

WESTFIELD EASTGARDENS REVISED PLANNING JUSTIFICATION REPORT

Prepared for SCENTRE GROUP December 2019

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

This Revised Planning Justification Report has been prepared by Urbis on behalf of Scentre Group who part own and operate the Westfield Eastgardens Shopping Centre, along with co-owner Terrace Tower Group. The site is located at 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens, NSW 2036.

The Applicant seeks to initiate the preparation of an amendment to the Botany Bay Local Environmental Plan 2013 (BBLEP) as it applies to the Site. This Report is intended to assist Bayside Council (the "Council") in preparing a Planning Proposal to amend the planning controls at the Site in accordance with Section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (EP&A Act).

This Revised Report seeks to update the scheme detail of the Planning Proposal, which was originally lodged in March 2018 with Bayside Council, and then updated in March 2019.

The March 2019 update responded to comments from Council and their independent advisors on the original proposal, and incorporated associated documentation including an Urban Context Report, revised Retail and Commercial Economic Impact Assessments, Traffic Modelling, an updated Quantitative Risk Assessment and an Aeronautical Report.

This further revision to the Planning Proposal Request seeks to respond to additional comments from Council and their independent advisors, which included a series of items that required further resolution. The key themes of this feedback related to overshadowing impact to the five most impacted dwellings to the south of Wentworth Avenue, improvements to the presentation and pedestrian safety of Westfield Drive, and various comments with respect to the draft DCP to improve the certainty of the outcome. A series of workshops were held between the Proponent and Council staff to resolve these matters and this latest revised Planning Proposal Request incorporates amendments to address the matters raised.

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT VISION

The Westfield Eastgardens vision is to transform into a vibrant, mixed use town centre accommodating an improved arrival experience, expanded retail and leisure offer, and new commercial office towers integrated into an active civic plaza, connected to an enhanced bus terminus. There is the opportunity to improve accessibility, connect better with the community, create jobs and strengthen the economic role of the centre, in line with its recognition as a strategic centre under the Eastern City District Plan.

In addition, there is a longer-term aspiration to introduce new uses to the site such as student accommodation or hotel on the Northern Bunnerong Road frontage. This does not form part of the current planning proposal but is illustrated on the Masterplan to show how this part of the site may be developed in the future.

The Masterplan demonstrates a cohesive and integrated approach to the redevelopment of the shopping centre to facilitate a response to consumer trends and the population growth in the trade area by enhancing the retail and commercial offering of the centre. It will also provide an opportunity to improve accessibility, create jobs and strengthen the economic role of the strategic centre.

The following points represent the key elements of the Vision:

Create a Living Centre that acts as a community hub from morning through to late evening:

- Meet the objectives of the Maroubra-Eastgardens Strategic Centre by creating employment opportunities, renewing an existing centre and creating new public places and spaces;
- Recognise the changing needs of the market by providing a range of new and improved retail offerings;
- Create a truly mixed-use precinct that provides a range of services and acts as the focal point for the local community;
- Facilitate the fulfillment of a range of community needs, including medical appointments, childcare, evening dining, entertainment and leisure;

- Provide two future commercial buildings to accommodate a range of office uses, which will assist future employment growth and job creation at the centre;
- Creating a new food and leisure precinct with rooftop dining, benefiting from views across the local golf course and towards the Sydney CBD;
- Upgrade the existing bus interchange to add more capacity and improve the passenger experience; and
- Create a space where shoppers, residents, workers and students can relax and socialise.

To improve pedestrian accessibility, amenity, safety and permeability:

- Create a better civic entry from the east by rearranging bus and taxi access, along with enhancing the public domain;
- Improve the external interfaces and quality of the streetscape around the centre; and
- Retain existing car parking provision and provide additional parking appropriate for the expansion of the centre;

To encourage additional job opportunities for the local community:

- Provide large office floor plates that are unique to the Eastgardens-Maroubra Strategic Centre to encourage new businesses to the area without impacting existing local office stock.
- Meet the objectives of the 30-minute city as outlined in the Greater Sydney region Plan
- Provide commercial jobs within a highly accessible location and in proximity to new high-density residential development.

To provide the potential for future land uses on the site:

• Future provision for possible student accommodation or hotel on the north-eastern side of the site to respond to support the investment in the Randwick Health and Education collaboration area.

Given the desire to progress a future stage of the development at Westfield Eastgardens, following this first approval stage of the Masterplan, it is intended that a collaborative process can be undertaken between Council and Scentre Group as part of the Bayside LEP Review. With Bayside identified as a Priority Council for its LEP Review, Scentre Group are eager to be a key stakeholder in discussions and engagement concerning the future identification of the centre within the revised LEP.

PROPOSED LEP AMENDMENT

To facilitate the vision, it is intended to amend the BBLEP 2013 as follows:

- Floor Space Ratio: Introduce a new maximum allowable floor space ratio (FSR) of 1.8:1
- <u>Height of Buildings</u>: Introduce a new maximum allowable building height of **Part 34m**, **Part 40m**, **Part 59m** (with the remainder of the site no change at 25m).

PLANNING ASSESSMENT

The Planning Proposal provides a comprehensive justification of the proposed amendment to the BBLEP 2013, with the main points as follows:

- The proposal will allow the future expansion of retail and leisure uses at the site which reflects the importance of Westfield Eastgardens as a major regional shopping centre within a 'Strategic Centre' as identified within the Eastern City District Plan;
- The site is highly accessible, given that it is close to main arterial roads which form part of a Strategic Bus Corridor and the site already accommodates a bus interchange which caters for twelve separate bus services;
- The proposal will facilitate the creation of a mixed-use centre by providing a mix of commercial offices within an established retail precinct;

- The proposal will facilitate the development of commercial buildings, which will accommodate new local employment, provide a greater diversity of uses and strengthen the economic role of the centre;
- The co-location of an enhanced retail offer and new office accommodation, along with the residential development to the north of the site will serve to create a new sense of place at this location where the local community can live, work and spend leisure time;
- A new publicly accessible plaza fronting Bunnerong Road will promote active uses at the ground plane such as externalised retail, access to individual entry lobbies for each of the commercial buildings, and direct vertical connection to the bus interchange below through landscaped voids;
- There is adequate economic capacity within the catchment area to facilitate the development without having an adverse impact upon existing and planned centres within the local region;
- The proposal will allow for the future provision of adequate car parking on site to cater for demand at the site, at a rate that can be accommodated within the capacity of the existing road network;
- The proposal can satisfy the risk guidance for dangerous goods transit from the Botany Industrial Precinct; and
- The Planning Proposal will allow for a building envelope within which the shopping centre and new commercial towers can be developed which will have minimal impact on local environmental conditions.

SUMMARY

The Planning Proposal has been prepared in accordance with Section 3.33 of the EP&A Act and the relevant guidelines prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (now Department of Planning, Industry and Environment - DPIE) including "A Guide to Preparing Local Environmental Plans" and "A Guide to Preparing Planning Proposals."

The proposal is consistent with the objectives and actions contained within 'A Plan for Growing Sydney', the Greater Sydney Region Plan, the Eastern City District Plan and Council's Strategic Plan.

It is also consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies and Section 9.1 Directions. The proposed amendment to the BBLEP 2013 has both strategic merit and site-specific merit, and there is a clear public benefit for proceeding with this Planning Proposal.

As such, this Planning Proposal should be favourably considered by Council.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. OVERVIEW

This Revised Planning Justification Report has been prepared by Urbis on behalf of Scentre Group who part own and operate the Westfield Eastgardens Shopping Centre, along with co-owner Terrace Tower Group. The site is located at 152 Bunnerong Road, Eastgardens, NSW 2036.

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This further revision to the Planning Proposal Request seeks to respond to additional comments from Council and their independent advisors, which included a series of items that required further resolution. The key themes of this feedback related to overshadowing impact to the five most impacted dwellings to the south of Wentworth Avenue, improvements to the presentation and pedestrian safety of Westfield Drive, and various comments with respect to the draft DCP to improve the certainty of the outcome. A series of workshops were held between the Proponent and Council staff to resolve these matters and this latest revised Planning Proposal Request incorporates amendments to address the matters raised.

In support of this request the Proponent has provided updated documentation as follows:

- Urban Context Report prepared by Architectus (amended).
- Draft Development Control Plan prepared by Architectus (amended).
- Addendum to Review of Transport Matters prepared by SLR.
- Amended LEP Maps prepared by Architectus.
- The remainder of the existing consultant reports previously lodged continue to be relevant and are appended to this report.

The intended outcome of the Planning Proposal is to amend the BBLEP as follows:

- Floor Space Ratio: Introduce a new maximum allowable floor space ratio (FSR) of 1.8:1
- <u>Height of Buildings</u>: Introduce a new maximum allowable building height of **Part 34m, Part 40m, Part 59m** (with the remainder of the site no change at 25m).

These proposed amendments are detailed in **Table 1** below:

Table 1 – Summary of Proposed Development Controls

Development Standard	Present BBLEP Control	Proposed Amended Control
Floor Space Ratio	1:1*	1.8:1
Height of Building	25m	34m / 40m / 59m (remainder of site 25m)
Zone	B3 Commercial Core	B3 Commercial Core (no change)

* (A previous approval at the site has consented an FSR of up to 1.087:1 [Ref: DA14-123])

The expansion of the Westfield Eastgardens Shopping Centre seeks to respond to a range of factors, these include:

- The densification and gentrification of the trade area;
- Current and forecasted population growth of the Eastgardens-Maroubra Strategic Centre and surrounding area;
- The popularity of the existing fresh food offer, and to meet changing consumer expectations;
- To meet the demand for fashion retail by residents in the trade area that is currently being fulfilled at shopping destinations outside the trade area;
- To leverage off the existing strategic bus route links via the bus interchange at the site;
- A change in the modal shift towards public transport orientated travel to and from the precinct;
- Satisfying the shopping centre renewal cycle, in a situation where there have been no significant upgrades to the centre in over 15 years, whilst the needs of the community have evolved, and other competitors are reinvesting in their retail experience; and
- Providing opportunity for a greater level of commercial floor space, in close proximity to the bus interchange, given the identification of Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction as a 'Strategic Centre' within the Eastern City District Plan.
- The new commercial office space will help to meet demand from other centres, whilst the proposed floorplate sizes offer a point of difference to the local stock, thereby attracting a wider cross-section of future tenants.
- To facilitate a modern precinct which can accommodate future student accommodation or open market residential accommodation, in response to the identification as a Strategic Centre.

The scheme for the site seeks to introduce an increase in floor space at the centre by approximately 64,800sqm (GFA) (51,500sqm GLA) of which approximately 37,500sqm GFA (27,500sqm GLA) would be for retail purposes and 27,300sqm GFA (24,000sqm GLA) would be for a new commercial building.

A commensurate level of car parking will also be provided at the site to support the expanded centre, however benefiting from improvements to public transport and the balancing of peak demand between the multiple uses at the site.

1.2. REPORT STRUCTURE

Planning Proposals should be prepared in accordance with NSW Department of Planning and Environment (now DPIE) documents 'A Guide to Preparing Planning Proposals' and 'A Guide to Preparing Local Environmental Plans' published in December 2018.

This stipulates that the following information is required for a Planning Proposal:

- 1. A statement of the objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed instrument;
- 2. An explanation of the provisions that are to be included in the proposed instrument;
- 3. The justification for those objectives, outcomes and the process for their implementation;
- 4. Identify the intent of the Planning Proposal and the area to which it applies;
- 5. Details of community consultation that is to be undertaken on the Planning Proposal; and
- 6. A project timeline to detail the anticipated timeframe for the plan making process.

The level of detail required for a Planning Proposal should also be proportionate to the complexity of the proposed LEP amendment. It is considered that this Planning Justification Report contains sufficient

information relating to the above bullet points to address the relevant environmental, social, economic and other site-specific considerations.

This Planning Justification Report is supported by the following documentation:

- Urban Context Report prepared by Architectus (Appendix A) (lodged in November 2019).
- Retail Economic Impact Assessment prepared by Urbis (Appendix B) (lodged in March 2019).
- Commercial Office Economic Impact Assessment prepared by Colliers International (Appendix C) (lodged in March 2019).
- LEP Maps prepared by Architectus (Appendix D) (lodged in November 2019).
- Traffic Assessment and Addendum to Review of Transport Matters prepared by SLR Consulting (**Appendix E**) (lodged in March 2019 and November 2019 respectively).
- Quantitative Risk Assessment Report prepared by Systra (Appendix F) (lodged in March 2019).
- Draft Site Specific DCP prepared by Architectus (**Appendix G**) (lodged in November 2019).
- Aeronautical Assessment prepared by Strategic Airspace (Appendix H) (lodged in March 2019).

2. WESTFIELD EASTGARDENS

2.1. REGIONAL CONTEXT

The site is located within the suburb of Eastgardens within the Bayside Council Local Government Area (formerly Botany Bay Council). This is in south eastern Sydney, some 8km south of the Sydney CBD. It is situated between Sydney Airport at Mascot and the coastal areas of South Coogee, Maroubra and Malabar.

Figure 1 below identifies the wider site location and other main shopping locations in the region. The orange dotted line indicates the 5km radius from the Westfield Eastgardens site, whilst the dotted line shows the extent of the light rail network that is being developed in this part of Sydney, from Circular Quay through to both Kingsford and Randwick.

Light rail network under construction Bondi Junction East Village Royal Randwick Eastlakes aroubra Junction Eastgarde Southpoint

Figure 1 – Nearby Key Centres

Source: Urbis

2.2. LOCAL CONTEXT

There are a variety of land uses surrounding the shopping centre, including industrial, residential and open space. Sydney Airport is located a short distance to the southwest of the site while the heavy industrial areas of Port Botany and the Botany Industrial Precinct are located to the south and west of the site. This is shown in greater detail in Figure 2 below, where the site is outlined in red.

In terms of the immediate surroundings, to the north of the site is a former industrial area comprising the former British American Tobacco (BATA) site which has planning consent for new residential apartments. These new apartments are currently under construction by Meriton, with Stage 1 almost complete and Stage 2 now approved through the planning process.

To the south of the site beyond Wentworth Avenue is the Hensley Athletic Field and an area of detached dwelling houses accessed from Denison Street. Bonnie Doon Golf Course is situated to the west of the site, whilst further residential areas are located to the east between the site and Maroubra Junction.

Other uses in the general area include the University of New South Wales and a large hospital precinct, including the Sydney Children's Hospital, the Prince of Wales Hospital and the Royal Hospital for Women, in Randwick.



Figure 2 – Aerial Site Image

Source: Urbis (Site outlined in red)

2.3. THE SITE

The shopping centre was officially opened in October 1987 and extended and refurbished in 2001. No significant upgrade works have been undertaken at the centre since 2002.

It is a fully enclosed, multi-level major regional shopping centre. It is anchored by Myer, Big W, Coles, Target, Woolworths, Kmart and over 250 specialty stores. The legal description of the site is Lot 1 DP1058663. The site has a total site area of approximately 9.3ha.

