

***Timeline of issues with Camden Council September 2012 to 2016***

<b><i>Date/Period</i></b>	<b><i>Camden Council (and State member) actions</i></b>	<b><i>Community responses</i></b>
2006	Chris Patterson, Councillor (independent) is elected Mayor	
Sept 2008	Lara Symkowiak (independent) is elected to Council	
2010	Camden township was legislated as a Heritage Conservation Area (CLEP 2010) <sup>1</sup>	
2011	Chris Patterson (Liberal Party) elected State Member for Camden	
September 2012	Council elections resulted in 40.6% swing from independent to Liberal partially due to previous Independents, Debbie Dewberry and Lara Symkowiak, standing as Liberal. Lara Symkowiak is elected Mayor.	Community subsequently questions voting patterns <sup>2</sup> .
25 October 2012	Planning proposal to change the classification of the Town Farm from Community Land to Operational Land (see Appendix A for explanation why classification is important)	Community protest
5 February 2013	Public Hearing on Camden Town Farm reclassification	Public Hearing <sup>3</sup> recommendation: that land remain as community land as there was no practical reason to change it, Council's reasons for pursuing change were obscure and would possibly require detailed legal advice in relation to the terms of Ms Davies' bequest to the community.  Despite findings and recommendation of public hearing Council voted to change classification to "operational" land <sup>4</sup> . No explanation of why classification needed to be changed has been provided.

<sup>1</sup> Camden Local Environmental Plan 2010 (CLEP) 2010

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/epi+514+2010+cd+0+N>

<sup>2</sup> Blog (2015) *The Bloc. How voting changed under this new council*

<http://camdencommunitynsw.weebly.com/blog/how-voting-changed-under-this-new-council>

<sup>3</sup> Camden Council (2013) *Business Paper ORD06 incl. Public Hearing Report* from p.213

<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2014/BusinessPapersAndMinutes/2013/26-November-2013-ORD01-06-p252.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Camden Council (26 November 2013) *Ordinary Meeting Minutes*

<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2014/BusinessPapersAndMinutes/2013/Minutes-26-November-2013.pdf>

December 2012	Mayor <sup>5</sup> is instrumental in removing General Manager for undisclosed reasons <sup>6,7</sup>	
March 2013	Ron Moore (prev. Blacktown Council) but long time resident of Camden is appointed as General Manager .	
Mid 2013	Review of the Heritage Conservation Area's infrastructure and 2008 Camden Strategy (the latter devised before the town was listed as heritage conservation area in 2010).	<p>The community understands from Mayoral Letter 20 June 2014 TRIM Reference No: 14/90674 (Appendix B)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the Review was undertaken by an internal staff group led by the Mayor, which worked up the Town Centre proposals<sup>8</sup> from June 2013 to June 2014</li> <li>• no other Councillors were involved with the town centre plans, until workshopped with them on 17 June 2014 before it was to go on public exhibition,</li> <li>• the Mayor indicated that the enhancement was a package, and if accepted, it must be accepted as a whole.</li> <li>• there was to be no input from the public until after the budget was allocated for the works.</li> </ul>
March 2013	<p>Brown Consulting was engaged to undertake the <i>Camden Town Centre Traffic and Transport Study, 2013</i><sup>9</sup>. This study concentrated on traffic needs, and made the following observation:</p> <p><b><i>In general, there appears to be minimal need for an increase in overall parking provision within the Camden Town Centre as capacity can be increased with both increased enforcement of existing restrictions and conversion of parking restrictions to 'Seven Day' restrictions.</i></b></p>	

<sup>5</sup> Leesha McKenny (11 Dec 2012) *Quick as a wink, new mayor tips manager* Sydney Morning Herald <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/quick-as-a-wink-new-mayor-tips-manager-20121210-2b5p6.html>

<sup>6</sup> Kerrie Armstrong (28 Nov 2012) *Update Camden Council General Manager Sacked* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/1150519/update-camden-council-general-manager-sacked/>

<sup>7</sup> Michael Cox (18 Dec 2012) *General Manager Greg Wright's Dismissal Comes at a Cost* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/1193165/general-manager-greg-wrights-dismissal-comes-at-a-cost/>

<sup>8</sup> Camden Council (8 July 2014) *Business Paper ORD06 Camden Town Centre Improvements (TRIM #:14/100528)* <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Council-Business-Paper-8-July-2014-Camden-Town-Centre-Improvements.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Brown (2013) *Camden Town Centre Traffic and Transport Study September 2013 Reference Number: X13060.* <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Camden-Town-Centre-Traffic-and-Transport-Study-September-2013.pdf>

February 2014	Mayor makes contact with Chamber of Commerce, who she regarded as one of the most important stakeholders, about council's exit to Oran Park in 2016. Advised that Chamber would be consulted in second half of 2014. Trim reference 14/90674 Date 20 June 2014. See Appendix B.	
April 2014	Browns Consulting was engaged to undertake a <i>Multi-Story Car Park Study</i> <sup>10</sup> . This study specifically refers to the heritage study that blocked a proposed decked carpark in John Street in 2006 and warns that the heritage issues raised by renowned heritage architects Clive Lucas Stapleton in that report need to be carefully considered for the proposed Oxley Street carpark. This has not happened.	<p>The car park is designed to take at least one additional deck in the future which would of course contravene the 7 m height and two storey limit of the conservation area. The footprint of the car park is very large and can only be of a scale and fabric incompatible with the human scale of a 19th century town.</p> <p>The Camden Chamber of Commerce is of the same mind as residents that the car park represents an ill-conceived use of community resources.</p> <p>The need for a decked car park, estimated cost over \$3.3m for around 50 car spaces, and designed to take additional decks in the future, was not supported by consultant's studies.</p> <p>Much less expensive options exist to improve parking availability such as monitoring time limits and using the council owned land (removing inappropriate small 1960s bungalow) on corner of John and Mitchell</p>
23 May 2014	News of the Council's plans for the old town first appeared <sup>11</sup> (District Reporter p4.). Plans included a proposal for a decked car park adjacent to the Council Chambers to be vacated and traffic lights.	Council advised that Chamber of Commerce would be consulted in second half of 2014.

<sup>10</sup>Brown (2014) *Multi Storey Car Park Study April 2014 Reference Number: X13060.01*  
<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Camden-Town-Centre-Multi-Storey-Car-Park-Study-April-2014.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> Lee Abrahams (23 May 2014.) *Camden car park in the budget*. The District Reporter, p. 4.  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1719.pdf>

4 June 2014	Camden Heritage Advisor provides a report to Council on review of the Draft Camden Town Public Domain Elements Manual	Report was not made publicly available and was obtained under GIPA once its existence became known in 2015
10 June 2014		Chamber of Commerce question the Camden Town Centre Plans emphasising that heritage needs to be conserved and the need for consultation <sup>12</sup>
13 June 2014		Chamber of Commerce express concern over lack of consultation and appropriate strategy in relation to Council's exit from Camden to Oran Park <sup>13</sup>
13 June 2014		District Reporter Editorial: <i>The upper level of Camden Council continues to portray the local government department as a "closed shop" where transparency, accountability and discussion with businesses and the community are way down on the list of priorities. The general manager and mayor of Camden need to make it a point to get information out there - at least show that they care about Camden business people and the town residents are most proud of. The Key stakeholders should be consulted with about the future of the Camden town centre sooner rather than later.</i> <sup>14</sup>
20 June 2014	Mayoral letter "to inform of exciting projects that Council will be undertaking in Camden's CBD" to an unknown few. Note that the date is prior to any community consultation, heritage reports, most consultant reports. Trim reference 14/90674. See Appendix B.	The general community is yet to be informed and only those who received the letter of 20 June 2014 know anything. No community consultation has yet taken place.

<sup>12</sup> Camden Chamber of Commerce (10 June 2014) *Letter to General Manager*  
<http://assets.camdenchamber.com.au/files/News/BudgetJune2014.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> Lee Abrahams (13 June 2014) *Council's exit triggers concerns* District Reporter p. 1  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1722.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Lee Abrahams (13 June 2014) *Editorial Consultation on town centre needed now* District Reporter p. 2  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1722.pdf>

<p>24 June 2014</p>	<p>Council Meeting to allocate funds to Town centre works (prior to any community engagement)<sup>15</sup></p> <p><i>"Council is committed to ensuring that the move to Oran Park in 2016 does not impact on the viability of the Camden or Narellan town centres.</i></p> <p><i>An internal staff committee was established last year to develop a range of strategies &amp; options to enhance the Camden and Narellan commercial precincts following Council's relocation. This committee is chaired by the Director of Development &amp; Health and has representatives from across the organisation and reports regularly to the General Manager.</i></p> <p><i>A critical part of this study is stakeholder engagement and the Chamber is an important stakeholder.</i></p> <p><i>As work progresses, there will be regular reporting to Council and community engagement. "(pp. 60-61)</i></p>	
<p>27 June 2014</p>	<p>Mayor expresses dismay over June 13 article about little consultation<sup>16</sup> stating once again that consultation would only take place during the consultation period</p> <p><i>"The chamber invited the general manager and I to attend a meeting to discuss these projects in more detail. We agreed to attend once the consultation period began, which would be in the second half of 2014."</i></p>	<p><b>Editor's note:</b> For the June 13 article 'Council's exit triggers concerns'<sup>17</sup> Camden Council was contacted for a comment and its response was reported in the story.</p>

<sup>15</sup> Camden Council (24 June 2014) *Business Paper report ORD05 ADOPTION OF THE 2013/14 - 2016/17 REVISED DELIVERY PROGRAM AND 2014/15 OPERATIONAL PLAN (INCLUDING BUDGET) TRIM #:14/60453*

[http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2014/BusinessPapersAndMinutes/24\\_June\\_2014\\_-\\_Business\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2014/BusinessPapersAndMinutes/24_June_2014_-_Business_Paper.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Lara Symkowiak (27 June 2014) *Council has Plans for CBD* District Reporter

<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1724.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> Lee Abraham (13 June 2014) *Council's exit triggers concerns* District Reporter

