

MEDIA RELEASE

28th August, 2014



Camden Town Strategy Community Forum

The inaugural Camden Chamber of Commerce and Industry Community Forum has been hailed as a wonderful example of true community engagement.

Held at the Camden Civic Centre on Wednesday 27th August the forum heard from a panel of experts how other communities had successfully integrated better planning and design outcomes via community based organisations that comprised resident, business, council and community group representatives.

Chamber President, Miriam Roberts, was delighted with the level of support the forum received. 'The mix of residents, business and community groups was truly reflective of our community. It was also a pleasure to have our State Member, Chris Patterson, in attendance.' Mrs Roberts said.

The forum heard how smart design via a collaborative community approach can deliver fantastic benefits that are enjoyed by residents, the environment, business and improve the overall town or village environment.

The expert panel was highly complimentary to the 'bones' that already exist within the Camden town and spoke of the wonderful opportunity develop the existing town into a vibrant and welcoming centre that respects and values our history.

As one attendee put it 'Anyone can go to a shopping mall but for a shopping experience you come to Camden.'

The expert panel included Camden based Maryann Strickling, a landscape architect and urban designer, who spoke of the need for Camden Council to progress with less haste and await the ongoing consultants reports with suggestions for further examination that will help progress community discussion on a vision and strategy for Camden Town.

Ms Strickling also spoke of the council own consultants report which identified there is no short or medium term need to build a multi deck car park in Camden. 'So why is council wanting to spend 3.6 million dollars on a structure that is not needed?' Ms Strickling asked.

There was also concern expressed for what council would decide to do with the existing council building in John Street. 'The chamber has been repeatedly asking council what is happening with these assets however council has not responded.' Mrs Roberts said

The full forum was recorded and will be made available via the chambers web site in due course www.camdenchamber.com.au

The chamber is keen to continue to receive community feedback and questions. Anyone wishing to have their opinion heard should contact the chamber via emailing enquiries@camdenchamber.com.au.

The chamber will use the community feedback from the forum and the advice and learnings from the expert panel to help shape its response to Camden Council invitation for community feedback on councils endorsed Camden Town Strategy.

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