The Westfield Eastgardens shopping centre occupies a site which is bounded by Wentworth Avenue to the south, Bunnerong Road to the east, Westfield Drive to the north and Banks Avenue to the west. The centre

provides some 84,400sqm of Gross Leasable Area (GLA) which accommodates approximately 70,500sqm of retail floor space (excluding cinemas, banks and travel agents etc.), along with some 5,000sqm of office floor space and a 723-seat cinema complex, supported by over 3,100 car parking spaces.

The total consented Gross Floor Area (GFA) for the site is currently 100,926sqm (following DA14/123), although the full extent of this floor space has not yet been developed. A desktop survey of the existing building performed by Scentre Group in 2018 calculates the existing built GFA as 99,440sqm.

Photographs of the existing shopping centre are provided in Figure 3.

Figure 3 – Existing Site Photographs



Picture 1 – View from Bunnerong Road Source: Google Earth



Picture 2 – View from Banks Avenue Source: Google Earth



Picture 3 – View from Westfield Drive Source: Google Earth



Picture 4 – View from Wentworth Avenue Source: Google Earth

3. STRATEGIC PLANNING CONTEXT

3.1. A METROPOLIS OF THREE CITIES – THE GREATER SYDNEY REGION PLAN

Released in March 2018, the final version of the Region Plan ensures land use and transport opportunities develop more equitably across Greater Sydney.

The Region Plan conceptualises Greater Sydney as a metropolis of three '30-minute' cities and is presented with the District Plans to reflect the most contemporary thinking about Greater Sydney's future. The site is located within the broader 'Eastern Harbour City', as shown in Figure 4 below.



Figure 4 – Greater Sydney as Three Cities

Source: Greater Sydney Commission

It sets the vision and strategy for Greater Sydney, to be implemented at a local level through District Plans. For the first time, the Plan has been prepared in conjunction with the *NSW Government's Future Transport 2056 Strategy* and informs Infrastructure NSW's State Infrastructure Strategy providing full integration of land use, transport and infrastructure planning.

The Region Plan is underpinned by four key pillars which outline specific objectives to be achieved. The four pillars include:

- Infrastructure and Collaboration
- Liveability
- Productivity
- Sustainability

An assessment of the Planning Proposal against the relevant objectives of the Region Plan is provided in Section 9.2 of this Report.

3.2. EASTERN CITY DISTRICT PLAN

Released in March 2018, the final version of the Eastern City District Plan is a 20-year vision that provides strategic guidance on the economic, social and environmental growth in the Eastern City District of Greater Sydney. The District Plans have been prepared to align the Region Plan and the detailed planning outcomes for local areas.

The District Plan sets out priorities and actions for the development of the Eastern City District, which includes the LGAs of Bayside, Burwood, Canada Bay, Inner West, Randwick, Strathfield, the City of Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra, as shown in The Eastern City District encompasses the areas identified within the red line in Figure 5 overleaf.

This figure indicates that the site is proposed to be within the Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre.

The priorities for this Eastern City District include:

- Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres;
- Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs;
- Fostering healthy, creative culturally rich and socially connected communities;
- Growing investment in health and education precincts and the Innovation Corridor; and
- Providing housing supply, choice and affordability, with access to jobs and services;

As required by the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979, the District Plan:

- Provides the basis for strategic planning in the District, having regard to economic, social and environmental matters;
- Establishes planning priorities that are consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions of the Region Plan; and
- Identifies actions required to achieve the planning priorities.

Figure 5 - Eastern City District



Source: Greater Sydney Commission

Figure 5 above is reproduced in the Eastern City District Plan and it identifies Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction as a 'Strategic Centre'. Within Planning Priority E11, it states that the centre has a large retail catchment and opportunities to link the two centres along a corridor of activity should be investigated.

The 'Actions No.48' for the centre are identified as the following:

"Strengthen Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction through approaches that:

a. protect capacity for job targets and a diverse mix of uses to strengthen and reinforce the economic role of the centre

b. extend and investigate additional economic activities to connect Eastgardens and Maroubra Junction and complement the existing activities

c. leverage future public transport connections in the south east and west of the District

d. encourage provision of affordable housing to support the nearby health and education facilities and employment lands

e. promote place making initiatives to improve the quality and supply of public spaces, promote walking and cycling connections and integrate with the Green Grid

f. improve public transport connections and walking and cycling between Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction and Randwick."

It is clear from the above actions that significant growth is expected within the centre over the plan period and given its new status as a 'Strategic Centre'. The Plan outlines the jobs targets for the various centres including Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction as illustrated in the Table 2 below:

Table 2 - Eastern City District Job Targets

Centre	2016 Estimate	2036 Baseline Target	2036 Higher Target
Eastgardens Maroubra	6,900	8,000	9,000

These job targets are intended to provide guidance to Councils and government agencies as to the likely scale of employment growth, whilst also helping to inform land use and infrastructure planning. The reason a range is provided is to account for varying economic conditions, and the higher growth scenario would reflect further investment in the centres.

The expansion of Westfield Eastgardens to provide approximately 58,000sqm of Gross Lettable Area (GLA) of which approximately 27,500sqm (GLA) would be for retail purposes and 30,500sqm (GLA) would be for the new commercial buildings.

The Economic Assessments (attached at Appendix B & C) identify that the proposal will generate an estimated additional 1,139 jobs within the retail expansion (full-time and part-time), along with some 1,220 – 1,525 full-time-equivalent jobs as part of the new commercial office buildings. This will significantly contribute to meeting the job targets set out in the District Plan and cement the precinct as a strategic centre.

Allied to the proposed jobs target within the Plan, are the five-year housing targets which are based upon the District's dwelling need and are said to provide an opportunity to deliver supply. This is broken down into Local Government Areas (LGAs). **Table 3** below sets out this housing target:

Table 3 – Five Year Housing Target

Area	2016-2021 Housing Target
Bayside LGA	10,150
Eastern City District Total	46,550

The Bayside Council LGA has the second highest housing target of the LGAs in the Eastern City District after the City of Sydney and represents almost a quarter of the new dwelling target for the District. This demonstrates that the Greater Sydney Commission views Bayside LGA as a location which can accommodate significant population growth, the consequence of which is that other services and facilities would need to be expanded to support this growth. This includes the provision of adequate retail floor space and offer to meet the needs of local residents and new office space to support employment growth.

Furthermore, the former BATA site adjacent to Westfields Eastgardens will contribute to this increase in residential population within the local area. The site is being developed by Meriton and is being marketed as 'Pagewood Green'.

The site extends to approximately 16ha, with the first 10ha already benefitting from consent for some 2,200+ dwellings, which are now being delivered. The completed site is expected to yield approximately 3,800 dwellings. This will create a significant new resident population immediately adjacent to the shopping centre. The whole of the Meriton site is within 500m walking distance to Westfield Eastgardens, and the improved retail offer around dining, entertainment and leisure will be conveniently accessible by foot.

Furthermore, Planning Priority E11 within the Plan has a wider set of Actions for which seek to manage growth and change in strategic and district centres. This sets out 'Actions 38 and 39' which include:

- Attracting significant investment and business activity in strategic centres to provide jobs growth;
- Diversifying the range of activities in all centres;

- improving public transport services to all strategic centres;
- Co-locate health, education, social and community facilities in strategic centres along the economic corridor.

Given this, it is clear that there will be a need to grow existing centres to provide job growth, but also to attract health and education activities into centres. To address this, the future commercial building at the site could accommodate a wide range of office and business uses, including the potential for health and education sectors. This co-location of retail and health uses has already been achieved at Bondi Junction, where there are a significant number of medical offerings in the commercial towers above the Westfield Bondi Junction Shopping Centre.

The message from the above 'Priority' and 'Actions' is clear in that retailers situated within centres should be allowed to grow in line with demand and operator requirements, and that Eastgardens centre should be strengthened to support job growth and encourage business activity.

To assist in achieving the above, Planning Priority E10 of the Plan seeks to deliver greater integration of land use and transport planning. It identifies that access to strategic centres and interchanges will be supported by improvements to the transit network. This includes investigating the feasibility of future mass transit corridor to the south of Kingsford, linking to Maroubra Junction. This would benefit significantly benefit the Eastgardens- Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre and could provide a potential location for interconnecting trips with the strategic bus network. As an advance investment, it is proposed to upgrade the bus interchange at Westfield Eastgardens as part of the proposal to add operating capacity, connect with a public plaza above, and improve the passenger experience to encourage great use of public transport to the site.

3.3. BOTANY BAY PLANNING STRATEGY 2031

The Botany Bay Planning Strategy (the "Strategy") was published in 2009 and identifies Eastgardens as a standalone shopping centre built in the last 30-40 years, which is designed to be visited by car and does not integrate well with the surrounding residential areas. However, the Strategy goes on to indicate that the Strategic Bus Corridor will use the bus interchange at Westfield Eastgardens. This part of the Strategy has been implemented, with approximately ten bus services visiting the bus interchange. This has significantly improved public transport connections.

The Strategy is clearly dated given the time that has passed since its publication, and it does not envisage an intensification of retailing activities at Eastgardens. However, it indicates that when the BATA site adjacent to the centre is developed, alternate land uses should be the subject of a detailed planning study. The former BATA site is currently being redeveloped and this represents a change in local circumstances, whereupon the future growth of the centre would need to be reconsidered.

3.4. NSW STATE PRIORITIES

In September 2015, the NSW Premier unveiled 12 personal priorities and 18 state priorities to grow the economy, deliver infrastructure, protect the vulnerable, and improve health, education and public services across NSW.

These priorities were to set the agenda for the NSW Government Sector over the coming years and included the following:

- Creating jobs;
- Encouraging business investment; and
- Delivering strong budgets.

The proposed expansion of Westfield Eastgardens would assist with the above priorities through the creation of additional jobs within the centre, the increased investment in business by both the centre operators, retailers and office-based businesses, and the overall positive impact on the local economy which would help to promote growth and assist the government in delivering strong budget.

3.5. FUTURE TRANSPORT STRATEGY 2056

The Future Transport Strategy 2056 is a vision for how transport can support growth and the economy of NSW over the next 40 years. It was published by Transport for NSW at the same time as the GSC released the Greater Sydney Region Plan in March 2018. The strategy is underpinned by the Regional Services and Infrastructure Plan and Greater Sydney Services and Infrastructure Plan.

It identifies a range of transport objectives for Greater Sydney including:

- Safely, efficiently and reliably moving people and goods;
- Connecting people and places in a growing city;
- Sustaining and enhancing the liveability of our places; and
- Accessibility for all customers, convenient and responsive to customer needs; and makes best use of available resources and assets.

As identified above, the Future Transport Strategy 2056 vision for the Greater Sydney mass transit network identifies a new mass transit corridor to Maroubra Junction, which would significantly enhance the public transport accessibility of the strategic centre and support the growth of the centre in the future.

Scentre Group made a submission on the draft report of Future Transport 2056 in December 2017, which supported the confirmation of Eastgardens as a strategic centre and identified the imperative to provide for greater mass transit services to the centre which would be achieved by an extension of light rail or metro rail connection to Westfield Eastgardens. Eastgardens is the logical location for intermodal transport connections to maximise the future development benefit around new transport infrastructure; whereas Maroubra Junction is essential already developed, and its Local Centre zoning makes it unlikely to achieve a commercial precinct of any substance given permissible residential development will always provide a great return for landowners than office.

Engagement with Transport for NSW is ongoing.

3.6. BAYSIDE DRAFT LSPS

Bayside Council released '*Future Bayside – Draft Local Strategic Planning Statement*' (draft LSPS) for consultation from August to October 2019. This draft LSPS set out a 20-year vision for land use in Bayside, described the special characteristics and community values of the Bayside area that should be retained and outlined how growth will be managed in the future. This document has yet to be formally adopted by Council or endorsed by DPIE, so at this stage is cannot be considered in the assessment of this Planning Proposal Request.

However, it is noted that the draft LSPS recommends that opportunities are identified to strengthen the economic role of Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, which this Planning Proposal Request directly responds upon.

4. STATUTORY PLANNING CONTEXT

4.1. BOTANY BAY LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN 2013

The Botany Bay Local Environmental Plan (Amendment No.8) (BBLEP 2013) is the principal environmental planning instrument applicable to the site.

4.1.1. Zoning

The site is zoned as 'B3 Commercial Core and is the only site within the Eastgardens – Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre with Commercial Core zoning. The surrounding area is zoned for a variety of land uses including high and low density residential, mixed use, and light and general industrial.

The objectives of the B3 Commercial Core zone are as follows:

- To provide a range of retail, business, office, entertainment and community uses that serve the needs of people who live in, work in and visit the local area;
- To encourage employment opportunities in accessible locations; and
- To maximise public transport patronage and encourage walking and cycling.

The uses which are permitted with consent include 'commercial premises' which include business, office and retail premises. The use of the site for retailing and commercial office is consistent with the zone objectives, and the proposal will provide a diverse range of retail, entertainment and employment uses to meet the needs of the community. The zoning of the site does not need to be amended as part of the Planning Proposal to facilitate the expansion of the centre.

Figure 6 below shows the current zoning of the site as outlined in BBLEP 2013.



Source: Urbis

4.1.2. Height of Building

The current maximum height of building shown for the site within the BBLEP 2013 Height of Building Map is 25m. This is proposed to be amended to facilitate a maximum height of building for the site of part 34m / part 40m / part 59m, with the remainder of the site does not change and remains at 25m.

The proposed part 40m and part 59m height controls have been allocated to two specific locations of the site to accommodate the two commercial office towers proposed in the masterplan and to give appropriate certainty on built form outcomes. This has been reduced from the previous proposal which sought a height control amendment to 70m. This change has been made to address Council's concerns in regard to overshadowing of neighbouring properties.

In the other parts of the site, a height control is proposed at 34m to accommodate outlier height elements of the existing and proposed retail centre such as the cinema expansion, additional mezzanine parking decks, and new solar panel shade structures over the car park.

An outline is illustrated below in Figure 7 below of the indicative built form that could be constructed under the proposed height controls. An outline is also shown of potential future built from in the north east corner of the site, which is excluded from this LEP amendment request and would be subject to a separate Planning Proposal in the future.

Figure 7 - Proposed Maximum Height Envelope for the site in metres



Source: Architectus

Figure 8 – Proposed Height of Buildings Map



Source: Architectus

4.1.3. Floor Space Ratio

Under the BBLEP 2013, the subject site has a maximum FSR of 1:1, however a current development approval at the site (DA14-123) has consented an FSR of up to 1.087:1.





Source: Urbis

It is proposed to amend the FSR control from 1:1 to 1.8:1.

This is a decrease from the previous proposal (March 2019) which sought an FRS of 1.85:1 and has been revised to address feedback from Council.

The additional FSR will accommodate the expansion of the retail centre, the two new commercial office buildings and an enlargement of the floorplates of the existing commercial office building.

Figure 10 – Proposed FSR control



Source: Architectus

There is a market need and demand for the scale and type of retail expansion proposed for the shopping centre given the current leakage of retail spend to locations outside of the trade area, the changing trends in consumer spending towards services and experiences and the growing market population in the catchment area.

