

ITEM 7.4	EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - NORTHERN BEACHES UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
REPORTING MANAGER	EXECUTIVE MANAGER TRANSFORMATION AND PERFORMANCE
TRIM FILE REF	2018/219068
ATTACHMENTS	NIL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PURPOSE

To undertake a program to secure a university campus on the Northern Beaches.

SUMMARY

There are significant economic and social benefits in having a university campus based in your geography.

There have been several efforts over the years by the former Councils on the Northern Beaches to secure a university in their LGAs. As a benefit of amalgamation the new Northern Beaches Council is in a position to look holistically at the viability and sustainability of securing a university on the Northern Beaches.

Council has a range of buildings in its asset portfolio which may be suitable for locating a campus for a university. There is the opportunity to explore with the higher education industry the suitability and viability of locating a campus on the Northern Beaches.

RECOMMENDATION OF ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

That Council seek an Expression of Interest from universities to establish a presence on the Northern Beaches.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

There have been several efforts over the years by the individual Councils on the Northern Beaches to undertake a feasibility study for locating a university in their LGAs. As a benefit of amalgamation the new Northern Beaches Council is in a position to look holistically at the viability and sustainability of securing a university on the Northern Beaches.

The Department of Planning & Environment (DP&E) is exploring the potential of locating a university on the Northern Beaches as part of the Planned Precinct at Frenchs Forest.

This is a critical piece of work for the Northern Beaches and will potentially highlight medical, sciences and nursing, amongst other disciplines, as opportunities at the Frenchs Forest site.

However realising this opportunity may be several years away and in the interim it may be feasible to create a satellite campus to establish a university presence on the Northern Beaches using Council's property asset portfolio.

Creating a satellite campus on the Northern Beaches could be achieved through a series of classrooms and office space. In securing a university to have a presence on the Northern Beaches it is highly unlikely that a full campus would be established and more likely a satellite campus could be established. This would place a focus on seeking scope and a site allowing for future growth and expansion.

There is the potential to secure opportunities with universities across a range of academic disciplines and schools. This is particularly the case when considering that Council has a significant range of buildings on the asset register that could be utilised or repurposed.

As an example one property for consideration could be the Seaforth Village Community Centre which has a range of facilities such as community rooms with kitchenettes, reading / breakout space, café space and administration office space available.

The below is a range of sites that could represent opportunity to the higher education industry in establishing a presence on the Northern Beaches.

Potential Location	Description
Seaforth	On Sydney Rd, just off the Burnt Bridge Creek Deviation, are Seaforth and the Seaforth Village Community Centre. Council's centre already has a configured space suitable for classrooms and offices. The space is available immediately and is also just down Wakehurst Parkway from the Frenchs Forest Hospital and on the bus route.
Frenchs Forest	The NSW Government has classified Frenchs Forest as a Planned Precinct. The new town centre has potential to house higher educational facilities within the Precinct and be highly accessible to the new hospital and transport on Warringah Road.

Dee Why	Current and future property developments in Dee Why could provide ample space for a university campus which would be on the B-Line / bus route and within walking distance to the beach. There is a potential for Council to in the future consider the optimal use of its properties such as relocating the current Dee Why Library or Civic Centre as part of overall planning for this area.
Manly	Located at the intersection of the bus and ferry transport systems is Manly. In 2018 it is anticipated that the State Government, RMS will call for Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the RMS owned aquarium site on West Esplanade. The site has the potential to be repurposed for higher education particularly within specific schools/disciplines, such as maritime, science and marine.
Warriewood	Council owns administration offices at Vuko Place which could be made available with the relocation of current administrative services. Located on Pittwater Rd near the B-Line stop in a semi-industrial space that could be re-configured with capital investment to create classroom space.
Other	Other locations as identified in the EOI process could be examined if the opportunity was right and provided significant community benefit.

The scope of any Council EOI would encompass the whole Northern Beaches and be considered and informed by the NSW Government's planning project and engagement for universities and any proposed RMS EOI process to avoid confusion in the marketplace and leverage the activities of both State and Local Agencies.

It is recommended that Council undertake a feasibility study and an Expression of Interest (EOI) from universities to establish a presence on the Northern Beaches.

CONSULTATION

Broad community consultation will be undertaken in the feasibility phase of the proposed project. A broad expression of interest (EOI) would also be undertaken with the Higher Education industry.

TIMING

It is proposed that an EOI would commence in the 2018-2019 financial year.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Any required budget to be defined and identified during project initiation and the feasibility study.

SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Currently students travel out of the region to gain a tertiary education with the exception of Brookvale TAFE and the International College of Hotel Management, Manly.

Popular choices are Macquarie University (27km)*, UNSW (35km), University of Sydney (32k), UTS Broadway (31k), Australian Catholic University North Sydney (26km) and Notre Dame University (31km). *Distances calculated from Warriewood.

Some students attend universities further afield and live on campus or near campus.

There are a range of social considerations in securing a University on the Northern Beaches, these include:

- Commute times for students reduced
- Less pressure on road infrastructure
- Students staying at home reduces housing demand
- Creation of employment
- Increased local spending.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

Any environmental considerations will be identified in the feasibility study.

GOVERNANCE AND RISK CONSIDERATIONS

No governance or risks appear in the initial phase of the project. A full commercial and legal review will be considered at the part of the next phase of the project.

5.0 ITEMS RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

NOTE: Councillor Grattan left the chamber at 8:16pm due to a declared pecuniary interest in relation to item 9.1.

079/18 **RESOLVED**

Cr Ferguson / Cr Harrison

That Items 7.3, 7.4, 8.1, 8.2, 9.1, 9.5, 10.2, 10.4 and 10.5 are dealt with by exception with the recommendations of the Chief Executive Officer / General Managers being adopted.

VOTING

FOR: Crs McTaggart, Heins, Amon, Philpott, Daley, White, Harrison, Ferguson, De Luca, Bingham and Regan

ABSENT: Cr Grattan

CARRIED

7.3 MONTHLY INVESTMENT REPORT MARCH 2018

080/18 **RESOLVED**

Cr Ferguson / Cr Harrison

That:

- A. Council receives and notes the Investment Report as at 31 March 2018, including the certification by the Responsible Accounting Officer.
- B. Council notes that no change to Council's Investment Policy was required following the review of Council's Investment Policy by Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee and by Council's Investment Advisors.

RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION

7.4 EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - NORTHERN BEACHES UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

081/18 **RESOLVED**

Cr Ferguson / Cr Harrison

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RESOLVED BY EXCEPTION