

<b>ITEM 5.1</b>	<b>MAYORAL MINUTE NO 22/2014 - CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS FROM UNIVERSITIES TO EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR A PRESENCE ON THE CIVIC CENTRE SITE (FUTURE COMMUNITY HUB) AND SITE A - ST KEVIN'S CAR PARK</b>
<b>TRIM FILE REF</b>	<b>2014/356389</b>
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<b>NIL</b>

**BACKGROUND**

In planning for the future of the northern beaches, a university presence is widely regarded by local business, students and residents as a key component to our future prosperity. The new hospital is being built, public transport upgrades are being mooted by the State Government, road upgrades scheduled around the hospital and also around Brookvale. The northern beaches has a large number of aged care facilities such as RSL War Veterans, and now many child care centres are also popping up to cope with the demand at the other end of the spectrum. School populations are growing. We have many and varied businesses on the beaches and growing. The area needs a focus with education as we have a large number of public and independent schools, a TAFE but no university. Our kids move out of the area to study as transport is a hassle to get to a one hour lecture for example. That takes a significant amount of our potential workforce out of the area and that has ramifications locally. It takes that demographic out of our area which is not great for our local economy either.

Council has significant land holdings in the area. So let's start that here in Dee Why with inviting universities to invest in the area. Both Site A (St Kevin's Car Park, Oaks Avenue, Dee Why) and our Civic Centre site here in Dee Why, lend themselves to a potential campus, with an abundance of floor space available and offering a central location on the northern beaches. Dee Why is on a direct bus route from Chatswood and Frenchs Forest, and is a major stop on the north-south bus route. It has also been identified by the State Government as a metropolitan centre. A campus would be a big boost for local business and the area in general.

This Mayoral Minute seeks to invite universities to look closely at these two sites as potential to offer our rapidly expanding student population an opportunity to study, set up a presence here to cater for the future continued growth in our schools. Given the level of interest in the community thus far, it is time we push these sites and actively pursue universities. In time, given its size, the northern beaches could easily host a number of campuses across the region should demand permit. And let's face it, for international students, what better region to study in than our own northern beaches.

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**RECOMMENDATION**

That staff actively pursue interested universities to create a presence here in Dee Why

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**Michael Regan**  
**MAYOR**