<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1722.pdf>

<p>8 July 2014</p>	<p>Council Meeting, Business Paper report:  <i>The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement for a range of upgraded works for the Camden Town Centre, and to undertake community consultation following the recent adoption of Council's four year delivery plan, which includes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♣ \$1.754M towards Stage 1 Camden Town Centre Improvements; and</li> <li>♣ \$3.6M for the construction of a decked car park.</li> </ul> <p><i>It is proposed to undertake extensive public exhibition, inviting feedback from the community over an eight (8) week period, commencing second half of July. It is recommended that the exhibition occur in conjunction with the community engagement phase of the Retail and Commercial Study for the Camden Town Centre. The goals of this package of works and the Retail and Commercial Study are closely linked.</i><sup>18</sup></p>	
<p>10 July 2014</p>	<p>Camden Council Media Release about Camden town centre and endorsement of a " <i>package of exciting works... Stage 1 of the decked car park is intended to be a single deck with no roof and will be designed to allow additional decks to be added in the future should the need arise.... We want the community to be involved in the projects we plan to undertake. I am confident in the work and planning that has been done over the past 12 months and am really looking forward to hearing the community's views.</i>"<sup>19</sup> Also see Appendix C.</p>	

<sup>18</sup> Camden Council (8 July 2014) *Business Paper Report* TRIM #:14/100528 ORD06 CAMDEN TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENTS <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Council-Business-Paper-8-July-2014-Camden-Town-Centre-Improvements.pdf>

<sup>19</sup> Camden Council (10 July 2014) *Media Release Camden Council Launches Major Camden Town Centre Upgrade.* [http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2014/MediaReleases/2014/Camden\\_Town\\_Centre\\_Improvements.pdf](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2014/MediaReleases/2014/Camden_Town_Centre_Improvements.pdf)

11 July 2014		Camden Chamber of Commerce voices concerns over lack of consultation about plans for the Heritage Conservation Area <sup>20</sup>
18 July 2014		Camden Chamber of Commerce calls for a People's Panel about Camden Council plans <sup>21</sup>
29 July 2014	Community workshop/forum	<p><b>Anecdotally not considered a ‘consultative’ process by majority who took part, but a marketing exercise with questions ‘directing’ responses.</b></p> <p>Camden Chamber of Commerce who attended on 29 July reported at its August meeting <sup>22</sup> that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the traffic study did not support Council's plans and further analysis was needed; used the analogy "<i>would you commence building a house before the architect had finished their plans and the engineer's report was done?</i>"</li> <li>• and that in relation to the community consultation "<i>it was clear from what was shared ... that small business is indeed valued in Camden by residents and business , that the historical and rural aspects of Camden be retained in our beautiful setting and that many people care deeply about the future of Camden...there was overwhelming support for bringing cultural activities to Camden and maximising the heritage qualities of the town ...</i>"</li> </ul>
27 August 2014	Community workshop/forum	
27 August 2014		Camden Chamber of Commerce holds a community forum - an expert panel on how other communities had successfully integrated better planning and design outcomes via community based organizations. Council's own consultant's reports were highlighted as they identified there is no short or medium term need to build a decked car park in Camden as planned by Council. <sup>23</sup>

<sup>20</sup> Lee Abraham (11 July 2014) *Chamber of Commerce laments lack of consultation* District Reporter <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1726.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Lee Abraham (18 July 2014) *Chamber seeks People's Panel* District Reporter <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1727.pdf>

<sup>22</sup> Camden Chamber of Commerce (6 August 2014) *Meeting Minutes* <http://assets.camdenchamber.com.au/files/Meeting%20Minutes/AUG2014MEETINGFINAL.pdf>

<sup>23</sup> Lee Abraham (29 July 2014) *Community cross section consider town strategy* District Reporter p.5 <http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1733.pdf>

<p>3 September 2014</p>	<p>Mayor is guest speaker at Camden Chamber of Commerce meeting<sup>24</sup></p>	<p>Chamber presented background of its position relating to the proposed Camden Town strategy and works including a powerpoint presentation. The Mayor made her presentation "...stating her disgust in the way she had been treated by the Camden Chamber Executive in the lead up to this evenings meeting. The Mayor continued with such statements for a few minutes.</p> <p><i>The Mayor then proceeded with her presentation ...the Camden Town Strategy plans , the ideas and plans they have proposed for the Town Centre and how they were to be funded. The Mayor provided a slide show of statistics and findings in support of the proposed improvements."</i></p> <p><b>Unprecedented rift between Chamber of Commerce and Mayor<sup>25, 26</sup> , resulting in:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Council withdrawing its membership of Chamber. See entry at 16 September 2014</b></li> <li>• <b>Legal action against the Chamber . See entry at 1 October 2014</b></li> </ul>
<p>15 September 2014</p>	<p>Council lodges DA for first stage of Oran park Council Building.<sup>27</sup></p>	

<sup>24</sup> Camden Chamber of Commerce (3 September 2014) *Meeting Minutes*  
<http://assets.camdenchamber.com.au/files/Meeting%20Minutes/MinutesSept14.pdf>

<sup>25</sup> Eric Kontos (1 October 2014) *To record or not record, that is the question.*  
<http://www.southwestvoice.com.au/record-record-question/>

<sup>26</sup> Camden Chamber of Commerce (1 October 2014) *Meeting Minutes*  
<http://assets.camdenchamber.com.au/files/Meeting%20Minutes/MinutesOct2014GeneralMeeting.pdf>

<sup>27</sup> Tarik Elmerhebe (15 Sept 2014) *Camden Council administration headquarters tick another box to head to Oran Park* <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/macarthur/camden-council-administration-headquarters-tick-another-box-to-head-to-oran-park/story-fngr8h70-1227056353077>



<p>16 September 2014</p>	<p>Council withdraws membership of Chamber of Commerce</p> <p><i>As reported<sup>28</sup> Relations between the chamber and the council have been strained over the past few months with chamber president publicly criticising the council's approach to the Camden CBD's future.</i></p> <p><i>Cr Symkowiak recently accused the chamber executive of "bullying" her and trying to force her into being recorded while she gave a presentation to chamber members.</i></p>	<p>Chamber received a letter from Council that Council has made a decision not to participate in the Chamber as a member. The chamber notes that it does not understand the reasons and have asked for further details so we can understand fully why Council has made such a decision.<sup>29</sup></p>
<p>17 September 2014</p>		<p>Camden Chamber of Commerce made a submission to Council on the proposed works about its major and general concerns. Chamber of Commerce expressed great concern about lack of communication, consultation and transparency and that the plans themselves were ill-conceived and would do more harm than good to business. It was also forwarded to all councillors and state and local MP's and to all Chamber members.<sup>30</sup></p>
<p>1 October 2014</p>		<p>South West Voice reports on "feud" between Chamber of Commerce and Mayor<sup>31</sup></p>

<sup>28</sup> Kerrie Armstrong (23 September 2014) *Camden Council cuts ties with Camden Chamber of Commerce* <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/2579043/camden-council-cuts-ties-with-camden-chamber-of-commerce/>

<sup>29</sup> Camden Chamber of Commerce (1 October 2014) *Meeting Minutes* <http://assets.camdenchamber.com.au/files/Meeting%20Minutes/MinutesOct2014GeneralMeeting.pdf>

<sup>30</sup> Camden Chamber of Commerce (17 September 2014) *Submission on Council's proposals* is available at <http://assets.camdenchamber.com.au/files/Resources/ChamberSubmissionreproposedinterventionsV6140917.pdf>

<sup>31</sup> Eric Kontos (1 October 2014) *To record or not record, that is the question* South West Voice News and Views in Macarthur Without Fear or Favour <http://www.southwestvoice.com.au/record-record-question/>

<p>1 October 2014</p>	<p>Either Council or the Mayor instigated legal proceedings against the Chamber of Commerce in relation to “Notice to Amend” and other allegations of defamation. The action was eventually not taken any further.</p>	<p>Camden Chamber of Commerce Meeting 1 October 2014<sup>32</sup></p> <p>Report of legal proceedings by Mayor or Council following the September meeting.</p> <p>Chamber also notes in minutes:</p> <p><i>Camden Chamber is passionate about Camden businesses and our community. It is important to be able to have open, transparent and professional dialogue about the issues and matters concerning business, even if that means robust conversation at times. The chamber executive is proud to represent Camden businesses and will continually be working towards maintaining a viable and sustainable future for Camden.</i></p> <p><i>Moving forward from our forum (on the town centre) – there appears a great interest in exploring the tourism options for our Beautiful Camden. Chamber executives have followed this through to have a better understanding of Tourism activities in our area. So next month we have asked the Historical Society and Bicentenary Equestrian Park Committee to address us in relation to tourism options and opportunities in Camden.</i></p>
<p>3 November 2014.</p>	<p><b>Community forum/workshop</b> This last <i>Forum/Workshop</i> was devoted to Camden’s Future, after the exhibition period had finished on 17 September 2014. Consequently, it is unclear whether contributions were able to be incorporated into the "Vision" document.</p>	

<sup>32</sup>Camden Chamber of Commerce (1 October 2014) *Meeting Minutes*  
<http://assets.camdenchamber.com.au/files/Meeting%20Minutes/MinutesOct2014GeneralMeeting.pdf>

25 November 2014	<b>Camden Council Meeting</b> SUBJECT: CAMDEN TOWN CENTRE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION UPDATE FROM: Director Community Infrastructure Trim #: 14/184061 <sup>33</sup>	The community does not accept the consultation "results" (and subsequently undertakes its own analyses which produce different results). Council's "results" in any case do not show "overwhelming support for the works as claimed by the Mayor." <sup>34</sup>
December 2014	Camden Town Centre Vision written but not made public <sup>35</sup>	
12 December 2014		Council "consultation" process first reported as a "farce" <sup>36</sup>
16 January 2015	Mayor declares that community was consulted stating it was "the most open and consultative process that council has embarked upon since I've been on council since 2008." <sup>37</sup>	The community understands that the works were decided upon internally before any consultation took place. The "consultation" process did not result in any change to the plans. Those who should feel that they were consulted believe the consultation process to be a farce. Council's "consultation" process was later questioned academically <sup>38</sup> finding that it did not include meaningful engagement. Also see Appendix G for a summary of the research findings.
February 2015		Camden Community Alliance (CCA) forms through ground swell opposition to Council's plans <sup>39</sup> . The Committee includes a Chamber of Commerce Liaison. Face-book likes as at 30 June 2016: 2616

