
Mayoral Minutes - 25 May 2021

ITEM 4.4 Ausgrid

Councillors,

Most of you would have heard the line: “Choose your battles wisely”. . . . well tonight, my battle is a no brainer .

It angers me to have to tell you that the NSW Government has yet again shown no vision in planning for our City and their short sightedness by not stepping in and allowing Ausgrid to sell off valuable open space at Ashbury is nothing short of environmental vandalism.

That’s right. . . nearly 6700 sqm of vacant land at 30 Trevenar St Ashbury, adjacent to Peace Park. It is true that Ausgrid were listed as the sellers of the property but don’t be under any illusion the NSW Government owns 49.6% of Ausgrid and benefit from the sale of this open space.

What irks me is that this land is on the market and being sold off without any planning. . . any analysis. . . any testing and most importantly NO engagement with the community. In fact, the selling agent said it all on behalf of the Government: “The subject site presents a unique parcel of land with significant development potential (STCA)”.

Our community is being betrayed for “thirty pieces of silver”. I want to say that I am not against change. But this rare piece of land is an ideal opportunity to add much needed open space adjacent to Peace Park. A community asset which would only be improved by this site by providing direct access to residents to its west.

Councillors, this is an opportunity for our City and residents and we must fight to retain it as we simply don’t have the funds to purchase more land to add to our open spaces to meet the growing need and demands of our community. These open spaces are not a 5-10 year proposition but they will be there for our children and their children. . . and long after we are gone. Once they are gone they are gone for good.

I will not just sit back and see this valuable land go by the wayside and put at risk the conservation value of this heritage conservation precinct.

There will be opportunity for housing and jobs in well planned locations around public transport and this will be delivered more appropriately after masterplans are prepared for Canterbury and Campsie among our other centres. This is will ensure density is located where it can be best supported.

Councillors, tonight I resolve that Council commence a planning proposal to rezone the site at 30 Trevenar Street, Ashbury from R2 Low Density Residential to RE1 Public Recreation with all the planning rules applicable to Peace Park to be applied to this site.

I also intend writing to the NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces and seek his support for this site to be provided as a public space for the Ashbury community.