The Eastern District Plan sets the priority for delivering jobs around transport facilities within the Eastgardens – Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, and Eastgardens plays an important strategic role for providing office land use given it is the only site zoned for Commercial Core in the strategic centre. The commercial office proposal will fill a gap in the market for large floorplate (>1,000sqm) layouts with the convenience of public transport and the amenity of a major regional shopping destination.

The amended LEP mapping for both FSR and height of building control is included at Section 10 of this Report.

4.2. BOTANY BAY DEVELOPMENT CONTROL PLAN 2013

The Botany Bay Development Control Plan (BBDCP) was originally adopted by the Council in December 2013 and the most recent amendment (Amendment No.8) was adopted in August 2017.

The BBDCP does not recognise Eastgardens as a centre within 'Part 5 – Business Centres', however it is referred to within the 'Part 8 – Character Precincts'. Westfield Eastgardens is identified as the major shopping centre in the region, providing many goods and essential services, along with a major bus change facility with bus routes connecting to a range of locations within Sydney.

The desired future character of the area is to *"maintain the shopping centre as the major shopping centre, providing goods and services for the region."* and to

"Maintain & enhance the bus interchange facility at Eastgardens Westfields Shopping Centre to service bus routes connecting Eastgardens with the City, Bondi Junction, Burwood, Rockdale, Little Bay, Port Botany and La Perouse."

The Proposal is consistent with the desired character and objectives established in the current DCP for the retail centre and enhancement of the bus interchange. Furthermore, the Proposal includes a draft site specific DCP to provide more specific detail for the vision, objectives and controls for the future development of the sire in alignment with the Planning Proposal.

4.2.1. Car Parking

Additional car parking will be provided in the scheme to compensate for the spaces lost for the Level 2 retail expansion (into the existing car park) and to support the additional retail and office GLA in the proposal.

The final provision or car parking will be resolved at DA stage based on occupancy modelling of the existing car park and the development overlay, considering the interplay of the different uses and their peak parking demand curves and the improved public transport accessibility. Much of the new retail will be experience-based offers (vs goods) that are more viable for non-car transport options.

4.2.2. Draft Site-Specific Development Control Plan

A draft Site Specific DCP for the subject site has been developed and updated, and is attached at **Appendix G**. The draft DCP outlines the intended character, objectives and proposed controls to guide future development of the site, ensuring the vision can be achieved. The draft controls allow the site to be developed into a mixed-use centre that meets the objectives of a Strategic Centre whilst minimising the impact to neighbouring land uses.

5. MASTER PLAN VISION

The Westfield Eastgardens vision is to transform into a vibrant, mixed use town centre accommodating an improved arrival experience, enhanced retail and leisure, and new commercial office towers integrated into an active, civic plaza connected to an enhanced bus terminus. There is the opportunity to improve accessibility, connect better with the community, create jobs and strengthen the economic role of the centre, in line with its recognition as a strategic centre under the Eastern City District Plan.

With the addition of commercial office and future mixed use, the site will transcend its role in the community from a traditional shopping centre to a become a *Living Centre* - a morning to evening activity hub where the community can fulfil its daily needs and be inspired by new opportunities and experiences.

Scentre Group uses the description of a *Living Centre* because its retail destinations are transitioning to places where the community come to gather and socialise, be entertained, dine, access services and experiences and shop.

The retail expansion will be a response to the changing customer expectations and lifestyle needs. The growth in consuming experiences versus goods sees the opportunity for new dining, entertainment, leisure, fitness and services retail. Further the leakage of fashion sales to online and the Sydney CBD demonstrates a product gap in the fashion retail offer that can be filled for the growing population in South East Sydney.

Centred above a civic plaza, a commercial employment hub will be a new destination for local businesses and residents to establish a workplace that enjoys the amenity of retail and dining with the accessibility of 12 bus routes and convenient ride share and end-of-trip facilities. Westfield Eastgardens will play a leading role in delivering the Strategic Centre actions in the East District Plan.

To complete the vision two future development buildings have been shown as part of a cohesive plan for the Bunnerong Road street address. It is Scentre Group's intention that these will form part of a future planning scheme that will explore additional land use for the site in the form of student accommodation of hotel development that further diversify the site and support the growth of the Randwick Health and Education precinct.

Figure 11 – Proposed Masterplan CGI Image of Civic Plaza



Source: Architectus

5.1. CONCEPT SCHEME

An Urban Contest Report illustrating the type of development facilitated by the Planning Proposal has been prepared by Architectus and is provided at **Appendix A**. The proposed masterplan for the site is provided at **Figure 12**. The design has been informed by the vision, opportunities and constraints of the site, and feedback from Bayside Council and its independent review.

Figure 12 – Proposed Master Plan



Source: Architectus

5.2. **DESIGN PRINCIPLES**

The masterplan has been based on the following urban design principles:

- Destination hubs at each of the East and West ends of the existing central mall spine:
- Focus on entries at the ground plane
- Activating the corners of the site
- Defined street functions
- Heights relative to adjacent context
- Strengthening the green vegetation buffer to the site.

Key features of the masterplan include:

Land use:

The land use zoning remains as commercial core, however in addition to retail new commercial office GFA is introduced to add diversity to the site and contribute to the job capacity targets of the strategic centre.

• Height and built form:

The placement of height has been closely analysed and allocated to two tower envelopes to the South-East of the site in accordance with the urban design principles. A street wall is established along Bunnerong Road, and the higher tower form is set back onto the retail podium to create a transition to the neighbouring land uses and to minimise overshadowing. It is proposed to have three new height controls, part 59m, part 40m and part 34m, with the control across the remainder of the site remining unchanged.

• FSR:

To facilitate the masterplan the FSR from the site must increase from 1:1 to 1.8:1. This additional GFA of +64,800sqm is indicatively allocated between retail at +37,500sqm and commercial office at +27,300sqm.

Enhanced bus terminus:

A key benefit of the proposal is an upgrade to the existing bus interchange which will allow a reconfiguration to add additional operating capacity, and an improvement in the user experience by enclosing the interchange (yet with sky voids for ventilation and visual connection), and connectivity to a public plaza above. The upgrade of this critical transport hub will encourage public transport use for the retail and office uses, reducing the dependency on private vehicle transport.

• New public plaza:

A new publicly accessible plaza fronting Bunnerong Road will defined by active uses at the ground plane such as externalised retail, access to individual entry lobbies for each of the commercial buildings, and direct vertical connection to the bus interchange below through landscaped voids.

The following points represent the key elements of the Vision:

To Create a *Living Centre* that acts as a community hub from morning through to late evening.

- Recognise the changing needs of the community by providing a range of new and improved retail offerings and services;
- Create a truly mixed-use precinct that provides a range of services and acts as the focal point for the local community;
- Facilitating the fulfillment of a range of community needs, including medical appointments, childcare, evening dining, entertainment and leisure;
- Creating a space where shoppers, residents, workers and students can relax and socialise;
- Meet the objectives of the Maroubra-Eastgardens Strategic Centre by renewing an existing centre and creating new public places and spaces;
- Creating a new rooftop garden to and dining precinct, benefiting from views across the local golf course and towards the Sydney CBD.
- To improve pedestrian accessibility, amenity, safety and permeability;
- To create a better civic entry from the east by rearranging bus and taxi access, along with enhancing the public domain;
- Improve the bus interchange and user experience by reconfiguring underground and increasing bus standing capacity;
- To provide a new A-grade commercial tower to accommodate a range of office uses, which will assist future employment growth and job creation at the centre;
- To provide a new multi-use commercial building containing flexible floorspace to accommodate potential office, health and wellbeing practices, and civic services uses
- To improve the external interfaces and quality of the streetscape around the centre; and
- To retain existing car parking provision and provide additional parking appropriate for the expansion of the centre;
- Encourage additional commercial job opportunities for the local community
 - Provide large office floor plates that are unique to the Eastgardens-Maroubra Strategic Centre to encourage new businesses to the area without impacting existing local office stock.

- Meet the objectives of the 30-minute city as outlined in the Greater Sydney region Plan
- Provide commercial jobs within a highly accessible location and in proximity to new high-density residential development.
- Create the unique opportunity to have individual street addresses for commercial towers within the mixed-use centre.
- To make future provision for possible student accommodation oh hotel buildings on the north-eastern side of the site to respond to the investment in the Randwick Health and Education Collaboration Area;

Importantly, the masterplan concept contains two elements that warrant specific mention:

Outline for future development:

The masterplan also identifies an area of 'future development' where two building forms are indicated for additional uses such as student accommodation, hotel or build-to-rent housing to the North of the Bunnerong Road frontage. This will complete a wholistic development of the Bunnerong Road façade and will add increased diversity to the mixed-use site. These uses and built form are not part of this planning proposal and are shown to demonstrate the ambition of the site how the masterplan has been designed to consider this future development.

Given the desire to progress a future stage of the development at Westfield Eastgardens, following this first approval stage of the Masterplan, it is intended that a collaborative process can be undertaken between Council and Scentre Group as part of the Bayside LEP Review. With Bayside identified as a Priority Council for its LEP Review, Scentre Group are eager to be a key stakeholder in discussions and engagement concerning the future identification of the centre within the revised LEP.

Additional car parking according to RTA 2002 guidelines

Additional car parking will be provided in the scheme to compensate for the spaces lost for the Level 2 retail expansion (into the existing car park) and to support the additional retail and office GLA in the proposal.

The final provision or car parking will be resolved at DA stage based on occupancy modelling of the existing car park and the development overlay. Much of the new retail will be experience-based offers (vs goods) that are more viable for non-car transport options.

An 34m height zone has been included within the proposal for 4 additional mezzanine parking levels if the Applicant is required to provide parking based on the 2002 RTA Guide to Traffic Generating Developments.

The RMS now considers this ratio methodology to be outdated given:

- the progress in car park data collection and modelling,
- the fact that as major retail centres have evolved many additional activities are overlapped in the one trip; and
- additional usages as part of retail expansions often have a peak demand that sits outside the traditional park periods for shopping centres (i.e. dining and cinema peak periods are in the evening).

The Applicant expects that the 4 levels of additional mezzanine parking identified in the extra parking envelope will be further justified at the DA stage as not being required for construction, once reliable data is available for modelling following the introduction of ticketless parking data capture at Westfield Eastgardens in December 2018.

5.3. **RETAIL, COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC DOMAIN**

5.3.1. Retail arrangement

The proposal includes the expansion of the retail centre by approximately 27,500sqm of gross lettable area (approximately 37,500sqm GFA when common mall and services are included). Figure 13 below provides an illustration of how the additional retail is proposed to be configured, and further detail is described in the Urban Context Report prepared by Architectus attached at Appendix A



The existing shopping centre is oriented along a distinct East-West mall axis.

A new parallel fashion, accessories and beauty mall (shown as vellow dashed line) will be built into the existing Level 2 car park. The 'loop' mall layout is a logical and tested model for convenient retailing.

Along the Western edge (green dashed line) an interconnected food, dining and leisure offer will be added over levels 1, 2 and 3, which will reconfigure and re-image the fresh food, food court and cinema into indooroutdoor destination with views over the golf course and to the Sydney skyline beyond

5.3.2. Commercial office arrangement

The proposal includes the addition of approximately 24,000sqm of commercial office GLA (approximately 27,300sqm GFA when lift lobbies, amenities and services are included).

Figure 14 – Commercial Office Arrangement



Source: Architectus

The indicative size and theme of each building is summarised below and described in more detail in the Architectus report.

- **Tower Building A:** A new A-grade commercial tower of 9 full storeys and 1 partial storey above the retail podium which will target traditional large floor plate office occupiers by providing plates of approximately 1,250sqm NLA. This tower will provide a total NLA of approximately 11,600sqm; and
- **Tower Building B:** A new corner tower of 8 full storeys and 2 partial storeys that will be geared at commercial usages around services and health. This tower will have floorplates of approximately 1,000sqm net lettable area (NLA), equating to a total NLA of approximately 9,500sqm;
- **Tower Building C:** Modifications to the existing 4 storey office tower to improve the core location and enlarge the floorplate to approximately 1,600m2. This arrangement should be appealing to innovative workplace arrangements such as co-working and serviced offices.

5.3.3. Bunnerong Road Public Plaza and bus terminus

As part of the rearrangement of the Bunnerong Road façade and upgrade to the existing bus interchange, a new public plaza will be created at ground level on top of the bus terminus. The public plaza will be activated by:

- Landscaped open voids and travelators to connect to the bus interchange below.
- A reconfigured entrance to the shopping centre with externalised retail such as cafes and outdoor seating, stimulating life into the area.
- A laneway with drop-off / pick-up bays to encourage new modes of ride-share transport.
- New commercial towers which will provide an injection of workers during the weekdays, with each tower having its own building lobby which opens to the public plaza.

- The opportunity to connect future uses to the plaza, such as student accommodation or hotel, which will further activate the plaza during the night and weekends, creating a constant buzz.

Figure 15 below shows the proposed Bunnerong Road Public Plaza which interfaces with the bus terminus (sunken below), retail entry and individual office lobbies for each building.



Figure 15 – Proposed Bunnerong Road Public Plaza

Source: Architectus

5.4. RESPONSES TO PEER REVIEW OF PREVIOUS SCHEME

Following the lodgement of the original and the revised planning proposal scheme, several peer reviews were commissioned by Council into the technical studies provided with the proposal. This led to a range of feedback and comments which have now been addressed as part of this revised proposal. Given the November 2019 amendments to the scheme, the further comments raised by Council as identified in **Section 1.1** are also addressed in this latest update.

Table 4 below outlines the mains comments highlighted and how this proposal has responded to this as a result.

