

The 202 February 2008 “Community to be consulted”

As part of the community consultation plans for the Northbridge Plaza Masterplan process, Northbridge residents are invited to attend any of three ‘Have a Say’ days at the Plaza, commencing on February 28. Residents will be able to obtain information about the process and give project team members their own views, ideas and suggestions about the future of Northbridge Plaza and the Council-owned car park

In addition, a feedback form will be made widely available to the community. The four-page form has a series of simple multiple-choice questions to obtain views about Northbridge Junction and Northbridge Plaza and the importance to the community of the key local issues, such as traffic flows and parking, bulk and scale of development, community facilities, open space and the character of Northbridge.

The community consultation program is one aspect of the Plaza Masterplan process. Specialist consultants have been appointed and are currently working on technical investigations which include research on traffic flows and parking, economics, planning, consumer needs and community facilities. As *The 202* went to the printer, a draft traffic report was expected to be reviewed late this month.

Council, AMPCI (the Plaza managers) and community representatives are sitting on two specially-formed joint committees to oversee the preparation of the Masterplan. These are the Technical Working Group and a Reference Committee.

In coming weeks, the two committees will review: a survey of visitors to Northbridge Junction and the Plaza, the outcome of community ‘focus groups’ about the needs and aspirations of visitors, a draft report on the character and role of Northbridge Junction and the Plaza in the economic environment of the lower North Shore, and analysis of community facilities in Northbridge. These investigations should gather information needed for the committees to formulate a robust Masterplan.

Residents can contact the Plaza Masterplan project team for information sheets, feedback forms and further details by phoning 1800 252 040 or emailing info@npmasterplan.com.au. The NPA representative on the Masterplan Reference Committee, Malcolm Lye, can be contacted on 9958 7566 or mjlye@bigpond.net.au. NPA’s previous submissions to Council about Northbridge Plaza can be viewed on www.northbridgepa.com.au.