

# ***Frenchs Forest Planned Precinct***

## *Consultation Update*

November 2017



## **Community Consultation Update – introduction**

Frenchs Forest is poised to benefit from the NSW Government's \$1B investment in infrastructure in the area, with the new Northern Beaches Hospital and improved transport links providing a catalyst for revitalisation.

The key focus of our plan is to implement Phase One of the Northern Beaches Hospital Precinct Structure Plan, establishing a vibrant new town centre next to the hospital, creating a new destination and focal point for the community.

The Department will work with state and local partners including Northern Beaches Council, Roads and Maritime Services and other agencies to help fast-track the jobs, infrastructure and services needed to support the precinct's growing community, as well as the great open spaces for which the area is renowned.

We are committed to ensuring the views, concerns and priorities of the Frenchs Forest community are considered and addressed during the planning process. During the early stages of investigation, the Department conducted a PlaceScore survey to understand what Frenchs Forest residents value about their community, and what improvements they would like to see.

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### **What community consultation has taken place around the Frenchs Forest Precinct?**

The community has played a key role in developing the vision for the Frenchs Forest Precinct including:



#### **Hospital Precinct Structure Plan (2016-2017):**

Feedback was sought by Northern Beaches Council from local residents, landowners, businesses and the broader community in the development of the Hospital Precinct Structure Plan, which was exhibited between 30 November 2016 to 28 February 2017. This included nine community information sessions attended by more than 1,100 people, online updates and information, advertising in the Manly Daily and 10,000 notification letters and brochures distributed to local residents, with 930 community submissions received.



#### **Community drop-in session August 10, 2017:**

The Department held an information session attended by planners, council and other agencies including RMS, Health Infrastructure and Education. More than 300 people attended to find out more about what's happening in the area and learn more about the planning process.



#### **PlaceScore:**

The Department also invited community members to express what they value about Frenchs Forest and what they would like to see improved, through a combination of online and face to face surveying.. The survey attracted 89 responses.

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### What values and concerns has the community shared about living in Frenchs Forest?

The community shared, via the PlaceScore survey, the attributes they most value about Frenchs Forest, including the area's natural features and sense of neighbourhood safety and amenity.

Local residents shared concerns about the need for more public transport, community facilities and the need for more affordable apartments. These concerns are being addressed in the Department's planning work.

#### WHAT DO PEOPLE VALUE IN FRENCHS FOREST PRECINCT?

RANK	OVERALL (N=31)	%	RANK	OVERALL (N=31)	%
#1	<b>Elements of natural environment</b> (natural features, views, vegetation, topography, water, wildlife etc.)	74%	#6	<b>Protection of the natural environment</b>	52%
#2	<b>General condition of public open space</b> (street trees, footpaths, parks etc.)	65%	#7	<b>Locally owned and operated businesses</b>	45%
#3	<b>Access to neighbourhood amenities</b> (cafes, shops, health and wellness services etc.)	61%	#7	<b>Quality of public space</b> (footpaths, verges, parks etc.)	45%
#3	<b>Sense of neighbourhood safety</b> (from crime, traffic, pollution etc.)	61%	#7	<b>Sustainable urban design</b> (water sensitive design, transport-oriented design, sustainable building design, density etc.)	45%
#5	<b>Local businesses that provide for daily needs</b> (grocery stores, pharmacy, banks etc.)	58%	#10	<b>Access and safety of walking, cycling and/or public transport</b> (signage, paths, lighting etc.)	42%

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### **Other facts about Frenchs Forest's community that emerged from the PlaceScore survey include:**

- **The strongest performing place dimension is sense of welcome. The poorest performing place dimension is things to do in the area.**
- **Younger people are more concerned with "local employment opportunities"**  
People aged 24 – 44 rated this 23 points higher than people aged 45-64;
- **The community wants improved public transport and connectedness**  
When asked for ideas for improving Frenchs Forest, the most common answers were for Improved Public Transport and Connectedness, as well as improved community facilities such as sporting fields and bike paths.

#### **What happens next?**

The Department is currently working with Northern Beaches Council and state agencies to carry out additional planning studies.

We are intending to release the draft precinct plan in the first half of 2018. The plan will be placed on exhibition and the community encouraged to have its say.

#### **Where can I find out more?**

To find out more you can:  
go online to [planning.nsw.gov.au/Frenchs-Forest](http://planning.nsw.gov.au/Frenchs-Forest)