Table 4 – Peer Reviews and responses

Peer Review comment	Response	
Transport and Traffic report		
The peer review by Cardo requested a full study be undertaken assessing potential impacts to the surrounding road network and intersections, incorporating the traffic generation from the neighbouring Meriton development in conjunction with the subject proposal.	An updated Traffic and Transport Assessment was undertaken by SLR along with revised traffic modelling in response to the peer review. The updated assessment demonstrates that the identified intersection upgrades are sufficient to accommodate the expected traffic increase resulting from the proposal along with the development proposed on the adjacent Meriton site (Stages 1 and 2).	
	The updated modelling and findings were presented to Council for review in late 2018 and considered acceptable.	
	The assessment has been not been updated for this revised Planning Proposal Request. However, the previous (March 2019) request updated the traffic modelling and reported accordingly. Given the commercial GLA has been reduced as part of this proposal, it can therefore be reasonably assumed that the nominated road capacity improvements will continue to be sufficient in mitigating traffic impact associated with this revised proposal.	
Retail Economic Impact Assessment		
RPS conducted a peer review of the original Retail EIA, noting several comments regarding the proposed retail component. This includes the following:	A response letter prepared by Urbis answered the concerns raised by the RPS review. <i>The letter was submitted to Council for review in late</i> <i>2018 and understood to have been accepted.</i> The letter provided the responses below to the comments raised by RPS.	
A quantitative market need assessment	Overall, the response to this maintains that the proposed increase in retail floor space is warranted given the current population growth and expenditure in the trade area, including the adjacent high-density development.	
	The report presents new analysis including that 76% of expenditure by trade area residents on apparel,	

	homewares and leisure goods (discretionary items) is undertaken at centres/locations outside the trade area. This loss of local sales is referred to as 'leakage', and Eastgardens has the highest percentage of discretionary expenditure leakage among Westfield centres. This can be explained by the lack of range in fashion, homewares and leisure retailers, and the result is that residents are forced to drive to other locations and local jobs and economic activity is lost.	
A retail sustainability assessment showing impacts of the proposed expansion.	The updated report contains a detailed impact assessment which specifies the estimated turnover and impacts of all strategic, district and local centres within the retail catchment for Eastgardens. The analysis shows that the forecast impact of the retail expansion to other centres is marginal, in the range of 1% to 3.1% depending on the centre. The report assesses that this level of impact is well below the threshold of 10% where impacts are generally considered to be a concern.	
	It concludes that there is more than sufficient market demand in support of the expansion and that the trading impacts are well within the bounds of a normal and healthy competitive environment.	
An updated economic impacts and benefit section	The report assesses that the marginal negative trading impacts described above are far outweighed by the positive impacts including the generation of 1,139 direct operational jobs per annum once the retail expansion opens (many of which will be local jobs), 223 construction jobs per annum during the two year construction period, and gross value added to the NSW economy of +\$258m during construction and +\$190m per annum during the operational phase.	
Commercial Office Economic Impact Assessment		
The peer review conducted by RPS identified that further explanation was needed regarding the demand and impact on other centres of the proposed commercial component, and justification on the methodology used to identify this.	In response to the peer review feedback a new commercial office EIA was prepared by the consultancy team of office real estate experts <i>Colliers International</i> . The report provides an in-depth analysis of the existing office markets in the region, what factors drive business occupancy decisions, and the points of difference of the	
	Eastgardens office proposal that will make it unique and attractive as a new workplace precinct.	

The EIA comments that the proposed office component is consistent with the B3 Commercial core zoning of the centre along with being identified as a strategic centre, and therefore is suitable for the site.

	In contrast, the majority of sites in Maroubra Junction along Anzac Parade are zoned B2 Local Centre, which permits (with consent) shop-top housing. This zoning setting reduces the likelihood of a standalone office development from eventuating given that housing typically renders the highest development return. Moreover, the majority of sites in Maroubra Junction are already developed or are relatively small, which will require some form of amalgamation, which is costly and time-consuming
	The proposed floor plates of >1,000sqm are much larger than currently available in the area and would appeal to a different sector in the market. Given this, the proposal is not considered to be in competition with the existing stock. Therefore, impacts are considered minimal.
	The revised Planning Proposal Request results in a reduction in incremental commercial gross lettable area of 6,500sqm compared to when the report was issued to Council. The proposal retains the commercial office component, albeit in a reduced quantity, and therefore the assessment and conclusions contained in the commercial office EIA remain applicable.
Quantitative Risk Assessment	
The primary recommendation was to update the report to include the commercial office proposal, as the previous modelling and conclusions were based on the retail scheme only. The specific comments and responses are outline below.	An updated Quantitative Risk Assessment has been provided to address the recommendations raised. The report demonstrates that the proposal is capable of addressing the risk requirements for proximity to the Botany Industrial Precinct and the hazardous goods route along Wentworth Avenue. The updated report (March 2019) includes the commercial scheme (previously only modelled on the retail scheme) which is positioned away from the Denison Street / Wentworth Avenue intersection, which results in limited incremental risk, and the proposal in totality is with the acceptable risk range.
	However, this revised Planning Proposal Request results in a reduction in incremental commercial gross lettable area of 6,500sqm compared to when the report was issued to Council, meaning the risk that was previously assessed as manageable is now reduced further.
Refer to Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for interpretation of 'incremental risk' in societal risk assessment for new developments	Systra Scott Lister attempted to engage with DPE but they did not wish to do so until the post-Gateway referral and exhibition period.
	Regardless, the report has considered both interpretations, and the more conservative interpretation

	of comparing the proposal against the cumulative risk of other developments in the area has been used when presenting the results.
Update for the inclusion of the commercial office scheme, including consequence results of incidents.	The commercial scheme as presented in this Planning Proposal was included in the updated modelling.
The existing cumulative F-N curve must be compared with an updated F-N curve including the population from the proposed future development	This is included in the updated report.
 Update the report to address a) risk contributors to the incremental risk and rank them b) assumed population distribution of the 1640 persons 	The risk contributors (incident types) have been identified in the model outputs chart. The modelling assumptions used for population distribution, inside/outside population, and risk mitigations have all been outlined in the updated report.
 c) whether the risk was assessed for persons inside and outside the building, and at different levels in the building, and d) how the risk mitigation in design suggested in Ref.1 have been addressed in the incremental risk assessment. 	The recommended risk mitigations have not been included in the modelling, hence the results as presented do not enjoy any benefit from these mitigations.
If the updated F-N curve for the area still falls within the ALARP and the incremental risk is deemed marginal, the development cannot be precluded.	This was a statement only, however the updated results do fall into the ALARP range.
The emergency response plan for the Westfield Eastgardens complex must include response to a dangerous goods transport accident near the intersection of Denison Street and Wentworth Avenue.	This is a management recommendation that can be incorporated at DA stage.
There must be a public address system in the Eastgardens complex to notify shoppers of the actions to take in the event of a dangerous goods transport accident that may affect he car park on Wentworth Avenue.	This is a management recommendation that can be incorporated at DA stage.
Overshadowing	
Overshadowing impact to the five most impacted dwellings to the south of Wentworth Avenue was deemed not supportable. It was clarified that there were no plans to change to the zoning or density of these properties in the foreseeable future as part of the Local Strategic Planning Strategy process and LEP updates.	The massing of the largest commercial office tower was remodelled, and it now gives rise to an acceptable level of additional overshadowing the residential properties located on the southern side of Wentworth Avenue on June 21. The impacts to the existing dwellings (apart from 5 existing dwellings) are minor and do not impact on the ability of these properties to comply with the solar access requirements specified under existing DCP controls.
	 More detailed overshadowing analysis was carried out to ascertain the impact to the 5 most affected residential dwellings on June 21. Analysis of this revised scheme confirms that: There is no additional overshadowing to the primary open space (otherwise known as rear yards) of the subject properties. The living areas of the dwellings are concentrated toward the rear/ southern end of the dwelling and is not overshadowed by the proposed massing. The proposal ensures a minimum of 1 hour of solar access is provided to the front building facades and 1 hour of solar access is achieved to at least 50% of the front yards despite there being no requirement to demonstrate this. During the equinox period (21st September to 21st March) the proposed massing does not create any additional overshadowing impact to adjacent properties. Beyond the equinox period (3rd August to 10th May) all properties achieve a minimum of 2 hours solar access to 100% of the front yards and northern facade of the 5 properties in question.
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Pedestrian Safety and Public Domain Improvements to the presentation and pedestrian safety of Westfield Drive were requested to be addressed.	 The revised Planning Proposal Request now includes the following updated elements: Prioritising pedestrians and traffic calming – raised crossings are proposed near the intersection of the new Meriton site streets. These are intended to provide clear points of pedestrian crossing at desire lines, as well as to slow traffic and deter vehicles using Westfield Drive as a 'rat-run'. Separating pedestrians from loading areas – limit pedestrian movement in the footpath immediately outside the loading docks. Improvement works will encourage pedestrians to use the north side of Westfield Drive to move along the centre of the street block, and to cross to the southern side on newly proposed raised pedestrian crossings once they are beyond the dock areas located towards the middle of Westfield Drive. Improved amenity – landscaping, widening footpath at points, lighting, wayfinding, and public art opportunities are proposed to improve the

	amenity of the street and provide a buffer to the facade of the existing back-of-house areas.
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6. PLANNING PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

This Planning Justification Report is intended to inform the preparation of a Planning Proposal which can be prepared in accordance with Section 3.33 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, for consideration by the Department of Planning and Environment.

Accordingly, this Report addresses in the following parts:

- Part 1: A statement of the objectives or intended outcomes of the proposed amendment;
- Part 2: An explanation of the provisions that are to be included in the proposed amendment;
- Part 3: The justification for those objectives, outcomes and the process for their implementation;
- Part 4: The supporting maps which identify the aspects of the Planning Proposal;
- Part 5: Details of community consultation that is to be undertaken for the Planning Proposal; and
- Part 6: The prospective timeline.

Discussion for each of the above parts is outlined in the following sections which are structured in accordance with the document 'A Guide to Preparing Planning Proposals' (December 2018), published by DPE (now DPIE).

7. PART 1 – OBJECTIVES AND INTENDED OUTCOMES

7.1. **OBJECTIVE**

The primary objective of the Planning Proposal is to amend the planning controls for Westfield Eastgardens to facilitate its expansion, in order to deliver an upgraded, high quality retail centre, along with new commercial buildings to assist in the creation of jobs and strengthening the economic role of the centre to meet the 'Strategic Centre' status. This is in accordance with the Eastern City District Plan objectives and the 'Vision' outlined in Section 5 above.

This will ensure that Westfield Eastgardens can evolve its important role in the community and transform from a traditional everyday needs shopping centre to a mixed-use community hub for dining, entertainment, leisure, services and employment. It ensures the centre maintains its market position in the face of competition from other centres, in a situation where the centre has not been upgraded for fifteen years. It will also provide sufficient offer to keep pace with the increasing residential densities and population growth within the trade area.

The enhanced shopping centre and new commercial buildings will further strengthen and reinforce the economic role of the centre, and benefit from the existing and future public transport links to the site.

7.2. INTENDED OUTCOME

The Planning Proposal is intended to have the following outcomes:

- Amendment to the BBLEP to amend FSR and height of building controls to the site. This includes amendments to the LEP maps, which are contained in Section 10 of this Report;
- It seeks to increase the FSR to 1.8:1; and
- It seeks to increase maximum height of building to part 34m, part 40m and part 59m, whilst the reminder of the site is unchanged.

8. PART 2 – EXPLANATION OF PROVISIONS

8.1. OVERVIEW

The objectives and intended outcome of this Planning Proposal can be achieved by:

- Amending the BBLEP 2013 Height of Buildings Map for the site from a maximum of 25m to allow for areas to have maximum of part 34m, part 40m and part 59m.
- Amending the BBLEP 2013 FSR Map for the site from 1:1 to 1.8:1.
- Introduce a DCP specific for the site.

The proposed changes to the maximum height of building and maximum FSR maps are illustrated in the figures provided at **Section 10**.

These amendments will support the development of the site as a mixed-use community hub and is consistent with the concept plan and achieves the key objective and intent of this Planning Proposal request.

It is considered that the proposed amendments to the BBLEP 2013 are the best, most efficient and time effective approach to delivering the intended outcome of the proposal.

The purpose of the Planning Proposal is to amend the BBLEP 2013 to allow the expansion of the shopping centre at the site to provide a greater level of retail, commercial and leisure floor space, along with additional car parking provision on the same site footprint. The existing height of building control is a blanket approach across the site, however within this there are existing varying building heights across the site.

Accordingly, the proposal seeks amendments to the BBLEP provisions as they pertain to the site as follows:

- Floor Space Ratio: Introduce a new maximum allowable floor space ratio (FSR) of 1.8:1
- Height of Buildings: Introduce a new maximum allowable building height of part 34m, part 40m and part 59m (whilst retaining a maximum 25m height on the remainder of the site).

It is considered that the proposed amendments to the BBLEP 2013 are the best, most efficient and time effective approach to delivering the intended outcome of the proposal.

8.2. AMENDMENT TO FLOOR SPACE RATIO

The existing BBLEP Floor Space Ratio Map specifies the maximum FSR for the site as 1:1. However, a previous development consent (DA reference 14/123) at the site varied this FSR such that the approved FSR is slightly above this level. This DA was determined by the Council on 11th March 2015, following its consideration by the Sydney East Joint Regional Planning Panel (JRPP).

Condition 83 on this consent states that:

"Prior to the issue of the Occupation Certificate, a Certificate of Survey from a Registered Surveyor shall be submitted to the Principal Certifying Authority and the Council to the effect that:

...b) A Floor Space Ratio (FSR) of 1.087:1 and height of 39.5m AHD (top of parapet) and 44.1 m AHD (for tower along eastern elevation) as approved under this Development Consent No. 14/123 have been strictly adhered to and any departures are to be rectified in order to issue the Occupation Certificate"

The JRPP concluded on this point that:

"The proposed development provides a high-quality commercial development that facilitates the orderly and economic development of land in a manner that is appropriate for the site. Additional commercial services will be provided in an appropriate location and will provide increased employment and investment opportunities for the area. The impacts from the proposed development on the amenity of surrounding properties resulting from the departing FSR are considered minimal and the built form is considered compatible with the existing development on the site. Council officers agree that the proposal will result in a public benefit.

As such, the current consented FSR for the site should be assessed as being 1.087:1.

It should also be noted that the height of buildings referenced in the condition above are measured to a Reduced Level linked to an Australian Height Datum (AHD) point, rather than indicating the actual height of the building from ground level to the top of the building, which forms the LEP control.

The objectives of the FSR clause (Clause 4.4) in the BBLEP are as follows:

- (a) to establish standards for the maximum development density and intensity of land use,
- (b) to ensure that buildings are compatible with the bulk and scale of the existing and desired future character of the locality,
- (c) to maintain an appropriate visual relationship between new development and the existing character of areas or locations that are not undergoing, and are not likely to undergo, a substantial transformation,
- (d) to ensure that buildings do not adversely affect the streetscape, skyline or landscape when viewed from adjoining roads and other public places such as parks, and community facilities,
- (e) to minimise adverse environmental effects on the use or enjoyment of adjoining properties and the public domain,
- (f) to provide an appropriate correlation between the size of a site and the extent of any development on that site,
- (g) to facilitate development that contributes to the economic growth of Botany Bay.

It is considered that the above objectives can be satisfied whilst facilitating the expanded shopping centre.

The proposed outcome will be achieved by amending the BBLEP Floor Space Ratio Map in accordance with the proposed FSR Map contained in Section 10 and Appendix D of this Report.

8.3. AMENDMENT TO BUILDING HEIGHT

The existing BBLEP Height of Buildings Map specifies that the maximum building height of Westfield Eastgardens site is 25m.

It is proposed to amend the development standard to permit a maximum height of building of part 34m, part 40m and part 59m (with the remainder of the site unchanged at 25m), meaning that the Planning Proposal will seek up to an additional 9m in maximum height for parts of the retail element of the centre and an additional maximum of 15m and 34m for the future commercial building envelopes.

The indicative building height map (Figure 7 earlier in this report) has clearly identified zones where the additional height can be placed, giving certainty to Council, whilst maintaining sufficient flexibility for building articulation as part of the detailed design and future DA process.

It is clear that the approach set out within this Planning Proposal will facilitate the realisation of the Priorities and Actions in the Eastern City District Plan to encourage growth, meet jobs targets for the centre and provide a diverse mix of uses.

The additional height for the shopping centre element will principally be utilised to provide for an expansion to the cinema and additional car parking that may be required for the development, along with solar panel shade structures above the top level of the car park. The proposed height limit of 34m would therefore allow the development of any structures associated with this use.