<sup>33</sup> Camden Council (25 November 2014) *Ordinary Council Meeting ORD 01 CAMDEN TOWN CENTRE INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS - COMMUNITY CONSULTATION UPDATE*  
<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Council-Business-Paper-Camden-Town-Centre-Infrastructure-Improvements-Community-Consultation-Update-25-November-2014.pdf>

<sup>34</sup> Iliana Stillitano (14 April 2015) *Works in Camden CBD will happen despite community objections: mayor Lara Symkowiak* Camden Advertiser  
<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3009678/works-in-camden-cbd-will-happen-despite-community-objections-mayor-lara-symkowiak/>

<sup>35</sup> Camden Council (December 2014) *Camden Town Centre Vision Report*  
<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/CamdenTownCentre/WEB-15-73062-Camden-Town-Centre-Vision-Report-09-04-2015-.PDF>

<sup>36</sup> Lee Abraham (12 December 2014) *Chamber disappointed with Town Centre process* District Reporter  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1748.pdf>

<sup>37</sup> Lee Abraham (16 January 2015) *Mayor says community was consulted* District Reporter p. 4  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1801.pdf>

<sup>38</sup> Ian Willis (Feb 2016) *Force or farce Community consultation in local government*  
[https://www.academia.edu/26423228/Force\\_or\\_farce\\_Community\\_consultation\\_in\\_local\\_government](https://www.academia.edu/26423228/Force_or_farce_Community_consultation_in_local_government)

<sup>39</sup> See Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Camden-Community-Alliance-Inc-1412589599049798/>

3 February 2015	An amended final advice on heritage report is made to Council on Argyle Street works after the consultation period and after the resolution at its Council meeting on 25 November 2014 to approve the Argyle St works and decked car park.	The report was not made public. It was obtained under GIPA.  Its independence is questioned because it prepared by Council's heritage advisor in the form of an internal memorandum based on Council's own documentation.
23 March 2015		Camden Community Alliance (CCA) Inc protests Council's plans for the town centre <sup>40</sup>
March 2015	Council, after the consultation period, commissioned a heritage report by OCP Architects for the decked car park.	The report was not made public at this time. It was obtained under GIPA.  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not address how recognised heritage design principles can be practically incorporated into a decked carpark</li> <li>• indicates car park is to be designed to take a third storey which contradicts the design principles of scale with respect to surrounding buildings and within the HCA (as well as the two storey limit in LEP45).</li> </ul> <p>The report was found to set out many heritage design considerations but, as it was not their brief the architects stopped short of explaining how sympathetic scale and fabric elements can be practically incorporated into a functional two or three storeyed design.</p>
25 March 2015		CCA holds Public meeting <sup>41 42</sup> , More than 350 people attended at the Camden Civic Centre, forcing organisers to hastily find a larger room to accommodate the crowd.
31 March 2015 7 April 2015	State member for Camden, writes to local papers on 31 March claiming that members of CCA community group objecting to the Mayor's plans for the town centre works are Labor Stooges <sup>43</sup>	Community retaliates on 7 April against State Member, for labelling concerned citizens "labor stooges". <sup>44</sup>

<sup>40</sup> Lee Abraham (23 March 2015) *Alliance has trees and town centre in their sight* District Reporter p 3  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1810.pdf>

<sup>40</sup> Lee Abraham 16 January 2015 District Reporter *Mayor says community was consulted* District Reporter  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1801.pdf>

<sup>41</sup> Macarthur Chronicle (20 March 2015) *Camden Community Alliance holding public meeting on Town Centre Strategy* <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/macarthur/camden-community-alliance-holding-public-meeting-on-town-centre-strategy/story-fngr8h70-1227271646736>

<sup>42</sup> Stillitano Iliana (31 March 2015) *Hundreds back Community Alliance's call for urgent stop to Camden CBD works* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/2981672/hundreds-back-community-alliances-call-for-urgent-stop-to-camden-cbd-works/>

<sup>43</sup> As reported in Camden Advertiser (7 April 2015) *Town Centre Upgrade a Recipe for Chaos*  
<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/2995393/town-centre-upgrade-plan-a-recipe-for-chaos/>

<sup>44</sup> Camden Advertiser Opinion (7 April 2015) . *Opinion: Town centre upgrade plan a recipe for chaos*  
<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/2995393/town-centre-upgrade-plan-a-recipe-for-chaos/>

7 April 2015		CCA submitted the first stage of a petition containing 1432 signatures to Council for a moratorium to allow proper community consultation. <i>“The Alliance [Camden Community Alliance Inc., supported by the following Camden residents, calls on Camden Council to urgently defer current Camden Town Centre design and construction works until a joint review of the proposal is undertaken by Council engaging with the Camden Community, the Camden Chamber of Commerce and the Alliance as provided for in the Council's Draft Community Engagement Strategy and Policy endorsed by Council on 10.3.15”.</i>
9 April 2015	Camden Town Centre Vision made public <sup>45</sup>	<p>The community does not accept that this Vision is what would reasonably have come out of the "consultation" especially the statements about investigating amending the heritage and height provisions. The consultants appear to be working to a brief from Council rather than faithfully analysing community responses.</p> <p>The primary documents used to underpin and support the Vision are not available, and are not referred to in the Vision. It is not an evidence-based document.</p> <p><b>The primary data from a survey and submissions, claimed to support the Vision is not generally available but two community members did gain individual access to it through the Council and found it was not analysed correctly<sup>46, 47</sup>.</b></p> <p>The sample is small (587, seemingly indicating a less than comprehensive approach by Council, especially as smaller than the sample signing the petition. There is no evidence of "huge" or "overwhelming" support as claimed by the Mayor<sup>48</sup> even under Council's own analysis.</p>

<sup>45</sup> Camden Council (9 April 2015) *Camden Town Centre Vision* <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/CamdenTownCentre/WEB-15-73062-Camden-Town-Centre-Vision-Report-09-04-2015-.PDF>

<sup>46</sup> Nethercote, D. (9 December 2015) *NSW Ombudsman Complaint against Camden Council: Camden Town Centre Vision December 2014 and its Implementation*

<sup>47</sup> Camden Community Alliance Inc Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Camden-Community-Alliance-Inc-1412589599049798/posts>

<sup>48</sup> Iliana Stillitano (14 April 2015) *Works in Camden CBD will happen despite community objections: mayor Lara Symkowiak* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3009678/works-in-camden-cbd-will-happen-despite-community-objections-mayor-lara-symkowiak/>

<p>14 April 2015</p>	<p><b>Council Meeting:</b></p> <p>Petition: The CCA petition was submitted to Council meeting with 1432 signatures requesting a moratorium on councils works to allow consultation</p> <p><b>Vision Report:</b></p> <p><b>Council Meeting Director Planning &amp; Environmental Services. TRIM #: 15/13612 ...</b> To seek Council's endorsement of the <b>Camden Town Centre Vision report.</b></p> <p><i>In relation to the retail and commercial study and Vision, 293 comments were recorded from the community consultation process. <b>The overwhelming majority of comments received related to maintaining Camden's character. The submissions included general comments such as valuing the country town feel to specific comments such as maintaining building heights.</b> Another popular theme was the promotion of tourism. ....</i></p>	<p>The petition was noted, was tabled for discussion at meeting 28 April 2015</p> <p>The Vision Report Despite the overwhelming majority of comments being about maintaining Camden's character, some statements in the current Vision are untrue and entirely opposite to community views including those of the Camden Chamber of Commerce, for example:</p> <p>p.19 ..... <i>despite underlying demand pressures ... development in the town centre is unviable due to a range of constraints such as LEP height limits.</i></p> <p>p.26 <i>Weaknesses and Constraints .....planning controls such as heritage and height... constrain development</i></p> <p>p.73 <i>Priority initiatives ... a prosperous Town Centre....investigate current zoning and height and consider amending the LEP in response</i></p> <p>p.74 <i>Initiative.... prepare a place focussed performance based DCP (in Q1 2016); investigate current zoning and height and consider amending the LEP in response (in Q1 2016)).</i></p> <p>p.77 <i>...the current LEP height for 2 storeys is overly restrictive and may constrain the form of development desired in the town centre. On this basis, it is recommended that council investigate increasing from 7m to 8.5m or 9.5m as part of the urban design framework.</i></p> <p>These statements bear no relationship to previous Vision statements nor to what the mainstream community say and want.</p>
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14 April 2015	Mayor refuses to accept the criticisms levelled by residents insisting that consultation period was extensive and the community was encouraged to speak up when the plans were on exhibition <sup>49</sup>	The community maintain they were not effectively consulted and that the process embarked upon was in contravention of the Community Engagement Policy adopted by Council on 15 May 2015.
14 April 2015	Mayor <sup>50</sup> accuses the Alliance of distorting the truth about the council's plans in order to gain 1432 signatures on a petition and pointed the finger at CCA's president.	

