



NORTHBRIDGE  
PROGRESS ASSOCIATION

*Working for the advancement of Northbridge since 1919*

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## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

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### **AMP statement on Northbridge Plaza expansion: “wishful thinking”**

Northbridge Progress Association believes that a report in *The Australian Financial Review* on June 20 is “wishful thinking”. The report stated that the managers of Northbridge Plaza, AMP Capital Shopping Centres, could be planning to more than double retail space at the shopping centre.

The head of development for AMPCSC, Louise Mason, is quoted as saying that AMPCSC is “planning a major development at Northbridge Plaza to expand the shopping centre and add 50 residential units”. She stated: “There is an ability to grow retail space in the general Northbridge area by another 10,000 to 12,000 square metres.”

NPA president John Becroft said that a plan to more than double retail space flies in the face of Willoughby City Council’s resolution in June 2007 that any retail expansion of the Plaza should be limited to approximately 10%. “Through a large meeting of residents in July 2007, the Northbridge community accepted the 10% limitation and several other Willoughby progress associations also supported Council’s stance,” he said.

Despite this clear consensus of Council and the community, Ms Mason claimed: “There is a minority there who are very anti-development but our aim is to speak with the whole community rather than a small subset of that community.”

Mr Becroft said that he was surprised that Ms Mason, who sits as an AMPCSC representative on Council’s Reference Committee, would ignore the community’s view, as clearly expressed in Council’s resolution. “It’s a statement of wishful thinking and inconsistent with the terms established by Council for the committee on which she sits,” he said.

“The Council-owned Plaza car park is community land and the public have rights to it through a constructive trust over the land,” Mr Becroft said. “AMPCSC’s plan to more than double the shopping centre would require it to take over most of this public land and the future implications could be serious for Northbridge.”

NPA said that the statement made to the media by AMP will seriously erode any remaining trust or confidence that the community has in AMP's intentions for the Plaza. It also makes a mockery of the two Masterplan committees and process established by Council late in 2007 and which have been operating in good faith since. "We are dismayed that AMP seems to be treating Council's Masterplan process with such disdain," Mr Becroft said.

***For further information, contact John Becroft 9958 6436 or Malcolm Lye 9958 7566***