The 40m and 59m maximum height for the two commercial towers proposed consists of up to 27,300sqm (GFA) of new office floor space.

It should also be noted that the adjacent Pagewood Green development comprises residential towers of a greater height to the proposed commercial buildings, meaning that the proposal cannot be out of character with what has been consented on the neighbouring site.

The objectives of the height of buildings clause (Clause 4.3) within the BBLEP are as follows:

- (a) To ensure that the built form of Botany Bay develops in a coordinated and cohesive manner;
- (b) To ensure that taller buildings are appropriately located;
- (c) To ensure that building height is consistent with the desired future character of an area;

- (d) To minimise visual impact, disruption of views, loss of privacy and loss of solar access to existing development; and
- (e) To ensure that buildings do not adversely affect the streetscape, skyline or landscape when viewed from adjoining roads and other public places such as parks, and community facilities.

It is considered that the objectives of this clause can be satisfied following the grant of an additional maximum height level at the site, where a considered design response is proposed, given its location, surroundings and current built form.

The proposed outcome will be achieved by amending the BBLEP Height of Buildings Map in accordance with the proposed Height of Building Map contained in Section 10 and Appendix D of this Report.

9. PART 3 – JUSTIFICATION OF THE PLANNING PROPOSAL

9.1. NEED FOR THE PLANNING PROPOSAL

Q1. Is the planning proposal a result of any strategic study or report?

No - it is not the direct result of a strategic study or report. However, this proposal follows extensive engagement with Council over the course of the past three years and is strongly aligned with Eastern City District Plan which set targets for jobs growth in the Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre and set an action to achieve a diverse mix of uses to strengthen and reinforce the economic role of the centre.

Q2. Is the planning proposal the best means of achieving the objectives or intended outcomes, or is there a better way?

The Planning Proposal is the best means for achieving the objective and intended outcomes identified in Section 7 of this Report. The amendments to the BBLEP will ensure the orderly and economic expansion of the Westfield Eastgardens.

Without an amendment to the planning controls, the opportunity for additional office floorspace and to expand the retail offer to reinforce the position economic role of the 'Strategic' Centre will be lost.

The site is a logical and appropriately placed to concentrate future economic growth within the Bayside LGA given it is already the main shopping centre for the immediate area, is the only Commercial Core zoned site in the Strategic Centre, and it benefits from well-established public transport links with the potential for future mass transit to connect at the site. It is also adjacent to a large new residential development constructed by Meriton immediately to the north, which can give rise to the benefits of co-location where future residents will be able to live, work and shop in the immediate surroundings.

9.2. SECTION B - RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK

DPE's Planning Circular (PS 16-004) notes that a key factor in determining whether a proposal should proceed to Gateway determination should be its strategic merit and site-specific merit. It is considered that the Planning Proposal meets these tests as outlined in the following sections.

Q3. Will the planning proposal give effect to the objectives and actions of the applicable regional, sub-regional or district plans of strategy (including any exhibited draft plans or strategies)?

The 'Guide' published by DPE advises of the assessment criteria for this stage of the Planning Proposal process. This is split into Stage A and Stage B (Page 12 & 13 of the Guide) as outlined below.

a) It refers to how proposals can demonstrate strategic and site-specific merit, which is outlined below.

"Does the proposal have strategic merit? Is it:

- Give effect to the relevant regional plan outside of the Greater Sydney Region, the relevant district plan within the Greater Sydney Region, or corridor/precinct plans applying to the site, including any draft regional, district or corridor/precinct plans released for public comment; or
- Give effect to a relevant local strategic planning statement or strategy that has been endorsed by the Department or required as part of a regional or district plan or local strategic planning statement; or
- Responding to change in circumstances, such as the investment in new infrastructure or changing demographic trends that have not been recognised within existing planning controls'.

It goes on to indicate that there will be a presumption against a Rezoning Review request that seeks to amend LEP controls that are less than 5 years old, unless the proposal can clearly justify that it meets the Strategic Merit Test. The Botany Bay Local Environmental Plan is now almost 7 years old.

b) To demonstrate site-specific merit, the Guide advises the following:

"Does the proposal have site-specific merit, having regard to the following:

- The natural environment (including known significant environmental values, resources or hazards); and
- The existing uses, approved uses, and likely future uses of land in the vicinity; and
- The services and infrastructure that are available to meet the demand arising from the proposal and any proposed financial arrangement for infrastructure provision."

The following sections below assess the proposal against these criteria.

9.2.1. Greater Sydney Region Plan

The Greater Sydney Region Plan '*Our Greater Sydney 2056 – A Metropolis of Three Cities*' was published by the Greater Sydney Commission (GSC) in March 2018. The Plan outlines how Greater Sydney will manage growth and change and guide infrastructure delivery.

An assessment of the Planning Proposal against the objectives of this plan is set out in Table 5 below.

Table 5 – Assessment Against Greater Sydney Region Plan

GREATER SYDNEY REGION PLAN		
Planning Objective	Description	Comment
Infrastructure	and collaboration:	
A city supporte	ed by infrastructure	
Objective 4	Infrastructure use is optimised	The site contains a bus interchange and sits along the strategic bus corridor. It is therefore well located in terms of being easily accessible through existing public transport routes and infrastructure. the proposed upgrade to the operational capacity of the bus interchange and the integration with a public plaza above will provide a superior user experience and will encourage greater public transport use for visitors to the centre and the office buildings.
Liveability:		
A city for peop	le	
Objective 6	Services and infrastructure meet communities' changing needs	The expansion of Westfield Eastgardens will enhance the retail, services, dining and leisure facilities which are available to local residents. This is a response to changes in consumer preferences towards experience-based retail, yet also provides important amenity for the significant new residential community that will occupy the adjacent Meriton development.
		The proposed new commercial buildings will also provide the opportunity to accommodate new employment space which could take the form of 'A' Grade offices, flexible co-working and serviced

GREATER SYDNEY REGION PLAN		
		offices, as well as services such as a gym, childcare and medical centre which are permissible within the B3 Zone.
Objective 7	Communities are healthy, resilient and socially connected	Loneliness and social isolation are being recognised as significant contributors to mental illness in the community. As shopping centres transform, they are prioritising their important role as town centres and places for the community to socialise and connect with others.
		The proposal achieves this though the new civic plaza as a public meeting place; the focus of the western end for additional dining, leisure and entertainment retail; and the introduction of innovative workplace arrangements such as co- working, The Bayside Library will remain as an important part of the community services on the site.
		The large number of new high-density residential dwellings adjacent to the site will generate demand for a 'third place' where these residents can spend their leisure time. Designing comfortable spaces for this is a key pillar of the masterplan vision.
		A focus on more medical services within the office development, a larger gym, and the improved site accessibility and public transport experience helps promote an active and healthy lifestyle.
Objective 9	Greater Sydney celebrates the arts and supports creative industries and innovation	Towers B and C of the proposal are intended to provide flexible and innovative working space in the form of shared workspace (co-working) and serviced office arrangements. These environments are supportive of creative industries and innovation as they allow flexible leasing arrangements and the ability for businesses to grow within the same location.
		These office arrangements are currently missing in the Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, yet Westfield Eastgardens provides the required mix of amenity and accessibility to attract these flexible workspace operators.
Liveability:		
Objective 12	Great places that bring people together	The reconfiguration of the bus interchange and frontage to Bunnerong Road allows for the creation of a new public plaza at street level, consisting of external facing shops and cafes, and providing an

GREATER SYDNEY REGION PLAN		
		individual address point to the outdoors for each of the three commercial buildings and the shopping centre.
		The activation of commercial office, retail and transport will deliver an outdoor place that brings people together around a high quality of landscaped amenity.
		The future student accommodation land use proposed in the masterplan (but which does not form part of this Planning Proposed) will be located adjacent to the public plaza, adding vibrancy from the social nature of student interactions.
Productivity:		
A well-connec	ted city	
Objective 14	A metropolis of three cities - integrated land use and transport creates walkable and 30-minute cities	As identified in Objective 4 above, the site is ideally located in terms of public transport accessibility, being the location of the key transport terminus for the South East suburbs. The bus terminus is accessed by 12 bus routes that connect to the City Bondi Junction, Burwood, Sydney Airport, Sydney Port and surrounding suburbs. The 'Future Transport 2056 Vision' identifies a new mass transit corridor to extend to the Eastgardens of Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, and the Applicant has positioned to Transport for NSW that Eastgardens is the logical location for intermodal transport connections, and to maximise the future development benefit around new transport infrastructure. Furthermore, the extensive high-density residential development by Meriton to the immediate north of
		the site will provide an eventual proximate new community of circa 7,000 residents who will benefit from being in walking distance of the expanded shopping facilities and work opportunities that are proposed.
Jobs and skills	for the city	
Objective 21	Internationally competitive health, education, research and innovation precincts	The adjacent centre of Randwick has been prioritised as the Health and Education Collaboration Area for the region, and the

Eastgardens proposal will play an important

GREATER SYDNEY REGION PLAN		
		supporting role for employment space for complementary businesses and services.
		The constraints on Randwick's ability to expand could be relieved by locating administrative and back-office functions within office space at Eastgardens. The two locations and easily connection by a direct 3km bus trip, making Eastgardens a viable overflow workspace.
		The health and education precinct also requires lifestyle amenity for its residents, workers and students, and the this will be provided as part of the Eastgardens retail expansion.
		The future student accommodation land use proposed in the masterplan (but separate to this Planning Proposed) will provide affordable and transport-connected accommodation for students to relieve the pressure on housing around Randwick.
Objective 22 Investment ar centres	Investment and business activity in centres	Westfield Eastgardens has been the largest commercial investment in the locality since 1987. Now recognised as part of the Eastgardens – Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, and as the only Commercial Core zoned property, Westfield Eastgardens plays a strategically important role in the future investment in jobs generation capacity and business activity.
		This proposal will deliver on that role by enabling a large investment in a strategic centre by an experienced and well-capitalised commercial landowner.
		The retail expansion and new commercial precinct is forecast to deliver 900-1000 retail jobs and a workplace for 950 to 1,200 commercial jobs. This investment will deliver the capacity to meet the District Plan job targets.
		The retail expansion will correct the leakage of retail sales that is currently being spent by residents of the trade area at locations outside of the trade area (i.e. online or at Bondi Junction or the City).
		Currently 76% of all spending on apparel, homewares and leisure goods (i.e. discretionary items) by residents of the Eastgardens trade area is spent at locations that are outside the trade area.

GREATER SYDNEY REGION PLAN	
	 (refer to the Retail Economic Impact Assessment at Appendix B). This is the highest leakage from a trade area of all Westfield centres, and it means that local businesses and jobs are missing out on resident spending. The expansion of the retail centre will capture more resident spend by local businesses and generate more local jobs.

9.2.2. Eastern City District Plan

The site is covered by the Eastern City District Plan which was published in March 2018. The Planning Proposal's consistency with the Plan is set out in Table 6 below:

Table 6 – Consistency with Eastern City District Plan

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT		
Planning Priority	Description	Comment
Infrastructu	re and collaboration:	
E1	Planning for a city supported by infrastructure	The proposal is aligned with this priority by upgrading the bus terminus and delivering two new office buildings above the bus terminus.
		There are 12 bus routes that service the site, providing connections to other Strategic Centres such as the Sydney CBD, Bondi Junction, Randwick, Maroubra Junction, Burwood and the international trade infrastructure of Sydney Airport and Port Botany.
		The improvements to the bus terminus will increase operating capacity and make it more appealing for customers to use public transport when visiting the centre.
		The site is also well serviced by major arterial roads. The traffic study recommends some intersections upgrades to be undertaken by the Applicant in order to maximise the efficiency of this road network.
		The existing shopping centre is in itself a large piece of infrastructure, and expansion of the retail centre benefits from the existing loading docks, car parking and services infrastructures such as high voltage power feeders running to the site.

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT

Liveability:

Live cabinity :		
E3	Providing services and social infrastructure to meet people's changing needs	The community composition around Eastgardens is changing, as developments such as Meriton's Pagewood Green add premium high-density residential units to a neighbourhood that has historically composed modest low-density housing and light industrial activity. This change is resulting in shifting demographics regarding employment types, disposable income and spending habits, and the need for additional public space for leisure and socialising.
		The proposal is aligned to this priority of meeting people's changing needs as it facilitates an evolution of the Westfield Eastgardens shopping centre from everyday needs retailing to a contemporary environment with additional categories such as dining, entertainment, leisure, health and wellness, medical services and a greater depth of contemporary fashion. These categories focus around experience-based retail offers, which is a changing need of consumers, especially where disposable income and discretionary spend is higher.
		The retail categories proposed for the centre expansion are also well aligned to indoor/outdoor environments and evening activation, which are both attributes desired by people in high density residential who have less private space in their apartments to socialise, and who often seek night time convenience options to balance with their daytime working commitments.
E4	Fostering healthy, creative, culturally rich and socially connected communities	As mentioned above, loneliness and social isolation are being recognised as significant contributors to mental illness in the community. As shopping centres transform, they are prioritising their important role as town centres and places for the community to socialise and connect with others.
		The proposal is aligned to this priority though creating the new civic plaza as a public meeting place; the focus of the western end for additional dining, leisure and entertainment retail; and the introduction of innovative workplace arrangements such as co-working, The Bayside Library will remain

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT		
		as an important part of the community services on the site.
		The large number of new high-density residential dwellings adjacent to the site will generate demand for a 'third place' where these residents can spend their leisure time. Designing comfortable spaces for this is a key pillar of the masterplan vision.
		A focus on more medical services within the office development, a larger gym, and the improved site accessibility and public transport experience helps promote an active and healthy lifestyle.
E6	Creating and Renewing Great Places and local centres, and respecting the Districts heritage	The proposal is aligned to this priority by allowing for the renewal of a site which high importance to the community for fresh food, retailing and convenience needs, and providing the opportunity for it to develop into a mixed-use centre that caters to the changing needs of the community.
		The proposal improves the interface of the shopping centre with the public domain by creating a new open plaza with voids to a subterranean bus terminus below. New address points are established at the Eastern and Western ends that are legible place-makers and easily accessible by foot. The proposal improves the pedestrian experience, for customers and local residents, whilst also enhancing transport connectivity. This will be a significant improvement on the existing arrangements whereby the centre is predominantly accessible by private vehicles.
		A design principle that has informed the masterplan is the retention and strengthening of the green buffer of vegetation and established trees around the edges of the sight. This will be retained to respect the heritage of the streetscape and to continuing the softening effect that the trees have for the transitional environment from Commercial Core to Low Density Residential land use.
Productivity:		
E8	Growing and investing in health and education precincts and the Innovation Corridor	The adjacent centre of Randwick has been prioritised as the Health and Education Collaboration Area for the region, and the Westfield Eastgardens proposal will play an important supporting role for employment space for complementary businesses and services.

