

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** FW: Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy  
**Date:** Friday, 4 September 2020 12:00:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [ppp-strategy-submission.docx](#)

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**From:** no-reply@planning.nsw.gov.au <no-reply@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 1 September 2020 4:17 PM  
**To:** DPE PS ePlanning Exhibitions Mailbox <eplanning.exhibitions@planning.nsw.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy

Submitted on Tue, 01/09/2020 - 16:12

Submitted by: Anonymous

Submitted values are:

**Submission Type**

I am making a personal submission

## Name

**First name**

Leone

**Last name**

Huntsman

**Council name**

{Empty}

**Council email**

{Empty}

**I would like my submission to remain confidential**

No

## Info

**Email**

[REDACTED]

**Suburb/Town & Postcode**

Pyrmont

**Submission file**

[ppp-strategy-submission.docx](#)

**Submission**

I am not sure whether I have already sent this submission, but am sending it again just to be sure.

Leone Huntsman

**I agree to the above statement**

Yes

{Empty}

I welcome the opportunity to comment on the Draft Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy July 2020, and also to make suggestions relating to Directions identified in the Draft Strategy.

### **General comments**

I commend the Minister on the approach to planning that is evident in the Document. When I first heard the term 'place-based planning' I thought it was just another piece of meaningless jargon; but reading this Strategy led me to understand that it *can mean something*, that it involves getting to know and to identify distinctive features of the precincts covered by the proposed Plan, communicating with stakeholders in those precincts, then putting forward proposals which reflect insights gained during this process. I have been involved in many community consultations which have led to what seemed to me to be predetermined outcomes; I do not feel that community input has been similarly irrelevant in this case, and dare to hope that this is so.

There will undoubtedly be lessons learnt with implications for urban planning from the current pandemic. This being a 20-year plan, it would seem prudent to prioritise commitments arising from the Strategy as finally adopted that take into account those lessons.

### **Suggestion 1: Improvement to Union Square, Pyrmont Village**

This suggestion relates to the following:

*More, better and activated public spaces across the Peninsula (p.5)*

*A tapestry of publicly accessible public spaces...including seamless connections from the Sydney Fish Market to Walsh Bay and beyond (p.25)*

*Existing centres at the northern end of Harris Street (such as John Street and Union Street Squares) are reinforced and enhanced through shopfront, streetscape and public space programs (p.30)*

*Strengthened east-west connections on Union Street...with wider footpaths and cycle lanes (p.34)*

*Active movement corridors run east-west and north—south (p.44)*

*Improve and enhance east-west connections to Blackwattle Bay... (p.71)*

*Protect Union Square as an important public space, including solar access and the sense of openness from views to the sky (p.75).*

### **Union Square: improving an important public space in Pyrmont Village**

The Square is constituted by the closing off of Union Street between Harris Street and Pyrmont Street. It contains the Anzac War Memorial, with its landmark 'Angel' statue, and is bordered by beautiful stone buildings and trees on its northern side. Anzac Day ceremonies have been held there for years. Union Square has great historical significance for the people of Pyrmont and Ultimo.

Research aimed at determining the value of public squares from an Australian perspective has concluded that 'the social, cultural and economic values that communities attach to public town squares and the historical function, meaning and purpose of the square have

remained to this day important to the community' (Kraljik, David (2014), *The value of public space – a town square in a small urban community*. [USQ Project]). Recently, as the population of Pyrmont has become larger and more diverse, community events such as Christmas carol singing and art shows have been held there, and have been very well attended. In many ways, it is *potentially* ideal place for outdoor community events and gatherings. Small music or theatrical groups could find an appreciative audience there.

However, the current configuration of the Square presents distinct disadvantages for those who would wish to use the Square in these ways:

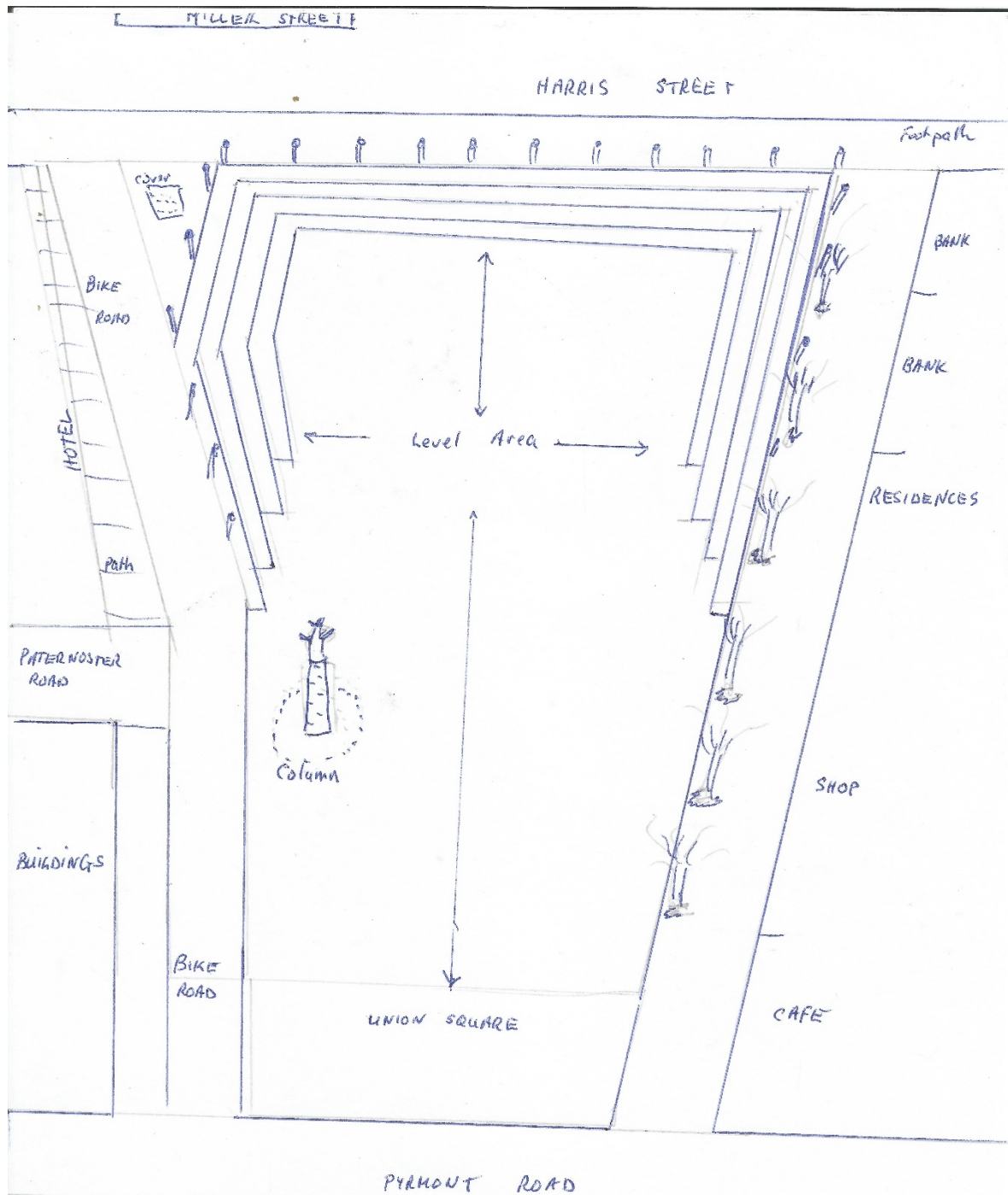
1. The Square is cluttered. There appears to be no coherent plan or purpose for the placement of various objects and furniture. There is a limited number of seats and they are apparently randomly placed.
2. Most seriously, there are steps at various angles and in unpredictable places. The random movements of pedestrians mean that often walkers have to deviate, to encounter a step they haven't noticed and weren't expecting. A community member living in a house on the Square found that on an average of about once a month she had to go out to render first aid or assistance to someone who had tripped and fallen. It is difficult to see the edges of the steps, especially at night or in the daytime, with the (welcome) shadowing afforded by the trees.
3. Because there is no coherence or overall apparent concept underlying the layout of the square, pedestrians tend to wander over it in random and inconsistent ways.

### **Union Square: a plan for the future**

The concept is shown in sketch form (attached). Its essential features are:

1. The site slopes down west to east, from Harris Street to Pyrmont Street, and narrows as it does so. These features render it particularly suitable for a reconfiguration that would include steps at the high end suitable for people to sit on in tiered rows if they are watching an event or just wanting to sit down and chat (as commonly happens on the steps in the forecourt of the Opera House, for example).
2. The Angel and the War Memorial would be relocated to the Pyrmont Street end of the Square. It has been relocated before, when the Pyrmont Bridge was closed to vehicular traffic.
3. The space between the War Memorial and the steps would be a flat space where events could be staged or people could gather for other community purposes.
4. The trees would remain to provide the shade so essential in public open spaces.
5. Pedestrian and cycle paths at the northern and southern edges of the Square would remain clear and open.

A true Village Square, as we have envisioned it here, would enliven our village and constitute a public space that is a true gathering-place for our community, with clearly separate pedestrian and cycle paths. See rough sketch, following page:



posts  
trees

#### Notes

Remove steps from centre.  
Trees obscuring statue.  
Absorb path next to Bike lane.  
Move column from trees.

**Suggestion 2: A lift from Mount Street to Jones Street/Quarry Master Drive/Saunders Street/Miller Street/Bank Street**

This suggestion relates to:

*Opportunities and challenges for the future: addressing the steep topography (p.70)*

*Improve pedestrian access to Bowman/Bank Street from Distillery Drive and John Street via stairs or a lift (p.71)*

There is a winding ramp and stairs from John Street/Distillery Drive to the lower level. Stairs and ramp are surrounded by a very pleasant rainforest-y area, enjoyable to walk through, and it's hard to see where a lift could be conveniently located.

An easier and possibly more popular solution would be to situate a lift beside the steep set of stairs at the end of Mount Street. While these stairs are a very convenient short cut to Miller Street and a local supermarket for the able-bodied, for the elderly and those with mobility issues the stairs are so very steep that they are not game to use them. A lift could easily be situated next to the stairs – this would also be very popular as a short cut to and from the north-western part of the Peninsula for the many workers from that area who walk to and from the city each day.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy.