cycling;

\_Increasing the number of trips made by bicycle in Sydney; and

\_A dedicated cycle lane on Loftus Street as per figure 10 page 35 of the Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007 - 2017 (also refer below)

A cycle network within the precinct has the potential to connect the cycleways with bike storage within the precinct areas.







Cycle Strategy and Action Plan 2007-2017; CoS

## Useable Public Open Space

The potential pedestrian priority areas within the precinct could significantly  $% \left( {{{\bf{n}}_{\rm{s}}}} \right)$ increase in comparison to the existing.



#### Legend



Potential pedestrian access/route

. . . . Potential for improved pedestrian priority







## **Public Spaces**

The precinct has a good network of public open space, however, a large majority of it is obstructed by traffic movements and parking. The precinct has an opportunity to become a pedestrian priority environment by minimising parking and traffic movements where possible.





#### **Key Spaces within the Precinct**

#### Alfred Street Plaza

Investigate opportunities for better active retail uses to the ground level at 33 Alfred Street.

#### Laneway spaces

The proposed laneway spaces are intended to provide a sense of delight. They will be places to pause, dine, wine and shop, providing activation to the laneway. The laneway spaces should consider:

- \_Paving and surface treatment strategies
- \_Increased seating opportunities;
- \_Potential to upgrade pedestrian amenity of footpaths and adjacent streets (paving, lighting, signage etc) to give pedestrians priority
- \_Including public art

#### Atrium lobby

- \_Create a new atrium lobby providing an identifiable, intuitive access point to both the Bridge Street and Alfred Street towers
- \_Provide primary lobby address to Phillip Street
- \_Provide protection against environmental wind conditions around the base of the tower and undercroft area
- \_Ensure lobby does not adversely impact upon street level activation, streetscape definition and continuity

#### Key Spaces within the broader area

Although beyond the bounds of the precinct, the City of Sydney could consider the following potential public domain improvement:

#### Macquarie Place Park

Macquarie Place Park is Australia's first public space, historically centred on the Obelisk, the point from which all roads were measured in the Colony. Over time the area of the park has changed as streets and harbour edges have evolved (see adjacent diagram). 'Macquarie Place may have operated as a public place of gathering for the early settlement from as early as 1791 alongside the Dry Store'. The space was heavily used where half the population of Sydney would come to collect their food rations from the adjacent stores.

Currently the space is underutilised and could be upgraded to encourage more people into the space by investigating opportunities to:

#### \_Encourage people into the park;

\_Strengthen connections with the park ,Jessie Street Gardens and the potential to pedestrianisation of Loftus Street

- \_Make the park more accessible all year round;
- \_Potential to reference the history of the former size of the square \_Potential to increase seating opportunities;
- \_Investigate opportunities for lunch time and weekend food markets;

\_Provide dedicated areas for café and bar seating in the park associated with adjacent food and beverage outlets;

- \_Explore activation of the heritage toilet for a new adaptive use
- \_Potential to upgrade pedestrian amenity of footpaths and adjacent streets (paving, lighting, signage etc) to give pedestrians priority

#### **Customs House Square**

The existing Customs House Square has a strong program of events organised by the City of Sydney and is well used year round. The space is well activated by temporary café structures to the east and west edges.

Opportunities exist to strengthen connections between Loftus Lane, Customs house, and Customs house Square by strengthening sight lines through Customs house and potentially continuing the paving in Customs house Square into Loftus Lane.

#### Jessie Street Gardens

Jessie Street Gardens is well used during the summer months offering a green space for lunch time seating. However, the space is segmented from Loftus Street and Macquarie Place Park. There is opportunity to upgrade the park and strengthen connections with Macquarie Place Park.

\_Strengthen connections with Macquarie Place and the potential pedestrianisation of Loftus Street \_Potential to increase seating opportunities



Heritage NSW

Macquarie Place was the first planned town square in Sydney, as well as the geographic centre of the early Colony, marked by the erection of the Obelisk at the centre of this park in 1818

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#### Vegetation

The existing CoS street tree master plan could potentially be reviewed within the context of the proposed development of the precinct and associated upgrading of the public domain.