<sup>49</sup> Iliana Stillitano (14 April 2015) *Works in Camden CBD will happen despite community objections: mayor Lara Symkowiak* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3009678/works-in-camden-cbd-will-happen-despite-community-objections-mayor-lara-symkowiak/?cs=1436>

<sup>50</sup> Iliana Stillitano (14 April 2015) *Majority of Camden councillors rule out a moratorium on controversial changes for the Camden CBD* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3010086/majority-of-camden-councillors-rule-out-a-moratorium-on-controversial-changes-for-the-camden-cbd/>

<p>28 April 2015</p>	<p>Council at its meeting recommended that it proceed with the works in accordance with its previous resolution of 25 November 2014, to ignore the petition, as the community had been consulted appropriately (ORD 05). Councillor Eva Campbell subsequently put the following motion:</p> <p><b>ORD06 Notice of Motion - Camden Town Centre Enhancement Plan</b>  Resolution: <u>Moved</u> Councillor Campbell, Seconded Councillor Bligh that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. place a moratorium on the design and construction of the works currently approved under the Camden Town Centre Enhancement Plan;</li> <li>ii. conduct a joint review of the proposals with the Camden Community, Camden Chamber of Commerce and Camden Community Alliance; and</li> <li>iii. this review follow the Draft Community Engagement Strategy Plan (endorsed 10/03/2015 for public exhibition).</li> </ol> <p>The motion was not carried <sup>51</sup></p>	<p>The motion and community's request for moratorium fails <sup>52</sup></p>
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<sup>51</sup> Michelle Burrell (1 May 2015) *UPDATE: Residents' bid for Camden town centre works deferral fails* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3049990/update-residents-bid-for-camden-town-centre-works-deferral-fails/>

<sup>52</sup> Camden Council (28 April 2014) *ORD05 and ORD06 Petition to Council and Notice of Motion* <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2015/2015-Business-Paper/ORD-28042015-MIN.pdf>



May 2015	Council installs two security guards at Council meetings	
14 May 2015		CCA Inc Open Letter to Community <sup>53</sup> Also see Appendix D
15 May 2015	Council adopt Community Engagement Policy <sup>54</sup>	This policy, requiring consultation/engagement " <i>prior to the Council making a decision or determining a direction</i> " was adopted shortly after the Camden Town Centre "Vision" was adopted in April 2015. It was too late for the community in relation to being true stakeholders in the future of Camden's heritage conservation area.
May 2015		CCA Inc investigate legal options to stop works explored with Clayton Utz, pro bono

<sup>53</sup> Peter Standen (14 May 2015) *OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY FROM CCA SECRETARY*  
[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=1427305914244833&id=1412589599049798&substory\\_index=0](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=1427305914244833&id=1412589599049798&substory_index=0)

<sup>54</sup> Camden Council (15 May 2015) *Community Engagement Policy*  
<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/FormsAndPublications/2015/Policies/Community-Engagement-Policy.pdf>

1 June 2015		Former Mayor calls for moratorium on town works <sup>55</sup>
2 June 2015		Local historian calls for moratorium on town works <sup>56</sup>
14 June 2015		CCA holds Monster Rally <sup>57, 58</sup> Information display to inform public about what is planned, as most are unaware of what is planned for historic Camden
15 June 2015	Mayor defiantly declares works will go ahead <sup>59</sup>	
July 2015		Camden Community Alliance report that Council has no evidence for the need to install traffic lights in Argyle Street <sup>60</sup>
8 July 2015	Council announce Argyle St works to start next week <sup>61, 62</sup>	
14 July 2015	Council staff exit for reasons which are unclear <sup>63</sup>	

<sup>55</sup> Lee Abraham (1 June 2015) *Former mayor calls for halt to controversial upgrade* District Reporter <http://www.tdr.com.au/online/393-01062015>

<sup>56</sup> Camden Advertiser (2 June 2015) *Opinion More consultation on town centre plan, please* <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3119948/more-consultation-on-town-centre-plan-please/>

<sup>57</sup> Kembrey, Melanie. (15 June 2015). *Sydney's 'last country town' Camden divided by town centre revamp.* Sydney Morning Herald <http://www.smh.com.au/nsw/sydneys-last-country-town-camden-divided-by-town-centre-revamp-20150615-ghnzxs.html>;

<sup>58</sup> Iliana Stillitano (14 June 2015) *Residents turn out for rally to stop Camden Council's changes to the CBD* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3145176/residents-turn-out-for-rally-to-stop-camden-councils-changes-to-the-cbd/>

<sup>59</sup> Iliana Stillitano (15 June 2015) *Mayor Lara Symkowiak stands defiant while hundreds protest changes to the Camden CBD* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3147268/gallery-mayor-lara-symkowiak-stands-defiant-while-hundreds-protest-changes-to-the-camden-cbd/>

<sup>60</sup> Camden Community Alliance Inc (2015) *Press Release: Council figures show traffic lights not needed in Camden CBD* <http://connectweb.com.au/news/media-centre/jul-2015/council-figures-show-traffic-lights-not-needed-in-camden-cbd.aspx>

<sup>61</sup> Peter Way (8 July 2015) *Camden Council announces work due to start on the revitalisation of the town centre* Macarthur Chronicle <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/macarthur/camden-council-announces-work-due-to-start-on-the-revitalisation-of-the-town-centre/news-story/d6cb543b6b2f2ab0f46744ff98170119>

<sup>62</sup> Camden Council (8 July 2015) Media Release CAMDEN TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS TO BEGIN <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/080715Camden-Town-Centre-Enhancements-to-begin-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>63</sup> Kerrie Armstrong (14 July 2015) *Camden Council managers exit at each other's heels* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3210243/camden-council-managers-exit-at-each-others-heels/?cs=1436>

10 August 2015	Chris Patterson declines or says he cannot represent or assist the community in requesting a moratorium on the works or in other ways <sup>64</sup>	Camden Community Alliance ask Chris Patterson for help.
27 October 2015	Light Up Camden festival in doubt as Council works not completed to schedule <sup>65</sup>	
12 November 2015	Camden Council Media Release <sup>66</sup> on incomplete Argyle St works (as at 30 June 2016 these works remain incomplete)	Chamber of Commerce makes alternative arrangements for Light Up Camden held on 21 November 2015
2 December 2015		Alan Jones and Mark Latham discuss Camden's heritage and why it needs to be conserved not destroyed. <sup>67</sup>
8 December 2015	Council approves Stage 1B of the Argyle St works at its meeting of 8 December 2015. <sup>68</sup> Anecdotally the controversial item was not included in the business paper as originally posted on the website, nor in hard copies available at the meeting. If it had been made known there would have been a large contingent from the community at the meeting and members of the public would have been addressed the meeting. The online version would seem to have since been amended to include the item.	

<sup>64</sup> Iliana Stillitano (10 August 2015) *Camden Community Alliance call on Camden MP Chris Patterson to help them fight Camden Council's changes to the CBD* Camden Advertiser

<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3268622/camden-community-alliance-call-on-camden-mp-chris-patterson-to-help-them-fight-camden-councils-changes-to-the-cbd/>

<sup>65</sup> Iliana Stillitano (27 October 2015) *Light Up Camden to go ahead despite work on Camden's main street* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3449654/light-up-camden-to-go-ahead-despite-work-on-camdens-main-street/>

<sup>66</sup> Camden Council (12 November 2015) *Media Release: UPDATE ON THE CAMDEN TOWN CENTRE WORKS* <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Update-on-Camden-Town-Centre-Enhancement-Works-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>67</sup> Alan Jones and Mark Latham (2 December 2015) *2GB discussion* <http://www.2gb.com/article/alan-jones-%E2%80%93-mark-latham>; <http://www.2gb.com/audioplayer/143016>

<sup>68</sup> Camden Council (8 December 2015) *Ordinary Council Meeting Argyle streetscape Upgrade Stage 1B Ord 12* <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2015/2015-Business-Paper/Final-BP-8-Dec-Website-Version-1.pdf>

<p>November /December 2015</p>	<p>Council promotes the Oxley Street Car park proposal and provides a survey only on the choice of fabric of a decked car park but does not include any heritage assessed design.<sup>69</sup></p>	<p>Concerns raised about Council pushing through its plans for decked car park. There are questions about funding and rumours that much of the money will come from Narellan parking contributions. Whilst Mayor seems to imply that the money must be used for a decked car park, the general understanding is that the contribution money is earmarked simply for parking. A similar proposal for a decked car park in 2006 was defeated on heritage grounds. In any case the decked car park has not been shown to be necessary, and if more parking were needed other obvious options should be considered.</p> <p>Community call to boycott survey on fabric of decked car park which does not yet have a heritage assessed design, nor evidence that it is needed.<sup>70</sup></p>
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<sup>69</sup> Camden Council (November 2015) *Have Your Say on the appearance of the Oxley Street Car park*  
<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Community/ParticipationOpportunities/2015/Oxley-Street-Car-Park/Car-Park-Brochure-Final-website.pdf>

<sup>70</sup> Lee Abraham (16 November 2015) *Decked car park could set precedent* District Reporter  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/online/416-16112015>

End 2015		<p>Camden Community Alliance Inc <sup>71</sup> petition for a moratorium on the works, mentioned at 7 April 2015 entry, closed with 4,219 signatures.</p> <p>The community is very concerned that Council, under instructions from the Mayor will use the holiday period to push through changes to the LEP and DCP and move forward with controversial and unwanted and costly works especially the decked car park. The matter is very urgent in the minds of the community as Camden's heritage and economic value for the majority of stakeholders could be destroyed forever.</p> <p>The council passed a motion to accept the tender for stage 1B of Argyle St. The 1B works will start after Australia Day and 'progress' over 18 weeks.</p> <p>The initial cost of ALL works was \$4.1 million dollars. Now an additional \$1.8 million (of ratepayers funds) is required to finish stages 1A and 1B, a huge over-run on budget. (See Appendix E)</p> <p>Note the Argyle St works as at 30 June 2016 are incomplete, including Stage 1A works scheduled for completion Nov 2015.</p>
17 February 2016		<p>Alan Jones and Mark Latham discuss the fight to save the character of Camden <sup>72</sup></p>
3 March 2016	<p>Council begins 1B stage of Camden Town Centre works before 1A stage completed <sup>73</sup></p>	

<sup>71</sup> Camden Community Alliance Inc Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Camden-Community-Alliance-Inc-1412589599049798/>

<sup>72</sup> Alan Jones and Mark Latham (17 February 2016) *2GB discussion* <http://www.2gb.com/article/alan-jones-%E2%80%93-mark-latham-0>

<sup>73</sup> Martin Walsh (3 March 2016) *Next stage of Camden Town Centre works begins* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3766018/town-centre-works-begin/>

11 April 2016		The community becomes more united to fight the destruction of Camden's heritage. Camden Residents' Action Group (CRAG) (founded 1973) reactivates <sup>74</sup>
18 April 2016		Camden Chamber of Commerce do not agree with two business people who speak out for car park <sup>75</sup>
19 April 2016	Council release draft code of meeting practice. Amendments seem to mainly refer to constraining community input at Council meetings and devolving additional power to Mayor.	Community groups, including CRAG <sup>76</sup> , lodge objections
29 April 2016		First protest about Milk Depot Proposal <sup>77</sup> Editorial on no mandate for change to heritage character of Camden <sup>78</sup>
29 April 2016	Mayor on jacarandas <sup>79</sup>	
5 May 2016		Opinion piece: <i>Camden's future obviously rests in remaining an island of old-world charm.</i> <sup>80</sup>

<sup>74</sup> Ashleigh Tullis (11 April 2016) *Camden Residents Action Group joins forces with the Camden Community Alliance to oppose the Oxley Street car park upgrade* Camden Advertiser

<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3842505/big-stand-against-car-park/>

<sup>75</sup> Ashleigh Tullis (18 April 2016) *Oxley Street car park divides Camden business owners* Camden Advertiser

<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3855124/at-odds-over-parking/>

<sup>76</sup> CRAG (31 May 2016) *Submission Re: Amendments to the Code of Meeting Practice* <http://www.crag.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/CRAG-submission-31-May-2016-on-draft-amendments-to-code-of-meeting-practice-1.pdf>

<sup>77</sup> Lee Abrahams (29 April 2016) *Sour taste from milk depot proposal* District Reporter

<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1916.pdf>

<sup>78</sup> Lee Abrahams (29 April 2016) *Editorial No Mandate for change* District Reporter

<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1916.pdf>

<sup>79</sup> Jess Layt (29 April 2016) *Jacarandas thriving in new home* Camden Advertiser

<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3879152/jacarandas-thriving-in-new-home/>

<sup>80</sup> Jeff McGill (5 May 2015) *It's a Delicate Recipe* Camden Advertiser

<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3890984/opinion-its-a-delicate-recipe/>

10 May 2016	Council meeting <sup>81</sup> on Decked carpark; s94 Contributions Plan 2011 to move funds for decked carpark from Narellan to Camden. Carpark approved and funded but construction to commence after Australia Day 2017	Community groups consider this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a breathing space to elect a different Council in September 2016</li> <li>• opportunity to stop the decked carpark in the conservation area and</li> <li>• use \$3.6m of public funds more effectively in the community</li> </ul>
14 May 2016		History Notes by Dr Ian Willis on proposal for Milk Depot heritage site <sup>82</sup>
17 May 2016		Alan Jones and Mark Latham discuss what is happening to Camden's heritage and the Milk Depot proposal <sup>83</sup>
18 May 2016	Mayor advises public on Milk Depot DA <sup>84</sup> <i>"Camden mayor Lara Symkowiak is pleased a developer wants to transform the old milk factory in Camden into a contemporary restaurant precinct"</i> and praised the modern design.  See 27 June entry	DA proposal is in contravention of heritage and height planning controls <sup>85</sup>
26 May 2016		Community responses to Mayor's opinion that traffic lights will make everyone safer <sup>86</sup>
17 June 2016		Camden Community Alliance Inc Media Summary re some concerns with current Council. See Appendix D
20 June 2016		Alan Jones and Mark Latham and community members meet with Mayor and Council staff at Milk Depot site <sup>87</sup>
21 June 2016		Debrief and summary of conversations with Councillors and staff at meeting on 20 June 2016 organised by Alan Jones and Mark Latham . See Appendix F

<sup>81</sup> Camden Council (10 May 2016) *Meeting Minutes*

<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2016/Business-Paper-/ORD-10052016-MIN.pdf>

<sup>82</sup> Ian Willis (14 May 2016) *Development at the historic Camden Milk Depot site: DA/2016/169 Camden Council*

<http://camdenhistorynotes.blogspot.com.au/2016/05/development-at-camden-milk-depot-site.html>

<sup>83</sup> Alan Jones and Mark Latham (17 May 2016) *2GB discussion*

<http://www.2gb.com/article/alan-jones-%E2%80%93-mark-latham-1>

<sup>84</sup> Ashleigh Tullis (18 May 2016) *Modern design for old site* Camden Advertiser

<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3898966/modern-design-for-old-site/>

<sup>85</sup> Camden Local Environmental Plan 2010 (CLEP) 2010

<http://www.legislation.nsw.gov.au/maintop/view/inforce/epi+514+2010+cd+0+N>

Camden Development Control Plan (CDCP) 2011 *Part B General Land Use Controls*

<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Development/PlanningAndBuildingInformation/2014/DCP/DCP-updates-2016/Part-B-UPDATED-18-JANUARY-2016.pdf>

<sup>86</sup> Camden Advertiser (26 May 2015) *Opinion: Traffic signals will help make everyone safer*

<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3104298/traffic-signals-will-help-make-everyone-safer/>

<sup>87</sup> Lee Abrahams (24 June 2016) *Concerns aired to broadcaster* District Reporter

<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1924.pdf>

23 June 2016		First indication from Council, through proactive community correspondence, that the intended review of the HCA heritage and height provisions as per 2015 "Vision" (with its potentially damaging ramifications for the Heritage Conservation Area of the old Macarthur town) is about to be tendered out. See 28 June 2016 entry.
Weekend 25-26 June 2016	Council staff are working on Stage 1A which was due to be completed by November 2015. <sup>88</sup>	Community member report: <i>I was told Hargreaves contractor had left and Council were taking over. One comment "are we supposed to spread this stuff around here".</i>  <i>On Sunday the 26th June around 14 Council staff are in the street preparing to start work on the remaining unfinished sections. No sign of senior engineering staff to supervise.</i>
27 June 2016	Mayor expresses concerns about the size and height of the design for Camden's old milk factory site, and states that the proposal is unlikely to go ahead without major modifications <sup>89</sup>	

<sup>88</sup> Jess Layt (6 July 2016) *Council Steps in after Contractors Fold: We'll get it done quicker* Camden Advertiser p.4  
<http://magresources.f2.com.au/cda/>

<sup>89</sup> Kayla Osborne (27 June 2016) *Factory plans change* Camden Advertiser  
<http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3994138/factory-plans-change/>



<p>28 June 2016</p>	<p>Council Meeting ORD 12 Acceptance of tender for urban design framework project in heritage precinct including heritage and height controls <sup>90</sup></p> <p><i>The scope of works for the consultant's brief included:</i></p> <p><i>a. Document review;</i></p> <p><i>b. Preparation of urban design criteria for the Camden Town Centre;</i></p> <p><i>c. Review and update LEP and DCP controls;</i></p> <p><i>d. Preparation of a public domain and streetscape plan (incorporating adopted streetscape plan for Argyle Street);</i></p> <p><i>e. Update 2008 Camden Town Centre Strategy; and</i></p> <p><i>f. Preparation of a community engagement process.</i></p> <p>See Appendix G for background extracted from Business Paper and CRAG's public address to Council</p>	<p>CRAG public address to meeting <sup>91</sup> on retaining heritage protections and consultation and input during the project</p> <p>Despite Public Address leading to discussion and questions about community participation and input of independent heritage architect, the Minutes of Meeting <sup>92</sup> do not include any mention of these issues or any guarantee that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the community will be engaged in discussions about recommendations about John Street or amendments to HCA heritage and height provisions of LEP and DCP.</li> <li>• the precinct design will be overseen by a qualified heritage architect experienced in colonial townscapes and unique history of Camden's original aesthetics.</li> </ul>
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<sup>90</sup> Camden Council (28 June 2016) *Ordinary Meeting Business Paper*

<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2016/Business-Paper-/Final-BP-Reports.pdf>

<sup>91</sup> CRAG (28 June 2016) *Public Address on inappropriateness of urban design project* See Appendix G

<sup>92</sup> Camden Council (28 June 2016) *Ordinary Meeting Minutes*

<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2016/Business-Paper-/ORD-28062016-MIN.pdf>

<p>28 June 2016</p>	<p>At this Council Meeting it became apparent that Council had rejoined the Chamber of Commerce. Not all Councillors were aware of this. The community in general were also unaware.</p> <p>The issues with the Chamber were brought up and the Mayor strenuously denied that the rift with the Camden Chamber had anything to do with her personally or events outlined in 2014 entries of 3 and 16 September 2014 and 1 October.</p> <p>A Mayoral Minute was raised based on an email letter from the President of the Chamber, sent 8 hours earlier, indicating resignations from Chamber's executive.</p> <p>The Minute indicated that the Council funding for Light Up Camden in November was in jeopardy unless the Chamber allowed Council to inspect its financial situation.<sup>93, 90</sup></p>	<p>Media comment: <i>It was gloves off and niceties out the window at last Tuesday Camden Council meeting which descended into councillors taking cheap shots and shouting each other down.</i><sup>94</sup></p> <p>Anecdotal comments from Public Gallery of 28 June 2016 Council Meeting:</p> <p><i>This meeting was highly charged and the behaviour of most of the factional councillors was inappropriate. And this was in a meeting where the potential lack of professional behaviour of the public was discussed as the main matter that needed attention in the now amended "Code of Meeting Practice". No wonder we are not allowed to record anything and published minutes are minimalist.</i></p> <p><i>Comments on questionable behaviour of current political faction's behaviour included</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>strident assertions and lack of objectivity in discussion</i></li> <li>• <i>personal anecdotes that were largely irrelevant to business at hand</i></li> <li>• <i>drawn out self-congratulatory observations about their work on Council</i></li> <li>• <i>bad-tempered comments of personal nature that did not logically follow from the discussion at hand</i></li> <li>• <i>perceived bias in declaring and following through on points of order</i></li> <li>• <i>former factional Councillor being subjected to heated interjections</i></li> <li>• <i>non-factional councillor speeches being subjected to discourteous interruptions</i></li> <li>• <i>a lack of transparency ( given recent history of the relationship between the Mayor/Council and the Camden Chamber of Commerce) in strenuous discussion on the Mayoral Minute</i></li> </ul>
<p>Mid July 2016</p>	<p>Mayor<sup>95</sup> claims that heritage look is here to stay</p>	<p>CRAG<sup>96</sup> media release requesting specific categorical and public assurances</p>