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT		
		The constraints on Randwick's ability to expand could be relieved by locating administrative and back-office functions within office space at Eastgardens. The two locations and easily connection by a direct 3km bus trip, making Eastgardens a viable overflow workspace.
		The health and education precinct also requires lifestyle amenity for its residents, workers and students, and the this will be provided as part of the Eastgardens retail expansion.
		The future student accommodation land use proposed in the masterplan (but separate to this Planning Proposed) will provide affordable and transport-connected accommodation for students to relieve the pressure on housing around Randwick.
E10	Delivering integrated land use and transport planning and a 30-minute city	The site is ideally located in terms of public transport accessibility, being the location of the key transport terminus for the South East suburbs. The bus terminus is accessed by 12 bus routes that connect to the City, Bondi Junction, Burwood, Sydney Airport, Sydney Port and surrounding suburbs.
	The new commercial office buildings included in the proposal will provide a viable new workplace precinct for residents in the South East of Sydney, delivering on the ambition of a 30-minute city. The large floorplate provision and views available at Tower A will be appealing to medium to large sized businesses, and the large and flexible floorplate arrangement available in Towers B and C will be appealing to small office suites and operators of co- working and serviced offices.	
		This is important because data from Census 2016 shows that 77.5% of working residents who resided in the Botany LGA were engaged in workplaces outside the LGA, meaning that just 22.5% were employed locally. This outcome is low relative to most LGAs in Sydney, with Botany achieving only the 22nd highest rate of containment (of 32 LGAs), as well as being significantly below the weighted average outcome for LGAs in Greater Sydney (40.7%). The most popular working destinations for residents of the Botany LGA were Sydney (33%) and Randwick (14%).
		Further to this, Census 2016 data showed that the lowest rates of self-containment in the Botany LGA

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT		
		were for residents working in Financial & Insurance Services (6.9%), Public Administration & Safety (9.4%) and Education and Training (10.5%). These are all categories that would be viable tenants in proposed office buildings at Eastgardens, providing an alternative for these residents to work in closer proximity to their homes. (Refer commercial office Economic Impact Assessment at Appendix C for more details).
	The 'Future Transport 2056 Vision' identifies a new mass transit corridor to extend to the Eastgardens - Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, and the Applicant has positioned to Transport for NSW that Eastgardens is the logical location for intermodal transport connections, and to maximise the future development benefit around new transport infrastructure.	
		Lastly, the extensive high-density residential development by Meriton to the immediate north of the site will provide a proximate new community of circa 7,000 residents who will benefit from being in walking distance of the expanded shopping facilities and work opportunities that are proposed.
E11	Growing investment, business opportunities and jobs in strategic centres	Westfield Eastgardens has been the largest commercial investment in the locality since 1987. Now recognised as part of the Eastgardens – Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, and as the only Commercial Core zoned property, Westfield Eastgardens plays a strategically important role in the future investment in jobs generation capacity and business opportunities.
		The proposal is aligned to this priority by enabling a large investment in a strategic centre by an experienced and well-capitalised commercial landowner.
		The retail expansion and new commercial precinct is forecast to deliver 900-1000 retail jobs and a workplace for 950 to 1,200 commercial jobs. This investment will deliver the capacity to meet the District Plan job targets.
		The retail expansion will correct the leakage of retail sales that is currently being spent by residents of the trade area at locations outside of the trade area (i.e. online or at Bondi Junction or the City).

EASTERN CITY DISTRICT	
	Currently 76% of all spending on apparel, homewares and leisure goods (i.e. discretionary items) by residents of the Eastgardens trade area is spent at locations that are outside the trade area. (refer to the Retail Economic Impact Assessment at Appendix B).
	This is the highest leakage from a trade area of all Westfield centres, and it means that local businesses and jobs are missing out on resident spending. The expansion of the retail centre will capture more resident spend by local businesses and generate more local jobs.
	Eastgardens – Maroubra Junction is identified as a Strategic Centre in the Plan. The expansion of shopping centre will strengthen the retail provision in the centre, which is in response to a range of factors including the nearby residential growth.
	The investment in the centre will ensure its future vibrancy and ability to meet increasing retail demand.
	The proposed new commercial floor space will help to enhance business capacity, meet the job targets, whilst offering an opportunity to promote a diverse mix of jobs. This will strengthen and reinforce the economic role of the centre.

With regard to demonstrating the strategic merit for the Planning Proposal, Table 7 contains an assessment of the proposal against the relevant points set out in Part A of the Assessment Criteria in the Guide.

Table 7 – Strategic Merit Assessment

Assessment Criteria	Response
Give effect to:	The site is located within Greater Sydney.
Regional Plan outside of Greater Sydney	There is no corridor or precinct plan relating to the site.
Relevant District Plan in Greater Sydney	The proposal is consistent with the aims of the Eastern
Corridor or Precinct Plan applying to the site	City District Plan in terms of managing growth, innovation, and evolution of Strategic Centres, by
Regional, District or Corridor Plan released for public comment.	attracting investment and diversifying the range of activity in centres.
(or)	The provision of new commercial office space within the B3 Commercial Core will enhance the provision of employment opportunities locally whilst also strengthening the economic role of the centre.

Assessment Criteria	Response
	Furthermore, the additional retail floor space will serve to meet the changing retail and services requirements of the community through a contemporary and expanded offer.
	The proposal is consistent with the aims of the Region Plan given it seeks to provide additional facilities and land uses within an existing retail centre, it seeks to utilise and improve existing public transport connections and it will provide investment in business activity in a Strategic Centre.
Give effect to a relevant local strategic planning statement that has been endorsed by the Department or required as part of a regional or district plan or local strategic planning statement	The Botany Bay Planning Strategy 2031 is a dated document and the Bayside LSPS has yet to be endorsed by DPIE, so there is no relevant, up to date, local strategic statement to refer to.
(or)	However, it is noted that the draft LSPS recommends that opportunities are identified to strengthen the economic role of Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, which this Planning Proposal Request directly responds upon.
Responding to a change in circumstances, such as investment in new infrastructure or changing demographic trends not recognised by existing planning controls.	The proposal responds to a change in circumstances locally. As a result of the significant and continuing investment in the former BATA site adjacent (Meriton Pagewood Green), the site is positioned immediately adjacent to one of Sydney's largest urban renewal sites. The consequence is that the land use relationships and strategic planning context has changed significantly, from light industrial sheds to high-density residential of 2,200 approved dwellings, and a further 1,600 in planning assessment. The co-location of retail, office, transport and adjacent residential uses in close proximity will create a new mixed-use town centre at Eastgardens which is aligned with the actions of the District Plan.
	The proposal facilitates the response of the shopping centre to this imminent and significant increase in local population, through the provision of additional retail and service categories in an improved and contemporary environment.
	Additionally, the expansion of the centre is also appropriate forward planning to the likely new mass transit which is under investigation to be extended to the Eastgardens - Maroubra Junction strategic centre. This would represent investment in new infrastructure

Assessment Criteria	Response
	locally which is a change in circumstances and should be appropriately leveraged.

Furthermore, the Botany Bay LEP (2013) is now almost 7 years old and as indicated above, there is a clear case which demonstrate strategic merit with for proposal.

Accordingly, strategic merit is demonstrated on two counts, given the consistency with the District Plan and the change in circumstances at the site, meaning that the Planning Proposal to increase the height and FSR at Westfield Eastgardens meet this part of the test as set out in the Guide.

Table 8 below contains an assessment of the proposal against the relevant points set out in Part B of the Assessment Criteria in the Guide relating to the site-specific merit of the proposal.

Table 8 – Site Specific Merit Assessment

Assessment Criteria	Response
Regard to the natural environment (including any known significant environmental values, resources or hazards); and	The site is already developed as a shopping centre and car park meaning there is limited natural environment at the site. The only natural environment of note is the vegetation and established trees to the South and South East corner of the site which for a green buffer to soften the visual appearance of the existing centre and multi-deck parking. The retention of this green buffer was one of the design principles guiding the masterplan, and it is retained and strengthened through additional landscaping as part of the proposal. There are no known significant environmental values, resources or hazards which would be affected or encountered through the new development works to expand the centre. Any risk from the RMS dangerous goods route along Wentworth Avenue and Denison Street can be minimised during the detailed design phase for the scheme, and this is discussed in more detail in Section 9.3.3 of this Report.
The existing uses, approved uses and likely future uses of land in the vicinity of the proposal; and	The existing use is as a major regional shopping centre and the increase in height and FSR at the site will facilitate its expansion, which will help to maintain its relevance and offer within the region. The proposed office buildings are permissible within and appropriate for the Commercial Core zoning of the The proposal is entirely appropriate for the site given that it will evolve the existing retail and services provision for the local residential community. It will provide for the generation of new local jobs, is situated in a highly accessible location and it responds to the

Assessment Criteria	Response
	growth in population locally by providing an increased offer.
	The proposal seeks to minimise any adverse environmental effects on neighbouring residents by retaining the green buffer of screening trees and by orienting and tower forms to minimise overshadowing impacts to an acceptable level.
	The proposal can also act as a catalyst for reviewing and potentially up-zoning existing low density residential in the vicinity of the site given the increased amenity, upgraded transport infrastructure, and evolving character of the location as a Strategic Centre.
The services and infrastructure that are or will be available to meet the demands arising from the proposal and any proposed financial arrangements for infrastructure provision.	There is sufficient infrastructure to accommodate the increased floor space with adequate public transport, the ability to provide sufficient car parking on site, and capacity within the local road network to accommodate the increased demand, assisted by a limited recommendation of intersection improvements to be undertaken by the Applicant.

It is therefore evident from the above, that the Planning Proposal has demonstrated site-specific merit.

Q4. Will the Planning Proposal give effect to a Council's endorsed local strategic planning statement, or another endorsed local strategy or strategic plan?

9.2.3. Botany Bay Planning Strategy

The Botany Bay Planning Strategy is clearly an aging document given the time that has passed since its publication. However, it indicates that when the adjacent former BATA site is developed, alternate land uses at the shopping centre should be the subject of a detailed planning study.

This Planning Proposal seeks land uses which are appropriate in the B3 Commercial Core, including expanding the existing retail and commercial uses. The proposal also foreshadows a potential future development stage, which would align with the Botany Bay Planning Strategy, as it envisages future growth at the centre through additional land uses at the time when the former BATA site is redeveloped.

Given that construction is currently underway at the BATA site for a principally residential development, this presents a suitable opportunity to improve the retail and commercial offering at the centre, as a significant new resident population will soon be occupying the adjacent site. The proposal would therefore help to create a new mixed-use precinct where people can live, work and play.

Q5. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies?

An assessment of the Planning Proposal against the relevant applicable State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP) is provided in **Table 9** below.

SEPP Title	Consistent	Comment
SEPP 55 – Remediation of Land	Yes	Any future development application will be accompanied by a relevant contamination assessment where necessary.

Table 9 – State Environmental Planning Policy Assessment

SEPP Title	Consistent	Comment
SEPP 64 – Advertising and Signage	N/A	SEPP 64 is not relevant to the Planning Proposal but may be a consideration for the future development application.
SEPP – (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008	Yes	The Planning Proposal will not contain provisions that will contradict or would hinder the application of the SEPP.
SEPP – (Infrastructure) 2007	Yes	Whilst engagement with RMS has already occurred, a referral to NSW Roads and Maritime Services for traffic generating development will be required at the development application stage. The Transport Review Addendum is included at Appendix E demonstrates that the proposed development will not create adverse traffic impacts on the local road network.

In view of the above, it is demonstrated that the Planning Proposal is consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies.

Q6. Is the planning proposal consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions (s.9.1 Directions)?

There are various Ministerial Directions under Section 9.1 of the EP&A Act that provide guidance in the assessment of Planning Proposals and making LEPs that pertain to the land and/or type of development contemplated on the subject site. The applicable Section 9.1 directions and relevant objectives are discussed in **Table 10** below.

Direction	Comment
1.1 Business and Industrial Zones	The Planning Proposal will both serve to encourage employment generation at the site through the provision of an increased retail offer and new commercial buildings accommodating a range of office space arrangements, whilst also supporting the viability of an identified strategic centre.
3.4 Integrating Land Use and Transport	The Planning Proposal will both serve to encourage employment generation at the site through the provision of an increased retail offer and new commercial buildings accommodating a range of office space formats, whilst also supporting the viability of an identified strategic centre.
	The site is well located in terms of being accessible through a variety of modes of transport, including public transport. The site contains a bus interchange and forms part of a strategic bus corridor.
	The Planning Proposal will also assist in reducing travel demand, as the enhanced retail offer proposed will mean that local residents and people living to the south of the site, will no longer need to travel past Westfield Eastgardens to visit other centres, (such as Bondi Junction

Table 10 – Section 9.1 Directions

Direction	Comment
	or the Sydney CBD) to be able to access the variety of fashion and beauty retailers that meet their needs.
7.1 Implementation of <i>A Plan for Growing Sydney</i>	A Plan for Growing Sydney has been superseded by the Greater Sydney Region Plan. This Planning Justification Report demonstrates that the Planning Proposal is consistent with the Greater Sydney Region Plan.

In view of the above, it is demonstrated that the Planning Proposal is consistent with applicable Ministerial Directions under Section 9.1 of the EP&A Act.

9.2.4. Future Transport Strategy 2056

As identified above, the Future Transport Strategy 2056 vision for the Greater Sydney mass transit network identifies a new mass transit corridor to the Eastgardens - Maroubra Junction strategic centre, which would significantly enhance the public transport accessibility of the strategic centre and support the growth of the centre in the future.

Scentre Group made submissions to draft Future Transport 2056 in December 2017, which supported the confirmation of Eastgardens as a strategic centre and identified the imperative to provide for greater mass transit services to the centre which would be achieved by an extension of light rail or metro rail connection to Eastgardens.

The integration of land use and transport is referred to in Section 9.1 Direction '3.4' above. To support this, the Future Transport Strategy 2056 is the key NSW integrated transport strategy which brings together land use planning with transport planning. Table 11 below outlines the Planning Proposal's consistency with the 'Objectives' within the Strategy.

Actio	ons	Response
•	Safely, efficiently and reliably moving people and goods	The Proposal includes the upgrade of the existing bus interchange to in capacity, improve accessibility and improve customer experience, as well as improve customer safety in and around the interchange.
•	Connecting people and places in a growing city	As part of the proposed upgrades to the bus interchange, an increase in bus standing areas will provide the opportunity for greater bus services to and from the centre, increasing the sites accessibility.
•	Sustaining and enhancing the liveability of our places	The proposed commercial towers will provide increased employment opportunities for the strategic centre and will be supported by an upgraded bus interchange along with a new public plaza and pedestrian access.
•	Accessibility for all customers, convenient and responsive to customer needs; and makes best use of available resources and assets.	The proposal responds to the changing modal needs of customers by improving the user experience of the bus interchange by reconfiguring the underground terminus and providing connectivity to a new active public plaza above with improvements to passenger experience.

Table 11 – Future Transport Strategy 2056 Strategy objectives

The proponent will also seek to encourage visitors to travel to the site through modes of transport other than private motor vehicle. To achieve this, it is proposed to adopt a travel demand management approach through a travel access guide to meet the specific needs of the site, future employees and visitors.

The site is well served by public transport, meaning that employees and visitors can be encouraged to use this mode through the provision of information, maps and timetable as part of the travel access guide. The detail of the travel access guide can be developed at the development application stage, such that it can respond to the transport circumstances and guidelines at that stage.