#### Bridge Street

- \_There is an opportunity to visually connect tree canopy with the Royal Botanic Gardens. Currently there are a total of only 3 trees on Bridge Street.
- \_There are a number of planting strategies that could be undertaken associated within parking bays
- \_Potential to increase street trees to improve pedestrian amenity, habitat and mitigate the urban heat island effect.
- \_Investigate potential for trees to be planted in some car spaces to ensure the correct widths of pedestrian footpaths are maintained.
- \_Maintain existing north / south views and do not obstruct potential future view lines to the harbour

#### Alfred Street

Alfred Street tree opportunities:

#### \_Retain existing trees

\_Maintain existing north / south views and do not obstruct potential future view lines to the harbour



Potential to connect the Gardens to Bridge and Alfred Streets with a green canopy











Potential to connect the Botanic Gardens and City with street tree planting providing habitat, shade, and amenity

#### Vegetation

## Loftus Street

- \_Plant trees on Loftus Street where possible to improve pedestrian amenity, habitat and mitigate the urban heat island effect/ensure the correct widths of pedestrian footpaths are maintained.
- \_Maintain existing north / south views and do not obstruct potential future view lines to the harbour
- \_*Washingtonia robusta* (as nominated in the City of Sydney Street Tree Master Plan) Loftus Lane to improve pedestrian / built form scale realationships

#### Young Street

\_Retain existing trees where possible

\_Maintain existing north / south views and do not obstruct potential future view lines to the harbour

#### Phillip Street

- \_Retain existing trees where possible
- \_Washingtonia robusta, as nominated in the City of Sydney Street Tree
- Master Plan to improve pedestrian amenity and habitat.
- \_Maintain existing north / south views and do not obstruct potential future view lines to the harbour





Loftus Street Heritage NSW. http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07\_subnav\_02\_2.cfm?itemid=5053111



Potential to continue the Fig tree planting up Gresham and down Loftus from Macquarie Place Park

#### Water Sensitive Urban Design

Water sensitive urban design (WSUD) plays an important role in capturing, recycling and purifying water within our urban environments. Implementing WSUD devices reduces water consumption, passively irrigates street trees and purifies water before it enters the harbour, removing heavy metals and fecal coliforms from stormwater.

Investigate the following WSUD principles in the design of the precinct:

\_Capture surface stormwater and express in a network of water channels that distribute stormwater to passively irrigate plantings;

\_Use captured stormwater to passively irrigate plantings,

- \_Urban bio-retention tree pits to street trees (to irrigate trees and
- filter water)

\_Recycle excess stormwater for irrigation and grey water resure where possible



#### Legend

- - Potential urban bio-retention
- Line of potential water channels
- Approximate line of Bennelong Drain



Bio-retention



The Bennelong drain

#### Source:

Sydney Water http://www.sydneywater.com.au/Sustainability/ Our Heritage Assets/\_item\_view.cfm?hi=4570854



Potential interpretation of the Bennelong Drain

#### **Paved Surfaces**

#### Surface interpretations

The harbours edge used to cross the northern most end of the precinct, with ships mooring at a variety of wharfs to drop off goods to the nearby stores. Macquarie Place Park used to serve as a gathering spot for people waiting to collect food from the food stores and water from the nearby tank stream. From interpreting survey maps, Macquarie Place Park used to be significantly larger than its present size.

There is an opportunity for the precinct to interpret this history using a variety of means and measures, particularity by using paving and surface treatment variations to express the history of the site.

#### Shorelines

There are a range of former shorelines that cross the northern most end of the site. There is opportunity to use the existing CoS paving palette to interpret the shorelines and extend this paving pallet into the site.



Potential surface interpretations (and the former outline of Macquarie Place Park)

Shoreline interpretations



CoS Paving





#### Public Art for the City

#### Art strategy

It is envisioned that an art strategy will be developed for both the public and private spheres of the precinct.

