

01 April 2022

Dear Friends of the Waterloo Community,

RE: Waterloo South Planning Proposal Exhibition

Groundswell is a coalition of non-government agencies ('NGOs') and residents from the Redfern/Waterloo area. As an alliance, our members have actively and diligently engaged with all agencies and government since 2004, when proposals for the renewal of the Redfern-Waterloo area were first mooted.

The Waterloo South Proposal is now on Exhibition until 29 April. We need your help. As recognised experts in planning, housing and place design, we are writing to ask if you would please consider your active support of the Waterloo Public Housing community through this process.

The community and the frontline agencies who support them struggle to have their voices valued and heard at the best of times. They have been through several start and stop planning processes over the last two decades, as well as wrestling with the recent stresses of the pandemic. This has resulted in confusion, consultation fatigue, and in some parts, apathy toward the latest proposal and formal consultation process.

Therefore, we seek your urgent help and request your professional expertise in the next stage.

The support required includes:

- Encouraging you to make a formal submission and, if possible, to publicly share your submission with us before the cut of the period.
- Provision of any guidance or material that we can directly or indirectly share with community members highlighting the strengths and concerns of the proposal (with a preference for 'short and sharp' material).
- Encouraging your more comprehensive professional and social network to lend a hand where possible.
- Briefing media, releasing blog posts or utilising social media to raise any significant concerns you have spotted that we may be missing.
- Attending public consultations and workshops to show your support to the tenants.

Beyond appreciating the direct impact on their own lives, residents and members of Groundswell understand that Waterloo South's redevelopment is very significant.

There is a lot at stake for Government agencies, local government, the broader Waterloo community and the people of NSW. And while there will be further steps in the planning approval process, we recognise that this next set of planning decisions will be very important. That is why we especially need your help over the next month.

This project will set precedents in social housing stock, 'social mix', and community infrastructure (facilities and services) in a high-density environment for decades to come. However, the people most impacted and at risk are current residents, public housing tenants and future tenants increasingly from complex and disadvantaged backgrounds.

This will be no ordinary development.

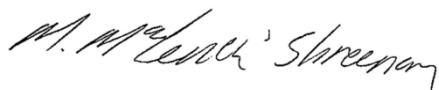
We appreciate that it is a busy, challenging and complex time for most people; however, any support will be greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your help to date on this journey.

There is a range of background material currently available on the REDWAtch website - <http://www.redwatch.org.au/> - and via DPE on the planning portal - <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/waterloo-south>.

Groundswell core members will be happy to provide a briefing to anyone who requires more information or who wishes to become involved.

Our contact details are below, and we look forward to hearing from you. We thank you for your input and consideration.

Yours,



Michael Shreenan
Groundswell Chairperson
Counterpoint 67 Raglan St, Waterloo, NSW 2017

Admin Contacts

Counterpoint Team info@counterpointcs.org.au (Mike and Adam)

Shelter NSW Cathy@sheltersnsw.org.au (Cathy)

REDWAtch spokesperson@redwatch.org.au (Geoff and Alice)

Who is Groundswell?

Groundswell is a coalition of residents and non-government local agencies and peaks within the Redfern and Waterloo areas committed to assisting residents to understand what it is the government plans to do in their local communities and their homes.

We will work together to

- To develop and offer capacity building opportunities (peaks and local NGOs, community groups to share information and skills to develop training programs and other learning opportunities for both residents and across sector agencies).
- To provide a mechanism for peer support/communication for those working in tenant participation and community engagement.
- To impartially document and share residents' perspectives in its diversity during the redevelopment through multiple platforms as resources allow.
- To provide opportunities for individuals, organisations, and community groups' views to be heard without fear of reprisals and provide and undertake advocacy work where appropriate.

Groundswell includes the following organisations, Resident groups and others:

