

City of Parramatta – Council meeting, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Public Forum

Mike Moffatt on behalf of Epping Civic Trust

I would like to speak to item #13.1 – Public Road Closures in Epping.

The Epping Civic Trust is the peak community body for the Epping area – an area that has undergone rapid change and unprecedented growth. This will be familiar to you as councillors as quite a number of papers have come to council meetings this year. They are largely trying to ‘fix’ issues that should have been subject to proper planning in the first place.

This paper is directly related to a key issue and yet again is an example of an item coming to council without the forethought and preparation and without a proper plan for the area.

In essence, this paper purports to just tidy up issues around three laneways/public roads that are owned by council, surplus to requirements and could be sold to developers, thereby raising funds for council.

This is actually far from the truth. These laneways are part of a complex challenge facing council to ensure that proper pedestrian access is provided for a vital route between Epping Station and Rawson Street, the area bounded by Beecroft Road and Rawson Street. The latter is where the civic ‘heart’ and retail centre of the future Epping Town Centre will be, whilst of course the railway station is an extremely busy transport hub. Thousands of people a day currently travel this route through two public access ways – one owned by council and included in this proposal, and one privately owned and subject to a DA which will remove it.

Parramatta's DCP (from XXX) recognised that connectivity between these two areas is vital. It allowed for XX pedestrian egresses.

But here we have a paper coming forward in a planning vacuum, and most likely due to developer pressure with DAs already lodged. If this proposal goes ahead, there is no provision to accomplish this pedestrian egress. Instead, council will be at the whim of developers and the Planning Panel to try and accomplish this.

The community is already undergoing immense strain. At the very least, it expects its council to do better. To prepare for the future and set in place fundamentals prior to development approvals. To pass this paper in its current form, sets the groundwork for a massive, and long lasting, fail. The residents deserve better. The Epping Civic Trust urges you to send this proposal back to staff for a total review.