Some preliminary work investigating opportunities that the site presents has been undertaken below.

#### Key to the success of the project

\_Enhancing connections to the greater city \_Creating an invigorated laneway community \_Works giving presence to the new tower building and podium

#### Enhancing connections to the City

Key works on the site become part of a greater collection of art across the city. An art journey that includes James Angus's *Day in Day out*, Janet Laurence and Fiona Foley's *Edge of the Trees*, Jennifer Turpin and Michaelie Crawford's *Windlines* and Janine Campbell's *River of Lights*.

The works should be site responsive, engaging and beautiful and respond to the Principles outlined in the City of Sydney Public Art policy 2011 which are:

- \_Align significant City Art projects with major sustainable Sydney 2030 urban design projects
- \_Recognise and celebrate Aboriginal stories and heritage in public spaces \_Support local artists and activate city places through temporary art projects
- \_Support vibrant places in Village Centres with community art and City Art projects
- \_Promote high quality public art in private development
- \_Support stakeholder and government partners to facilitate public art opportunities
- \_Manage and maintain the City's collection of permanent art works, monuments and memorials
- \_Initiate and implement programs to communicate, educate and engage the public about City Art



(A) Elevated walks to tower lobby

(B) Hanging works to laneways

C Decorative paving to laneways



James Angus's *Day in Day out* 1 Bligh Street



Janet Laurence and Fiona Foley's *Edge of the Trees* Museum of Sydney forecourt



Jennifer Turpin and Michaelie Crawford *Windlines* Scout Place AMP Forecourt



Janine Campbell with HASSELL *River of Lights* Gateway Lobby



Kan Yasuda **Touchstones** Aurora Place



#### Invigorated Laneway Community

Explore opportunities to build on the rich tradition the City of Sydney has in creating artworks for Sydney's laneways. The mixed use nature of the buildings between the Loftus and Young block allow for a more active night and day time use of the lane between. Capturing lunch time sunlight and with its views through into the 'public square' of Customs House library, this lane has opportunities for delightful works that may include;

\_Paving

\_Hanging artworks

\_Creative lighting

\_Projections

\_Digital media

It has the potential to house permanent works and also support temporary installations.

#### **Bridge Street Tower**

The atrium lobby and new ceremonial entrance provide a fantastic opportunity to provide high quality public art, building on the strong art journey that exists within surrounding private developments. With the substantial volume of the undercroft space and high pedestrian movement through the space opportunities exist to explore;

\_Permanent artworks \_Temporary installations \_Hanging artworks \_Events and gatherings



Nike Sawas Rush

Micheal Thomas Hill Forgotten Songs

'A city without a flourishing artistic and cultural life would be a poor place indeed. Our artists celebrate and enrich our city, and contribute to our sense of identity and sense of place'

Lord Mayor Clover Moore

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## Indicative public domain plan

A Jessie Street Gardens
B Macquarie Place Park
C Ustoms House Plaza
C Ustoms House
C Ustoms House Lane
C Loftus Lane
Atrium lobby
33 Alfred Street
Bridge Street tower
Arcade
Through-site link
Alfred Street Plaza
Future light rail stop



Key Public Benefits

A permeable and active public domain

Significant increase in usable public open space



Improved sun access to Macquarie Place Park and the laneway

A vibrant and fine grain laneway and retail precinct Pedestrian friendly street environments with improved bus and traffic circulation

Strengthened connections between Circular Quay and the CBD

# Key Public Benefits - Active Frontages

## Existing Active Frontages (approximate)

Retail	120 meters
Lobby/ corporate	300 meters
Inactive	450 meters

## Proposed Active Frontages (approximate)

Retail	660 meters
Lobby/ corporate	310 meters
Inactive	200 meters







## Key Public Benefits - Publicly Accessible Space

## Public open space (approximate)

Young and Loftus block Bridge and Alfred block (to extended hours) 1,235 m2 2,290 m2





#### Legend



HASSELL