9.3. ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT

Q7. Is there any likelihood that critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities, or their habitats, will be adversely affected as a result of the proposal?

The site is situated within an urban context and is currently used for commercial purposes. The site is previously developed and therefore the Planning Proposal will not affect any critical habitat or threatened species, populations or ecological communities.

Q8. Are there any other likely environmental effects as a result of the planning proposal and how are they proposed to be managed?

Given the proposed uplift in building height and density, the potential environmental effects that are relevant to the Planning Proposal are addressed below, along with the pertinent parts of the DCP.

9.3.1. Bulk, Scale and Massing

The planning proposal will increase the permissible heights and floor space ratio across the site. As such, the proposal will allow for an increased scale of built form beyond that which currently exists. This is demonstrated in the Urban Context Report prepared by Architectus attached at **Appendix A**. The Report illustrates the proposed building envelopes and how the centre could be developed to accommodate the new retail and commercial floor space.

The location of future height and density uplift has been based on a detailed review of the opportunities and constraints for the site and guided by the design principles established in the Architectus study. The key considerations include:

- The constraints provided by the existing location of major retail tenants of the shopping centre who have rights under long term leases;
- The location of existing loading facilities at the centre which are a critical to the continuing operation of the centre;
- The requirement to minimise the impacts from the built form on surrounding residential land uses, including overshadowing on properties to the south;
- The desire to locate the bulk of the new built form away from the Wentworth Avenue / Denison Street intersections which is on a hazardous goods route;
- The desire to locate commercial office development adjacent to existing transport infrastructure (the bus terminus); and
- The location of towers along Bunnerong Road to allow for separate street addresses, improving legibility for commercial tenant operations and contributing to the public domain.

Height for Commercial Office Towers (part 59m, part 40m)

The Revised Urban Context Report (Appendix A) includes a height strategy which reviews alternative options for providing height on the site. The selected option was successful in minimising overshadowing impacts whilst achieving the requirement for successful commercial developments.

The indicative design illustrates how the commercial and multi-use towers could be designed to create a unique and welcoming precinct that is tailored to the needs of the community and cements the centre as a mixed-use strategic centre.

Land on the corner of Wentworth Avenue and Bunnerong Road is proposed to have a 40m height limit to accommodate a future multi use commercial tower containing flexible floorspace to accommodate potential

office, health and wellbeing practices, and civic services uses, to meet the needs of the local community. The site, which contains an existing single storey commercial building, occupied by a gym, is envisaged to accommodate an 'iconic' building to form the gateway to the Eastgardens precinct. It will be designed with setbacks to retain the established vegetation buffer, and the height has been established to minimise overshadowing impacts to surrounding residential land uses whilst bookending the street wall along Bunnerong Road.

The part 59m envelope has been redesigned as part of the latest update to the Planning Proposal Request. It is now positioned with an increased (35m) setback from the Wentworth Avenue site boundary, above a podium of retail and car parking. Whilst being set back, the location still allows for an address point from the public plaza and connectivity to the bus terminus. The East-West orientation and slender configuration of the tower has been designed to achieve the DCP objectives and minimise the overshadowing impacts on the surrounding low-density residential land uses.

The final design of the towers will be subject to further design development after the Planning Proposal stage, However, the part 59m and part 40 height limit provides flexibility for future tower designs to achieve the objectives of the District Plans, meet the needs of future tenants, and minimise the impact on the surrounding land uses adjacent to the Commercial Core.

Height Zone for Retail (part 34m)

The other amended height control is proposed at 34m to accommodate outlier height elements of the existing and proposed retail centre such as the cinema expansion, additional mezzanine parking decks, and new solar panel shade structures over the car park.

The remainder of the site will retain the existing height control.

The proposed amendment to the controls will facilitate suitable building envelopes and future development concept, which will ensure an appropriate design whilst accommodating the requisite additional floor space and additional levels of development across the site. The site is well positioned to accommodate additional height and density, and the proposal will also serve to bring the maximum height of development on the eastern part of the site in relative alignment with the current redevelopment of the site to the north.

The Meriton site opposite Westfield Drive, is currently being redeveloped into a high-density mixed-use precinct consisting of several residential flat building of between 16 and 20 storeys in height. This provides a reference point for the future extent of development within this part of the strategic centre.

Adherence to Aeronautical Height Requirements

The Meriton site has established a height datum that has been tested and approved by the relevant authorities to be compliant with aeronautical movements in proximity to Sydney Airport.

That aside, the applicant has engaged a study specifically for this proposal which has confirmed that the proposed buildings heights (and clearance for cranes to construct the buildings) have no technical issues that would prevent them from being approved at the time when such an application is lodged (recommended to be at Development Approval stage)

Specifically, the Aeronautical Assessment contained at **Appendix H** demonstrates that although the proposal penetrates the OLS, the proposal is considered acceptable given the tallest tower at RL 83 has sufficient clearance below the lowest relevant PANS-OPS height datum of RL 126.4m. I should be noted that the previously lodged Aeronautical Assessment (in March 2019) was based on the previous scheme of up to RL94.4m. As this is now reduced by 11m to RL83m, the revised proposal is more compliant and the submitted report does not need updating to reflect these changes.

In summary, the location of the proposed maximum height envelopes at the site is demonstrated to have been carefully selected as a result of site constraints and opportunities and the guiding urban design principles. Whilst the final design will include design features to break up the facade including articulation, modulation, softening and permeability, which can all be addressed in more detail at the development application stage.

9.3.2. Traffic Generation and Parking

Traffic

An amended transport modelling and traffic engineering assessment was undertaken by SLR and is attached at **Appendix E**. The previous Traffic Report was prepared based on an increase of 27,500sqm retail GLA and 25,000sqm commercial office GLA, and confirmed that the proposed external intersection upgrade works detailed in the original report were acceptable to cater for development traffic.

This revised planning proposal scheme has some 1,000sqm less office GLA. Furthermore, the adjacent Meriton proposal was reduced to an FSR of 2:1 (from 2.35:1 assumed at the time of traffic modelling) meaning that the local modelled traffic levels would be further reduced. As such, the proposed external intersection upgrade works detailed in the original report also remain valid.

Car Parking

The existing centre provides over 3,100 car parking spaces in an arrangement of covered multi-deck and rooftop parking.

A controlled car parking and parking guidance system has recently been installed across Westfield Eastgardens and has significantly improved the availability of car parking spaces to retail customers through the removal of non-retail car parking (e.g. commuter car parking for the bus interchange, employees of adjacent sites, and even airport parking), and though the relocation of staff car parking (i.e. through the provision of 'nested' staff parking areas) to previously underutilised rooftop car parking areas;

Additional car parking will be provided in the scheme to compensate for the spaces lost for the Level 2 retail expansion (into the existing car park) and to support the additional retail and office GLA in the proposal.

The final provision or car parking will be resolved at DA stage based on occupancy modelling of the existing car park and the development overlay. Much of the new retail will be experience-based offers (vs goods) that are more viable for non-car transport options.

An envelope has been included in the proposal for 4 additional mezzanine parking levels if the Applicant is required to provide parking based on the 2002 RTA Guide to Traffic Generating Developments.

The RMS now considers this ratio methodology to be outdated given:

- the progress in car park data collection and modelling,
- the fact that as major retail centres have evolved many additional activities are overlapped in the one trip; and
- additional uses as part of retail expansions often have a peak demand that sits outside the traditional peak periods for shopping centres (i.e. dining and cinema peak periods are in the evening; and commercial offices are not occupied on the weekends when retail centres are at their busiest). This can allow effective sharing of car parking spaces across the development.

The Applicant expects that the 4 levels of additional mezzanine parking identified in the extra parking envelope will be justified at the DA stage, as not being required for construction, once reliable data is available for modelling, following the introduction of ticketless parking data capture at Westfield Eastgardens since December 2018.

Public Transport

The Planning Proposal presents a significant opportunity to improve travel by sustainable transport modes to Westfield Eastgardens and the surrounding area.

Due primarily to the bus interchange located within the site, Westfield Eastgardens has excellent existing access to public transport with 12 existing bus routes servicing the site. Extracted below is a figure from the report at Appendix E (Figure 16) which demonstrates the high proportion of the Westfield Eastgardens trade area catchment located within 400m walking distance of an existing bus route that services Westfield Eastgardens. Generally, the gaps in coverage only exist for golf course and bushland, or the large industrial estates.

The proposed upgrades to the existing bus interchange are intended to improve the customer experience as well as provide additional operating capacity for increased buses stopping at the centre as patronage numbers continue to grow. The overall upgrade is intended to encourage more travel to and from the centre

by public transport, and to make the bus interchange a feature of the public plaza and arrival experience to the centre.



Figure 16 - Bus Stops 400m Walking Catchment Area



Active Transport

The Meriton development to the immediate North of the site will provide a resident population of approximately 7,000 people who are all within a 500m walk of Westfield Eastgardens. The proposal responds to this opportunity by improving the arrival experience for pedestrians by clear placemaking of the East and West entrance points and improving the public domain at these locations. In addition, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in linked trips at the site where workers in the office buildings undertake shopping trips before or after the working day.

The scheme will also accommodate new end of trip facilities which will serve to promote both cycling and walking to the site for both the retail and office workers.

9.3.3. Quantitative Risk Assessment

An updated Quantified Risk Assessment Report was undertaken by Systra Scott Lister and is included at **Appendix F**. The report assessed the proposed amendments to the original proposal, being the increased population generated by the commercial office development, and the weighting of population distribution towards the East of the site which is the location of the commercial development. The assessment notes that the increased population results in an increase in the societal risk for the dangerous goods route along Wentworth Avenue, but that this increased risk sits within the ALARP (as low as reasonable practical) range based on the modelling assumptions for the site; and based on DPE guidance a development that sits within the ALARP cannot be precluded.

The report notes three design mitigations that have not been modelled in the results and will have the effect of reducing the risk if implemented in the modelling. It should be noted that since this report was published, the proposed scheme has been reduced by 6,500sqm GLA and therefore the incremental risk will further reduce.

Q9. Has the planning proposal adequately addressed any social and economic effects?

9.3.4. Economic Impact

Two Economic Impact Assessments have been prepared to assess the proposal, one for retail expansion and another for the commercial office development.

The analysis of market need, demand and economic impacts of the proposed results in the following key conclusions:

- The proposal is aligned to the priorities of the Region Plan and Eastern City District Plan.
- There is a market need and demand for the scale and type of retail expansion proposed for Westfield Eastgardens given the forecast growth in population and expenditure in the trade area.
- The impacts to surrounding retail centres are well within the bounds of a normal and healthy competitive environment.
- The expansion will generate circa 1,139 direct operational jobs and +\$190m Gross Value Added per annum to the NSW economy during the operational phase.
- The expansion of Westfield Eastgardens is complementary to the objectives of the *Eastern City District Plan*, underpinning Westfield Eastgardens' position and place in the hierarchy as a Strategic Centre, as well as providing employment opportunities to target the Bayside Council area.
- The Eastgardens precinct is the only area within the Eastgardens-Maroubra strategic centre that is zoned B3 Commercial core and therefore provides the opportunity to develop a truly mixed-use centre.
- The proposed floor size of the commercial tower (up to 1,000sqm) is unique within the Eastgardens-Maroubra centre which typically provides smaller floorplates (50-200sqm) and therefore, would attract specific tenants that would otherwise not consider this strategic centre. Further the predicated impact on existing commercial tenancies is therefore considered negligible.
- The proposal would attract new companies to the local area, providing significant jobs growth in an area that is currently experiencing high population growth due to neighbouring high-density developments as well as a regional trend towards more medium density development. There is the ability to accommodate between 900 1,200 new commercial office-based jobs.
- The expansion supports the objective of a 30-minute city by providing additional employment opportunities within an established centre.

Retail

The retail economic impact assessment at Appendix B is an addendum to the previous report by Urbis to respond to the comments received from the peer review undertaken by RPS.

The addendum provides extensive support for the expansion of the Eastgardens Shopping Centre, given the current size of the centre's trade area and the expected growth of the market, which is forecast to continue to grow strongly and increase by \$1.1 billion or 24% in constant dollar terms from 2017 to 2023.

The analysis demonstrates:

- The expansion of the centre would result in Westfield Eastgardens capturing an additional \$149 million or 13% of the forecast growth in trade area retail expenditure. The trade area market share would increase by 2.6 percentage points, with a resulting market share of 10.4%.
- The assessed market shares are within the typical range achieved by higher order centres of a similar scale and role to that of Westfield Eastgardens. The centre would be capturing a share of the market consistent with the role of regional scale shopping centres and not be taking an unreasonable proportion of market demand.

- The report presents new analysis including that 76% of expenditure by trade area residents on apparel, homewares and leisure goods (discretionary items) is undertaken at centres/locations outside the trade area. This loss of local sales is referred to as 'leakage', and Eastgardens has the highest percentage of discretionary expenditure leakage among Westfield centres. This can be explained by the lack of range in fashion, homewares and leisure retailers, and the result is that residents are forced to drive to other locations and local jobs and economic activity is lost.
- There is strong demand for food catering offerings within the centre, with the proposal to address the shortfall and contain expenditure within the local community.
- The assessed impact on other retail centres is marginal, calculated at between 1.0% and 3.1% depending on which centre, and is far below the threshold of 10% impact that is considered to raise concern.
- The expansion can deliver 1,139 operational jobs per annum, and a Gross Value Added of \$190m per annum to the NSW economy, once completed.
- The shopping centre has not been redeveloped in over 15 years and is at serious risk of failing to respond to changing consumer expectation and losing relevance and market share in an environment where other retail centres are investing in their product.

Overall, the proposal is considered to address large retail demand shortfalls and provide greater opportunities for retail and food and beverage to be located within the trade area, enabling the local community the opportunity to stay within the parameters of the trade area.

Commercial

A commercial office EIA has been prepared by *Colliers International* (Appendix C) which provides an indepth analysis of the existing office markets in the region, what factors drive business occupancy decisions, and the points of difference of the Eastgardens office proposal that will make it attractive as a new workplace precinct.

The report demonstrates that:

- There is strong demand for commercial office space within the Greater Sydney Area.
- Demand is not confined to Sydney CBD, with many tenants looking at precincts within close proximity, particularly where close to public transport, such as the bus interchange at Eastgardens.
- The proposed floor size of the commercial tower (up to 1,000sqm) is unique within the Eastgardens-Maroubra centre which typically provides smaller floorplates (50-200sqm) and therefore, would attract specific tenants that would otherwise look outside of the centre.
- The predicated impact on existing commercial tenancies within the trade area is therefore considered negligible as they fulfil the needs of a different occupier type.
- The mix of large floor plates, transport accessibility and retail/dining/leisure amenity will be an appealing point of difference for establishing a workplace precinct.
- The proposal would attract new companies to the local area, providing significant jobs growth in an area that is currently experiencing high population growth due to neighbouring high-density developments as well as a regional trend towards more medium density development.

The proposal enables the centre to meet the objectives of a strategic centre by providing additional commercial employment opportunities within an accessible and established precinct. The report demonstrates that there is high demand for commercial floor space within the centre, especially the large floor plates proposed as part of future office towers. The report notes that the ability to achieve such large floor plates provides a great opportunity to attract new tenants to the area, diversifying the local economy and provide additional employment within the area.