<sup>93</sup> Kayla Osborne (6 July 2016) *Resignation Controversy ails Chamber Camden Advertiser* p.5  
<http://magresources.f2.com.au/cda/>

<sup>94</sup> Lee Abrahams (4 July 2016) *Mayoral minute meltdown* District Reporter p.4  
<http://www.tdr.com.au/images/issues/tdr1925.pdf>

<sup>95</sup> Kayla Osborne (13 July 2016) *Heritage Look to Stay* Camden Advertiser p. 6 <http://magresources.f2.com.au/cda/>

<sup>96</sup> CRAG Inc (16 July 2016) Media Release <http://www.crag.org.au/media/>

26 July 2016	Mayor spoke in favour of rezoning of part of the iconic Scenic Hills (zoned RU2 Rural Landscape), an area dominated by a ridge running north-south approximately 50 to 100 metres from the boundary with Campbelltown LGA. Faction members vote that the land be rezoned to residential (R5) despite the visual impacts on the Scenic Hills, surrounding rural lands and loss of environmental amenity and opposition from Campbelltown Council. <sup>97, 98</sup>	
27 July 2016	No response as at 4 August 2016	CRAG email request to General Manager and all Councillors for <u>urgent</u> meeting about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health of Argyle St trees as the root systems had been compromised by narrowing of median strip, exposure of roots and subsequent covering by concrete;</li> <li>• assurance that a qualified arborist was engaged to ensure their survival</li> </ul>
4 August 2016		CRAG emailed request to General Manager and all Councillors for urgent meeting (as requested above) to include an explanation of the promised drainage works undertaken in Argyle Street. These works would seem not to have been comprehensive (or indeed not undertaken) with Argyle Street still subject to flooding by stormwater during heavy rainfall
5 August 2016	Council responds to Argyle St concerns. Meeting organised for 11 August	
11 August 2016	Council staff commit to provide a formal reply including documentary evidence to allay concerns within two weeks.	Meeting with staff about health of Argyle Street trees and drainage. See 27 July and 4 August 2016 entries.
28 Sept 2016	No reply received to date	
10 Sept. 2016	Council Election. Bloc undertakes questionable and sometimes unethical conduct to retain power <sup>99</sup>	Complaints made to Electoral Commission

<sup>97</sup> Camden Council (26 July 2016) *Attachments Ordinary Council Meeting*  
<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2016/Business-Paper-/Bp-Attachments-26-July-Web.pdf>

<sup>98</sup> Daniel Zautsen July 29, 2016 *Residents are angry after Camden Council voted to rezone land at Scenic Hills*  
Macarthur Chronicle Camden <http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/news/residents-are-angry-after-camden-council-voted-to-rezone-land-at-scenic-hills/news-story/64581ebfd33d05974224a35cf8f55479>

<sup>99</sup> Council Reporter <http://camdencommunitynsw.weebly.com/>  
CCA facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Camden-Community-Alliance-Inc-1412589599049798/>  
CRAG facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CRAG-Camden-Residents-Action-Group-Inc-1805705173088888/>

## Appendix A

### Extract: Department of Local Government <sup>100</sup>

#### 2.2 Classification of public land

*All public land must be classified by council as either “community ” or “ operational ” land (ss.25 – 26).*

*The main effect of classification is to restrict the alienation and use of the land. “Operational” land has no special restrictions other than those that may apply to any piece of land.*

*Community land is different. Classification as community land reflects the importance of the land to the community because of its use or special features. Generally, it is land intended for public access and use, or where other restrictions applying to the land create some obligation to maintain public access (such as a trust deed, or dedication under section 94 of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979). This gives rise to the restrictions in the Act, intended to preserve the qualities of the land. Community land:*

- *cannot be sold*
- *cannot be leased, licenced or any other estate granted over the land for more than 21 years*
- *must have a plan of management prepared for it.*

#### **Land “subject to a trust for a public purpose”**

*Under cl.6(2), Schedule 7, land is automatically classified as community if it is land “subject to a trust for public purposes”. This term has been widely interpreted and held to include governmental responsibilities for a piece of land that restrict the freedom of a government to deal with the land.*

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<sup>100</sup> Office of Local Government (2000) *Practice Note 1 Public Land Management*  
<https://www.olg.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/Practice-Note-1-Public-Land-Management.pdf>

## Appendix B



Camden Council  
37 John Street, Camden NSW 2570  
PO Box 183, Camden 2570  
ABN: 31117 341 764  
Telephone: 02 4654 7777  
Fax: 02 4654 7829  
Email: mail@camden.nsw.gov.au

### Mayors Office

TRIM Reference  
No: 14/90674  
Contact: Debbie Roberts  
Phone: (02) 4654 7614

**20 June 2014**

I am writing to inform you of some exciting projects that Council will be undertaking in the Camden Central Business District (CBD) and to invite you to register your interest to participate in the consultation phase.

As you are aware, Council's main administration office will relocate to Oran Park in 2016 due to the need to accommodate more staff to service our increasing population.

#### Camden Chamber of Commerce

I have been in contact with the Camden Chamber of Commerce regarding Council's exit since the beginning of this year. I have had two meetings with the Chamber's President, firstly in February and then in April. The Chamber's then Council Liaison Officer was also present at these meetings. On both occasions, I advised that consultation on plans for the Camden CBD would begin in mid-2014 and that the Chamber was one of our most important stakeholders, hence why I had these early meetings to advise them of timeframes.

The General Manager, Ron Moore, and I were also invited to attend a Chamber meeting to discuss these projects in more detail. I advised we would attend to discuss these once the consultation period began which would be in the second half of 2014.

#### Plans for the Camden CBD began 12 months ago

I believe it is important to inject significant infrastructure into the Camden CBD before Council moves to Oran Park in 2016.

That is why 12 months ago I established an internal Council Committee to develop a range of strategies and options to enhance the Camden commercial precinct by the time Council relocates.

The Committee has undertaken detailed reviews of the important infrastructure elements of the CBD, including traffic movements, car parking, drainage, street lighting, paving and furniture. These reviews updated the findings of the Camden Town Centre Strategy (2008). Final plans on these items were only just

[www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)

presented to Councillors in a Workshop this week on Tuesday 17 June and were the culmination of 12 months of work.

The committee also resolved to undertake a Retail & Commercial Study of the Camden CBD. The Study plans to deliver a sustainable vision for the Camden CBD that clearly defines its form, focus and function. Council has planned for this Study to commence consultation with stakeholders from late July 2014 and will last approximately 12 weeks.

### **First step – budget allocation**

The first step in the process is to get budget allocated for the proposed projects in the Camden CBD. Council can have all the plans in the world, but unless there is money allocated, the plans are useless and nothing happens.

As part of our proposed budget for the new financial year, Council is proposing:

- \$1.75 million for new paving works, street furniture, drainage, street lighting and traffic management measures in the CBD
- \$3.6 million for a decked car park in the CBD

### **Second step- community consultation**

Once Council has approved these funds in its budget, we can then move on to consultation with the community for each of the proposed projects. Community consultation was always planned to occur AFTER the budget was allocated.

Councillors will be deciding on the budget allocation at next Tuesday's Council meeting (24 June). *This is why consultation has always been planned to start from July onwards.*

During the consultation process, the community will be provided with detailed plans for each of these projects so they can provide informed feedback to Council.

### **What we are asking you to do**

I would like to invite you to participate in the engagement phase as your feedback is important to Council and critical to the success of the Camden CBD projects.

If you would like to participate and receive regular updates, please register your interest by contacting Council's Economic Development Officer – Debbie Roberts at [debbie.roberts@camden.nsw.gov.au](mailto:debbie.roberts@camden.nsw.gov.au) or 4654 7614. You can also email me at [larasym@gmail.com](mailto:larasym@gmail.com) or call me on 0413 485 142. Regular updates will also be provided on Council's website at [www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)

I am confident in the work undertaken over the last 12 months and look forward to hearing your views during the consultation phase.

Yours sincerely,

**MAYOR**

[www.camden.nsw.gov.au](http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au)

## Appendix C

# CAMDEN COUNCIL

## Media Release

10 July 2014

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### Camden Council Launches Major Camden Town Centre Upgrade

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At last night's Council Meeting, Councillors endorsed a package of exciting works in the Camden Town Centre for public consultation for a period of 8 weeks.

Following 12 months of planning, work on the first stage of the Camden Town Centre Upgrade will include the installation of traffic signals on Argyle Street at Oxley Street, pedestrian signals on Argyle Street between John and Hill Streets, increase footpath width on Argyle Street, improve footpath slope, drainage works as well as the upgrade to furniture and paving material.

Mayor of Camden, Councillor Lara Symkowiak said she was proud to be taking another step towards improvements in the Camden CBD..

"It is essential Council invests significantly into the Camden Town Centre to ensure when we move to Oran Park, Camden is a stronger and better place than what it is today. These works will take time to complete, but my Council has made the commitment and has provided the funding to ensure these works are carried out".

"The works focus on upgrading the Camden Town Centre to ensure Camden continues to grow and flourish. We have been planning these upgrades for some time and a lot of work has been happening behind the scenes to ensure we, as a Council, do this properly and that businesses and residents have ample opportunity to have their say on the proposed upgrades".

As part of the report, Councillors also endorsed public consultation for a \$3.6 million decked car park to be built in front of the Civic Centre on Oxley Street. Stage 1 of the decked car park is intended to be a single deck with no roof and will be designed to allow additional decks to be added in the future should the need arise.

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**Media Contact:**  
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# CAMDEN COUNCIL

## Media Release

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“This decked car park is a huge win for our community. The need for this infrastructure is something I have heard constantly over a number of years and is just another project my Council has allocated funding towards and is committed to delivering. The proposed location of the decked car park is in close proximity to Argyle Street and will help ensure our businesses and their customers have sufficient parking. Whilst there is car parking on the fringes of the town, it is essential we provide additional parking as close to the main street as possible. This will help make Argyle Street more attractive and allows businesses to compete with surrounding shopping centres. Convenient car parking is critical to help ensure businesses prosper”.

In mid-2013 Council established an internal committee to develop a range of strategies and options to enhance the Camden and Narellan commercial precincts by the time Camden relocates to Oran Park in 2016. This committee will now undertake a Retail and Commercial Study of the Camden Town Centre as well as an analysis of options for best use of Council assets in Camden and Narellan.

The package of key initiatives, as endorsed by Councillors last night, will be placed on exhibition from Wednesday 23 July 2014 for a period of eight weeks, which is double the normal exhibition period.

“I strongly encourage residents from across the Local Government Area to have their say on the proposed upgrades. We want the community to be involved in the projects we plan to undertake. I am confident in the work and planning that has been done over the past 12 months and am really looking forward to hearing the community’s views. ” she said.

Detailed plans along with samples of paving products will be available at both Customer Service Centres and Libraries for residents to view and provide comment. Storyboards and visual elements will also be available on Council’s website and Facebook page. A community workshop evening will be conducted at Camden Civic Centre on Tuesday 29 July 2014 at 7pm and will provide an opportunity for discussion and questions on the proposed plans. Everyone is welcome to attend.

**END**

**Words: 649**

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## Appendix D

14 May 2015

CAMDEN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE INC. OPEN LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

FROM CCA SECRETARY

Camden Council resolved to proceed with its disappointing Camden Town Centre proposals on 28 April without effective community engagement and proceeded to trash the Alliance's 2250 supporters requesting a review.

The Council now intends to spend over \$7 million of our money on narrowing the roads, widening the footpaths, resurfacing them in South Australian black granite and introducing traffic lights; chopping down 4 jacarandas; replacing all of our existing seats, bins, safety fencing and street lights with more modern types; opening up Oxley Street and building a decked car park to help Woolworths and others. Can you believe it?

But alas, they are only doing the road/footpath works for about 40% of Argyle Street, leaving the rest of Argyle and John Streets for future Councils to respond. Do we only want to help a third of the Town after Council dumps us for Oran Park, and are the Councillors happy with a "patch work" look in what will become a "patch work" town? "Looks like they are!"

In support of this, Camden Council claims it conducted the biggest community consultation program ever in deciding on the current Camden enhancement works.

Council figures show that a total of 587 submissions were received: 315 (written), 199 (online), 98 (at meetings), less 25 rejected submissions. About 35% of these were in opposition to some of the proposals, leaving about 380 in support.

We are a group of non-political voluntary citizens who responded to the community's requests for information on the proposals, and for Camden Council to take their views into account. We never suggested all the jacarandas were to be removed, this was a figment of the Council's imagination. Our "stop the chop" slogan relates to stopping the chop of Camden Town's character, its roads and footpaths, its street furniture, its parking, its traffic lights and some jacarandas, but only to allow a joint community based review which could be completed by Christmas.

To check these claims, the Community Alliance undertook public paper and electronic petitions seeking support for Council's deferment of the works, and to directly engage the Community, together with the Camden Chamber of Commerce and the Community Alliance, in a review and further development of the initial proposals.

By comparison, our petitions resulted in 2250 persons requesting deferment and review, compared with Council's 380 in support, but yet the Council persists in proceeding, with work to commence in a month or so. It would be funny if it were not so serious.

Camden is a heritage town with the Council approving of the development in November last year with the heritage assessment belatedly not completed until February 2015, and the environmental

assessment study not yet completed. It beggars belief, but they intend to call tenders for the work in the next few weeks.

If a developer tried this they would be straight before the Courts. "Why do you not follow the rules Madam Mayor and Councillors?"

In the April 14, 2015 Camden Advertiser and elsewhere, the Mayor states that she has not been swayed by a residents' "scare campaign"; said she had been disparaged on social media, "I think it's a form of cyber bullying"; she was upset the Alliance was scaring "genuine people" who were in favour; and claimed that, if necessary, she would take the money to Narellan.

These are outlandish claims with no foundation in truth. It is also surprising when the Mayor suggests moving money to Narellan when she knows that her proposed Oxley Street decked car park is to be paid for by borrowing about \$2.7 million from the reserved Narellan car park fund, that is by moving money from, not to Narellan.

We have asked the Mayor to tell us specific cases of unfair criticism that the Alliance is responsible for, but without a response. It seems that "the scare campaign" may be originating in the Council, with the "genuine people" of concern actually belonging to the Community Alliance. Mayor Symkowiak went on to say that the "just short of 600 submissions (with Council's assessment of only 380 in support) was a huge response. Council can't make people make a submission." That's correct, and the Alliance can't either, but we received over 2250 submissions asking for a review.

Come on Camden, let's stand up and be counted. We urge people to visit Council's Camden Office Information Sessions to find out more, with the next one on Thursday 21 May from 10-11.30. I look forward to seeing you there.

## Appendix E

### Council Accountability for works

#### Argyle St works<sup>101</sup>

1A Original estimate	\$ 4,100, 000
Cost overrun est	<u>\$1, 850,000</u>
1A Total approx	\$ 5,950,000
1B estimate	<u>\$ 1,806,117</u>
Min total	<u>\$ 7,756,000</u>

#### Car park

##### 1) Need

The need for a decked car park, estimated cost over \$3.3m for around 50 car spaces, and designed to take additional decks in the future, was not supported by consultant's studies.<sup>102</sup>

Indeed as also pointed out by Brown (2014) other much less expensive options exist to improve parking availability such as monitoring time limits (currently business owners and employees take up car spaces for the working day).

Brown (2014) found that that at this stage additional decked car parking is not required to accommodate current demands (p. 109) and that there appears to be minimal need for an increase in overall parking provision within the Camden Town Centre as capacity can be increased as indicated above (p.90). Further, given a reasonable shift of existing long-stay parkers to more peripheral locations, through enhanced enforcement, additional off-street car parking capacity is not likely to be required in the short to medium term (p. 111).

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<sup>101</sup> Camden Council Business Paper (8 Dec 2015) *Ordinary Council Business Paper ORD12 Argyle Street*  
<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Council/AboutCouncil/2015/2015-Business-Paper/Final-BP-8-Dec-Website-Version-1.pdf#page=357>

<sup>102</sup> Brown (2014) *Multi Storey Car Park Study April 2014 Reference Number: X13060.01*

<http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Camden-Town-Centre-Multi-Storey-Car-Park-Study-April-2014.pdf>

Brown (2013) *Camden Town Centre Traffic and Transport Study September 2013 Reference Number: X13060*. Available at <http://www.camden.nsw.gov.au/assets/pdf/Major-Projects/2015/Camden-Town-Centre/Camden-Town-Centre-Traffic-and-Transport-Study-September-2013.pdf>

## 2) Cost

No cost-benefit analysis has been made public. What is the present value of expected on-going costs? What is the opportunity cost in loss of business to the town due to loss of ambience and point of difference?

The cost per additional car space in money terms, not to mention heritage and environmental costs, is extraordinary.

Outlaying more than 3.3 million dollars for a car park that will yield a net 41 additional parking spaces to Camden's CBD could not be considered appropriate spending of public and/or contributor funds.

Our calculations indicate:

Council estimates spaces created in decked car park to be	150
Parking spaces currently available on the proposed site	98
Resulting in new parking spaces	52
Less spaces lost to traffic lights 8, and left turn at lights 3	11
<b>TOTAL NEW PARKING SPACES</b>	<b>41</b>
Approximately cost per additional space	\$81,000

Even if an extra 52 spaces were provided the cost is extraordinary, at least in the vicinity of \$63,000 per space. How can Council consider this without a public and accountable cost benefit analysis? Where is the explanation to the people whose funds you intend to spend?

Also, what needs to be considered are the yearly on-going maintenance costs that such a structure will entail. Lifts are notorious for creating expensive on-going maintenance costs. Cleaning would be more than for the existing open, ground level car park. The car park would be more than likely an invitation for graffiti artists to decorate the walls and internal structures such as lift, lighting and any surveillance equipment. It is not good management to create ongoing maintenance issues unless absolutely necessary. This car park is not necessary according to the consultant's report. The Chamber of Commerce do not need it or want it as it will detract from the competitive advantage that small businesses enjoy in the leafy heritage town.

If the high cost is to be incurred for additional parking the option of underground parking should be explored as such parking would not have a negative impact on small businesses

who rely on the amenity of Camden in their business models and to attract customers, not turn them away.

### **3) Alternatives**

**Also, as presented below, council owned land could be utilized. For instance the corner of John and Mitchell Street, on which a small 1960s red brick bungalow inappropriately sits, could easily be converted to provide another ground-level car park that is consistent with parking everywhere else in Camden. This alternative would save approximately \$3m, and be a win for heritage and the public purse.**

Firstly, Onslow Park has the potential for long term parking, if it were more structured, which would free up the current parking which is more central to the shops. More disabled parking may be required in the town centre at various locations, but for most people, including employees and business owners, a short walk is good exercise. In any case Onslow Park is not significantly further than walking from the proposed decked car park.

Secondly, CRAG believes the optimum solution for additional parking for Camden Town Centre is the site on the corner of Mitchell and John Streets, which Council owns, which currently has on it a cottage it seeks to lease. With the demolition of the cottage, this site of 1,416m<sup>2</sup> is ideal for ground level parking for over 40 car spaces – within the same order of magnitude as the yield of new spaces created in the proposed car park. The cottage is not of heritage value and its removal would improve the significant heritage vista along John Street and not detract from the uniformity of heritage value buildings within the block. It would also complement the adjacent Memorial Park; provide direct access to the Civic Centre as well as provide better parking for St Paul's when funerals are held. With additional landscaping, parking on this site would certainly be an added benefit to the streetscape of John Street and the Town Centre of Camden

Thirdly, The provision of a free mini bus circulating continuously around the town and between these suggested sites would encourage their use and aid the elderly. Sought after employment opportunities would also be enhanced, requiring driver/s and parking ranger. Improved signage and a parking map available at convenient locations and on Council's website would also assist.