Ultimately, the proposed expansion of Westfield Eastgardens will result in a net community benefit. The range of choice available to residents will be enhanced, with existing and planned centres still continuing to serve their role in the retail hierarchy.

The proposed office development will make an important contribution to the realisation of the strategic goals for the Eastgardens Strategic Centre, including:

- Diversification of its role into a multi-functional activity centre.
- The proposal will also address a need for the provision of new office development to provide employment opportunities locally for the large and growing white collar workforce in the region, which provides economic, social and environmental benefits.
- The economic benefits are significant including the ability to provide for 900 to 1,200 full time equivalent jobs once constructed.

9.3.5. Social Impact

The proposal will have positive social impacts on the local community and wider LGA:

- The proposal provides additional retail floor space in an existing shopping centre which is close to transport infrastructure and is highly accessible;
- Upgrading of this retail shopping centre will provide an improved retail experience and offer, commensurate with the expectation of its customers. These expectations are changing along with society habits around shopping and socialising change. These expectations are becoming greater following the gentrification and densification of the surrounding suburbs.
- These improved retail services along with the introduction of additional commercial building including a
 range of office space will enhance the business activity within Eastgardens and support its future growth
 as a Strategic Centre;
- The proposal will assist in meeting job targets set by the State Government and Greater Sydney Commission, with jobs created in both the construction and operational phase of the development; and
- The development is likely to result in a reduction in the number of vehicular trips made by customers within the trade area which pass the site to visit competing centres due to a wider available offer.

The proposal will generate positive social and economic effects that will be beneficial to Eastgardens and the broader region.

9.3.6. Overshadowing

The characteristics of the surrounding area is predominantly low density residential and therefore presents a challenge when adding additional height at the site. The proposed increase in height and density results in some overshadowing to adjacent residential dwellings.

Following the March 2019 submission, Council, informed by independent consultant assessment, provided feedback on the proposal, with the key matter being overshadowing. This centred on the overshadowing impact to the five most impacted dwellings to the south of Wentworth Avenue, which was deemed not supportable.

It was clarified that there were no plans to change to the zoning or density of these properties in the foreseeable future as part of the Local Strategic Planning Strategy process and LEP updates. As such further justification and analysis for the location of the height was requested.

A series of workshops were held between the Proponent and Council staff where proposed solutions were presented and this submission (and specifically the Urban Context Report by Architectus) represents the adoption of these amendments as the revised Planning Proposal Request.

Detailed shadow diagrams are included in the Urban Context Report attached at Appendix A.

The study analyses existing shadows, including self-shadowing of primary private open space and living area windows at the rear of the dwellings, and compares these with shadows cast by the proposal, to asses additional overshadowing to primary private open space on dwellings in the vicinity of the proposal.

To limit the impacts of overshadowing and maintain residential amenity, the height strategy for the proposal was amended to be outcomes based, to achieve the following at the Winter Solstice:

 Maintain approximately 2 hours of solar access between 9am and 3pm to 50% of the primary private open space areas located at the rear of the single residential dwelling houses to the south of Wentworth Avenue;

- Where the primary private open space of the adjoining development currently receives less than the required amount of sunlight (50% coverage for a minimum of 2 hours), which is the case due to the selfshadowing under existing conditions, then development is to not create additional overshadowing to the primary private open space of the adjoining development;
- In addition, where the primary private open space of the adjoining development currently receives less than the required amount of sunlight (50% coverage for a minimum of 2 hours), development is to ensure that 50% of each front yard receives approximately 1 hour of solar access between 9am and 3pm.

The study indicates that during the winter solstice the proposed towers cast long shadows that are relatively fast moving and affect the surrounding residential areas for relatively short periods of time. The greatest impact on residential dwellings is seen in the area immediately to the south of Wentworth Avenue. There are 5 houses on Wentworth Avenue (Numbers 244, 246, 248, 250, 252). More detailed analysis of these 5 dwellings found that:

- There is no additional overshadowing to primary private open space at the rear of the 5 properties. (per DCP Section 4A.4.3, Clause C3.)
- A desktop study revealed that it can be reasonably assumed that the living areas of the 5 houses in question are located at the rear/ southern side of each property and so do not require the minimum 2 hours of solar access on 21 June to their front façades. (per DCP 4A, 4.3, clause C1)
- Notwithstanding the location of living areas for the 5 dwellings, the proposal ensures a minimum of 1hour solar access to at least 50% of the front-yards in mid-winter between the times of 9am to 3pm.
- The proposal also ensures a minimum of 1-hour solar access to the front building façades.
- Between the equinox times (from the 21st September to 21st March), the proposed development does not create any additional overshadowing impact
- Before and after the equinox, from approximately the 3rd August to the 10th May, all 5 properties achieve a minimum of 2 hours solar access to 100% of the front yards and northern facade.

Given the strategic importance of the site in the context of developing the Eastgardens-Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre, the potential overshadowing impacts of the proposal on existing dwellings is considered to be reasonable and acceptable.

9.4. STATE AND COMMONWEALTH INTERESTS

Q10. Is there adequate public infrastructure for the planning proposal?

It is understood that the existing infrastructure at and surrounding the site has the capacity to accommodate further development on the site, subject to any necessary expansion and augmentation at the detailed application stage. The adequacy of the road network is identified in Section 9.3.2 and will be further evidenced in the updated Traffic Report Addendum at Appendix E.

Q11. What are the views of State and Commonwealth public authorities consulted in accordance with the Gateway determination?

The Planning Proposal is still in a preliminary stage. All relevant State and Commonwealth public authorities will be consulted as required following the Gateway Determination

10. PART 4 - MAPPING

THE BBLEP incorporates the FSR and Height of Building Maps which will need to be altered through the Planning Proposal process. Figure 17 below illustrate the proposed LEP Map amendments. The below maps are also attached individually at Appendix D.





Picture 6 - Proposed FSR Map

Source: Architectus

The above illustrates the increase in FSR at the site on the LEP FSR Map from the existing 1:1 (Picture 5) to the proposed 1.8:1 (Picture 6).



Picture 7 – Existing Height of Building Map

Source: Urbis



Picture 8 – Proposed Height of Building Map Source: Architectus The above Figure 18 illustrates the increase in the maximum height of building at the site on the LEP Height of Building Map from 25m (Picture 7), to part 34m / part 40 / part 59m with the remainder of the site unchanged (Picture 8).

To confirm the intended outcome of the Planning Proposal, the above maps illustrate the following amendments to the LEP controls:

Floor Space Ratio: Introduce a new maximum allowable FSR of **1.8:1** (from existing 1:1 on LEP Map)

<u>Height of Buildings</u>: Introduce a new maximum allowable building height of part **34m**, **part 40m** and **part 59m** (with the remainder at 25m as per existing controls).

11. PART 5 – COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

The proponent has had continuing engagement with Bayside Council since March 2017. During this time feedback has been received from council, either directly from officers or through the peer review reports prepared by advisers to Council. This feedback has been well considered, and elements of the proposal have evolved considerably as a response.

This revised proposal represents a consolidated submission to support the revised Planning Proposal Request that was originally presented to Council officers in December 2018 and again in March 2019.

The proponent has also had continuing engagement with Meriton as owner and developer of the adjacent Pagewood Green masterplan.

Clause 57 of the EP&A Act requires the relevant planning authority to consult with the community in accordance with the Gateway determination.

It is noted that the Council have a policy relating to community consultations, which include proposals for major re-zonings. However, in this instance, it is anticipated that the Planning Proposal will be required to be publicly exhibited for 28 days in accordance with the requirements of the DPE guidelines *A Guide to Preparing Local Environmental Plans* and dependent on the outcome of the Gateway determination.

It is anticipated that the public exhibition would be notified by way of:

- A public notice in the local newspaper(s).
- A notice on the Council website.
- Written correspondence to adjoining and surrounding landowners.

The Planning Proposal would be publicly exhibited at Council's offices and any other locations considered appropriate to provide interested parties with the opportunity to view the submitted documentation.

In light of the above, the direction as to the nature and extent of the necessary public consultation will be decided after receiving Gateway determination to ensure the State Government supports the merit of the proposal before opening wider community feedback.

12. PART 6 – PROJECT TIMELINE

The 'Guide to Preparing Planning Proposals' published in December 2018 indicates that the following details should be provided, with our estimated dates for each stage in Table 12 below.

Table 12 – Project Timeline

Stage	Timeframe and/or Date
Consideration by Bayside Council	Q1 2020
Planning Proposal referred to DPE for Gateway Determination	Q1 2020
Gateway Determination by DPE	Q2 2020
Commencement and completion of public exhibition period	Q3 2020
	Anticipated timeframe for public exhibition is 28 days.
Consideration of submissions	Q3 2020
Consideration of the Planning Proposal post-exhibition	Q3 2020
Submission to DPE to finalise the LEP	Q4 2020
Gazettal of LEP Amendment	Q4 2020

The above information will be crystallised by the RPA following the issue of the Gateway determination and through the production of the formal Planning Proposal. However, it is considered that this would be a straightforward Planning Proposal and based upon other similar proposals which are compliant with strategic policy, it is expected that the process can be finalised within 12 months and the consequential LEP amendments gazetted within this timeframe.
13. CONCLUSION

This Revised Planning Justification Report supports a Planning Proposal which seeks amendments to Botany Bay LEP 2013 to facilitate an expansion of the shopping centre at Westfield Eastgardens.

The Planning Proposal has been prepared in accordance with Section 3.33 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (the EP&A Act) and the relevant guidelines prepared by the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (now DPIE) including "A Guide to Preparing Local Environmental Plans" and "A Guide to Preparing Planning Proposals."

The Planning Proposal seeks to introduce a new maximum allowable FSR of 1.8:1 a new maximum allowable building height of part 34m, part 40m and part 59m at the site (and the remainder unchanged at 25m), which is the only B3 zoned Commercial Core within the Eastgardens-Maroubra Strategic Centre.

The Vision for the site is to develop a vibrant, mixed use centre accommodating an enhanced retail and leisure offer, as well as commercial buildings containing 'A' grade offices. This proposal will also accommodate a new multi-use commercial tower containing flexible floorspace to accommodate potential office, health and wellbeing practices, and civic services, along with an improved arrival experience for visitors travelling on foot, by car or public transport.

The amended Planning Proposal provides a comprehensive justification of the proposed amendment to the BBLEP 2013. The proposal is consistent with the objectives and actions contained within 'Greater Sydney Region Plan, Eastern City District Plan and Council's Strategic Plan. It is also consistent with applicable State Environmental Planning Policies and Section 9.1 Directions.

The proposal will allow the future expansion of a mixed-use precinct at the site which reflects the importance of Westfield Eastgardens as a major regional shopping centre within a key strategic centre as identified within the Eastern City District Plan. The market need and demand for this expansion is supported by the gentrification and densification of the trade area, along with the relative shortfall in retail floor space when compared to available expenditure.

The proposal will improve the arrival experience and connections to transport modes including bus, taxi and car. This will ensure the centre is more accessible to all demographics as well as encourage alternative modes to and from the centre other than the car. The proposal will create an external experience, currently not seen at the centre by creating a new public plaza, with cafes and restaurants as well as improvements to pedestrian access.

The proposal includes an upgrade to the existing bus interchange to meet growing demand and modal shifts towards public transport, by increasing bus standing capacity and improving customer experience within an enclosed interchange.

The proposal is consistent and responds to the current large-scale redevelopment of the adjacent site, by providing additional employment opportunities and services within a high accessible area.

The site is highly accessible, given that it is close to main arterial roads which form part of a Strategic Bus Corridor and the site already accommodates a bus interchange which caters for twelve separate bus services. Furthermore, the potential for future mass transit to the site (rapid bus, light rail extension or metro train) is being investigated and would also serve to enhance the accessibility of the site.

The proposal will facilitate a future redevelopment of Westfield Eastgardens that will improve the interface between the internal and external elements of the centre and provides clear public benefits including an upgraded bus terminus, a new publicly accessible plaza fronting Bunnerong Road and enhanced pedestrian linkages.

The introduction of a new commercial buildings at the site will facilitate the co-location of a variety of uses at the site and immediate vicinity, which also benefit from the proximity of the bus interchange. The enhanced retail offer and new office accommodation, along with the residential development to the north will serve to create a new sense of place at this location where the local community can live, work and spend leisure time.

The proposed vision includes the possible future development of student accommodation of hotel which would add activation to the new public plaza and be supported by the upgraded interchange and employment opportunities.

This additional investment in the centre will serve to improve business activity and create approximately 2,339 jobs at this location, which will help to grow and evolve the Eastgardens- Maroubra Junction Strategic Centre.

It has been demonstrated that the proposed amendment to the BBLEP 2013 has strategic merit because:

- The scheme would be consistent with the aims of the Greater Sydney Region Plan and the Eastern City District Plan, which means that the proposal accords with the range of strategic policies which cover the site,
- The proposal is consistent with the objectives of the Greater Sydney Region Plan by providing additional employment opportunities outside of the Sydney CBD to meet the objectives of a 30-minute city.
- The proposal also responds to a change in circumstances locally, with the significant investment in the adjacent former BATA site and resulting in an increase in local population requiring modern retail facilities and additional commercial employment opportunities.

It has been demonstrated that the proposed amendment to the BBLEP 2013 has site specific merit because:

- The existing centre is recognised as a major shopping centre and the increase in height and FSR at the site will facilitate its expansion, which will help maintain its relevance and offer within the region;
- The proposal will allow for a building envelope which can accommodate the expansion of the shopping centre and provides the benefits of co-location with the proposed new commercial buildings;
- The development has been designed to minimise any adverse environmental effects on the neighbouring residents;
- The proposal is entirely appropriate for the site given that it will augment the existing retail, commercial and leisure provision, and provide new local job opportunities, at a location which is highly accessible location, and which responds to the growth in population locally; and
- There is sufficient infrastructure to accommodate the increased floor space with adequate public transport, sufficient car parking provided on site and capacity within the local road network to accommodate the increased demand.

Overall, the revised Planning Proposal Request and revised Urban Context Report presents a reimagined scheme that direly responds to the comments from consultation with Bayside Council and Council's independent advisors.

As such, there is a clear public benefit for proceeding with this Planning Proposal and it should be favourably considered by Council, and that Council resolve to forward it to the Department of Planning and Environment; to allow the Department to consider the Planning Proposal for Gateway Determination, under Section 3.34 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*.

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This report has been prepared with due care and diligence by Urbis and the statements and opinions given by Urbis in this report are given in good faith and in the reasonable belief that they are correct and not misleading, subject to the limitations above.

APPENDIX A URBAN CONTEXT REPORT

APPENDIX B ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT (RETAIL)

APPENDIX C ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT (COMMERCIAL)

APPENDIX D LEP MAPPING

APPENDIX E UPDATED TRAFFIC MODELLING

APPENDIX F UPDATED QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT

APPENDIX G SITE SPECIFIC DCP

APPENDIX H AERONAUTICAL ASSESSMENT

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