## Appendix E

### ALAN JONES-MARK LATHAM CAMDEN VISIT - CAMDEN COMMUNITY ALLIANCE BRIEF

The Alliance submits that Camden Council is destroying the historic Macarthur sponsored Camden Town by spending \$8.5 million to:

- Narrow the central Argyle Street road pavements and widen the footpaths,
- Resurface the footpaths with out of character South Australian black granite;
- Introduce traffic lights;
- Chop down 4 jacarandas;
- Replace existing heritage style seats, fencing, bins and street lights with more modern types;
- Open Oxley to Argyle Street to support a new decked car park consultants found unnecessary.

But alas, they are only doing the works for about 35% of Argyle Street, leaving completion for when funds are available after Council moves its Head Office 12 kilometres away to Oran Park.

Or are Councillors happy with a "patch work" look in what will become a "patch work" historic town?

In their support, Camden Council claims it conducted the biggest ever community consultation program in deciding on the current enhancement works. Their figures show that a total of 587 submissions were received with questionably 380 in support.

To check these claims, the Camden Community Alliance undertook a wider public petition, seeking support for Council's deferment of the works, and to engage the Community together with the Camden Chamber of Commerce and Historical Society, in a review of the proposals to achieve a sympathetic outcome.

By comparison, the Alliance's petition resulted in 4200 persons requesting deferment and review, compared with Council's 380 in support, yet the Council continues with its destruction of Camden's historic character.





**2015 Alliance Sponsored Public Rally and Public Information Meetings**



Please also see the attached drawing of the proposed Milk Depot Development that Mayor Lara Symkowiak has publicly supported before staff have completed their assessment of the application.



## Appendix F

### Debrief and summary of conversations with Councillors and staff at Milk Depot meeting on 20 June 2016

To our knowledge this is the first time that the community has had direct contact with the Mayor, General Manager and other key Council staff since the formation of the voting bloc in 2012. This meeting hopefully opened communication channels for a better working relationship with the community.

Many individual discussions took place, and statements were made about community engagement and the processes of Council.

A summary follows:

- A current leaseholder of the old Milk Depot building was present, who has plans for a proper restaurant, However his lease and plans are on hold while Milk Depot owners pursue DA. He apparently is happy with maintaining the heritage of the old building and would like to start his business.
- The GM was not aware that the community is not informed or consulted as it used to be. He asked when that stopped ie was it when he came into the job (March 2013). It was suggested that it was mainly from September 2012 when the voting bloc took control of Council processes and decisions.
- The Mayor was careful to say that the Milk Depot did not comply with CURRENT LEP and DCP provisions. No mention was made of the intention to amend the height limit and heritage protections of the Heritage Conservation Area, which is part of the Urban Design Project that was approved for tender at the 28 June 2016 Council Meeting. The intention to investigate amending the LEP and DCP controls (as they stifle economic activity and constrain development in the 1836 town) were originally set out in the non-evidence based Camden Town Centre Vision Report dated December 2014, which was made public in April 2015 after its adoption by Council.
- Despite initial enthusiasm<sup>103</sup>, the Mayor is not in favour necessarily of the Milk Depot and has concerns.
- According to the Mayor there is a request to the developers for additional information (Note: - but we do not know the date (23/03/2016?) or any detail about request as not on Council DA tracker at time of writing.)
- There is no requirement for developers to heed the LEP and DCP planning instruments, including the heritage conservation area height limit and heritage protections when submitting a DA. Council apparently has no jurisdiction over developers wasting everyone's time with applications that are non-compliant. It then is up to the expertise of Council staff to head off the DA by requesting information or asking the developer to go back to the drawing board. (Note: This process is not only

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<sup>103</sup> Ashleigh Tullis (18 May 2016) *Modern design for old site* Camden Advertiser <http://www.camdenadvertiser.com.au/story/3898966/modern-design-for-old-site/>



inefficient, but potentially opens a door to inappropriate development , particularly as there is now generally no requirement to notify/advertise the DA to the wider community.)

- Council and the Mayor and General Manager were confused about the DA notification policy, seeming to wrongly believe that the Milk Depot DA was notified/advertised.\*
- The GM was not aware of the policy or that a DCP amendment (number 19) about notification and advertising, was apparently approved 24 Nov 2015 (cannot find in meeting minutes of that date) to commence on 1 March 2016. The GM said he would check out this amendment and its ratification.
- Director, Planning and Environment at Camden Council, was likewise unaware, being confident that the DA was required to be notified beyond immediate neighbours.

\* Notification Policy Background: The current notification/advertising policy of Camden Council was discussed over the phone with the Town Planner looking after the Milk Depot DA, who confirmed that

- Staff may, where it is deemed necessary, expand notification requirements and timeframes if, in the opinion of Council it would be in the public interest to do so;
- Council can exercise discretion as to whether to notify community groups - in the Milk Depot case - Camden Historical Society and CRAG were notified by letter dated 4/4/16) but not in the original exhibition period of 18/3/16 to 31/3/16 .
- the DA was not advertised in the paper (Camden Chronicle) as there is only requirement, apart from placing a notice on the building itself, to notify:
  - specified neighbours,
  - publically if the DA is for a state heritage listed item.

### **Observations:**

- It is unclear what "exhibition" means as the Milk Depot proposal does not seem to be exhibited at all in the sense of being publically notified/advertised;
- It is unclear how Council's "Notification Policy" is consistent with its "Community Engagement Policy".

## Appendix G

### A non-evidenced based Vision for the Camden Town Heritage Conservation Area

#### Extract from Business Paper 28 June 2016

*In April 2015, Council adopted the Camden Town Centre Vision (Vision). The intent of the Vision is to protect and strengthen the town centre's valued and distinct character whilst facilitating appropriate change and growth. The Vision is supported by a series of strategies and initiatives designed to drive the implementation and deliver the Vision for Camden.*

*The initiatives include the preparation of an urban design framework, including the preparation of urban design criteria for the town centre, which will inform a review of the Camden Town Centre Strategy 2008 and the relevant planning controls contained in the Camden LEP 2010 and DCP 2011.*

*The preparation of an urban design framework is closely related to other initiatives within the Vision, including:*

- Prepare a public domain and streets-cape plan;*
- Prepare a place focused, performance based DCP;*
- Investigate current planning controls;*
- Undertake master planning for the John Street Precinct;*
- Prepare a way-finding and signage strategy;*
- Commence detailed investigation for a new public square.*

*As these initiatives are integrated, they will be undertaken as part of the urban design framework project.*

#### **RECOMMENDED**

*That Council:*

- i. accept the tender provided by McGregor Coxall Pty Ltd for the sum of \$136,220 (GST exclusive);*
- ii. allocate \$35,000 for the community engagement component of the project; and*
- iii. authorise the relevant documentation to be completed under Council's Power of Attorney, granted on 23 February 2016, Minute Number ORD 15/16.*

#### **CRAG Public Address ORD 012 Business Paper 28 June 2016**

##### Urban Design Framework Project

ORD 12 which will be discussed tonight, seeks approval of funding for an Urban Design Framework Project for the Camden Heritage Conservation Area, including a review of the LEP and DCP controls. The preferred tenderer is McGregor Coxall who are no doubt excellent at what they do. However they are also proponents of a modernist design approach, and they make no claims to have particular heritage expertise.

The Macarthur brothers in 1836 along with Surveyor General Thomas Mitchell used nineteenth century design criteria that have stood the test of time, and which are integral to Camden's heritage value. Only the most knowledgeable and independent heritage architect can professionally comment on any potential improvements to the Camden townscape.

This project, which has arisen out of the new 2015 Vision for the town centre, has potentially damaging ramifications. It is also premature, when Council elections are so close and the town centre works are so contentious.

The community, as Councillors would be well aware from the media coverage, public meeting and rally, considers the "consultation" for the Vision, as a tokenistic tick a box exercise.

Indeed academic research<sup>104</sup> into the consultation found that Council:

- did not undertake early and meaningful engagement in the decision making process
- had not convinced stakeholders that the planning proposals were consistent with the town centre's heritage values and its historic significance.
- had not convinced the community that the works decisions were not already made prior to consultation
- had created a trust deficit within the community

In fact it did not meet the "consultation" definition on the widely recognised participation spectrum<sup>105</sup> as it did not provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision-making.

Further the Vision is non-evidenced based, as it does not provide analyses of community input or other data in relation to the statements it makes, including that economic viability is somehow constrained by height and heritage protections. The protections only constrain the type of development, ones that will impact on the unique, increasingly rare, human-scale townscape. The only people who may be in favour of higher rise and higher density development in a heritage precinct would be property owners, more particularly perhaps, recent property owners who may be counting on the foreshadowing of a relaxation of heritage controls.

A lot of democratic effort was put into legislating the heritage conservation area. The Camden community would never suggest increasing the height limit or amending the heritage protections. They give Councillors the grounds to reject inappropriate attempts to compromise Camden's valued heritage and character.

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<sup>104</sup> Willis Ian (Feb 2016) *Force or farce Community consultation in local government*  
[https://www.academia.edu/26423228/Force\\_or\\_farce\\_Community\\_consultation\\_in\\_local\\_government](https://www.academia.edu/26423228/Force_or_farce_Community_consultation_in_local_government)

<sup>105</sup> International Association for Public Participation Australasia (2016) *THE IAP2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SPECTRUM* <https://www.iap2.org.au/resources/public-participation-spectrum>

The tender brief itself is also of concern because it does not indicate that data from community engagement will be collected as part of the project's methodology, nor that the community's views will inform the project findings.

In your deliberations on this item please consider what actual evidence you have to support spending other people's money on this project, particularly at this stage of the electoral cycle.

Please vote to reject ORD 12 or defer its consideration until after September. Thank you.