

M Martin Place

draft 2

19th June, 1973

The Minister for Lands.

Att B. Griffin - Note & file Martin Place  
Action Plan

Reference is made to your letter of 9th May, 1973 (your ref. Rds 72/884) concerning the closing of Martin Place, between Elizabeth and Pitt Streets.

Action has been taken to obtain the consent of those Bodies stated in your letter, to the Council's proposal. Appropriate assurances were given in each case and copies of the Council's letters are attached for your information.

12471

ENCL.

+ As the preliminary estimate and drawings for the Plaza provide for a construction period of about twelve months, due to the difficulties of working in a public place, the Council is anxious to proceed with the work.

The Council has progressed as far as it can and is ready to proceed upon receipt of Cabinet approval.

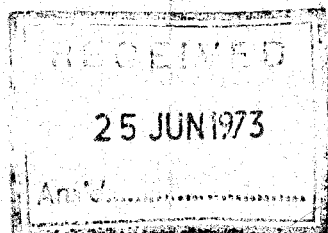
Yours faithfully  
Town Clerk.

B29/6/73

Mr George Blake

1. Copies of Letters posted 20th June 1973.
2. Minister received copy of all others

16/6/73



Draft 3

The Railways Division,  
Public Transport Commission.

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands concerning the closing of Martin Place, wherein you requested that the closure exclude the strata land required for railway purposes.

The Council's Consultants for the planning and design of Martin Place as a pedestrian precinct have been in close liaison with the Officers of the Railways Department and the Council proposes to give effect to the necessary requirements of the Railways Department in this matter.

In order to expedite the Minister's decision to proceed with the road closure and its creation as a public reserve the Council requests that you now advise the Minister you have no objection to the proposal proceeding.

The Secretary,  
Police Department, N.S.W.

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands concerning the closing of Martin Place, wherein you expressed reservations on the advisability of closing the road to vehicular traffic for its full length and opposed any closure at this stage.

Whilst your Department's submission stated that an appreciable number of vehicles used the section between Pitt and Elizabeth Streets, a traffic count conducted by the City Engineer's Department has shown that the small number of vehicles using this section could be absorbed elsewhere.

In the light of your representations which referred principally to the section east of Elizabeth Street, the Council has decided to close only that section of the street which is west of Elizabeth Street to vehicular traffic, at this juncture.

A close study can then be made of the effect on vehicular traffic following the modified closure, the development of traffic and road proposals associated with Bent Street, Elizabeth Street, King Street and the proposed demolition of the Supreme Court Buildings, before taking any action to close the section to the east of Elizabeth Street. The modified proposal is also approved by the Traffic Advisory Committee.

In order to expedite the Minister's decision to proceed with the road closure and its creation as a public reserve, the Council requests that you now advise the Minister you have no objection to the closure of Martin Place, between Pitt Street and Elizabeth Street, proceeding.

Draft 5.

The Public Transport Commission of N.S.W.,  
(Bus Division)

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands, concerning the closing of Martin Place, wherein you raised two principal matters.

The first matter was the preservation of north/south streets and in this connection it is advised that the closure of these streets to motor traffic is not proposed in the scheme.

The second matter concerned the best future arrangements for bus passengers, including those interchanging with the train service, and envisaged the restoration of the bus terminus in Martin Place.

You may be assured that the closing of Martin Place will not have a deleterious effect on major bus flows in the north eastern section of the City and the agreement of the Traffic Advisory Committee to the street closing proposal provides further reassurance of this.

Your submission envisaged no disability to bus operation as a result of Martin Place being closed to motor traffic to the west of Elizabeth Street, and you advocated a deferment of the closing to the east of Elizabeth Street, until the railway construction is closer to completion and more is known of future traffic and travel patterns.

In the light of your representations the Council has decided to close only that section of the street which is west of Elizabeth Street, at this juncture.

In order to expedite the Minister's decision to proceed with the road closure and its creation as a public reserve, the Council requests that you now advise the Minister you have no objection to the closure of Martin Place, between Pitt Street and Elizabeth Street, proceeding.

The Commonwealth Banking Corporation

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands concerning the closing of Martin Place, wherein you emphasised the Bank's need for vehicular access from Martin Place to the Bank's premises.

The Council fully appreciates the necessity of the Bank to have vehicular access from Martin Place for the movement of cash and other negotiable items, and for the delivery of computer material. The road closing proposal is designed to incorporate vehicular access through the proposed Pitt - Castlereagh Street plaza in Martin Place to accommodate these requirements of the Bank, in addition to emergency requirements that could arise.

In view of the above assurance the Council requests the Bank to now withdraw the objection lodged with the Minister for Lands concerning the proposed closure.

The Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands concerning the closing of Martin Place.

The Bank is given the Council's assurance that the provision in the design for a through route to give direct vehicular access from the proposed plaza to the Commonwealth Parliamentary Offices and the provision of three parking spaces in the plaza for Commonwealth Cars, will be maintained permanently by the City Council.

In view of the above assurance the Council requests the Bank to now withdraw the objection lodged with the Minister for Lands concerning the proposed closure.

*Draft 8.*

• THE AUSTRALIAN MUTUAL PROVIDENT SOCIETY  
AND (Joint owners of O.T.C. House, 32/36 Martin Place)  
• L.J. HOOKER LTD.

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands concerning the closing of Martin Place.

The Council's assurance is given that approval to access over the proposed Plaza area would not be withheld by the Council if required for the supply and removal of building materials for any future redevelopment of the site, the remodelling of the building and for necessary repairs to the building.

In view of the above assurance the Council requests that you now withdraw the objection lodged with the Minister for Lands concerning the proposed closure.

*Draft 9.*

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND BANKING GROUP LTD.

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands concerning the closing of Martin Place.

The Council's assurance is given concerning the maintenance of clear access to your building entrances and special provision has been made in the design of the plaza to allow tanker access to your fuel oil filling point which is situated in Martin Place.

The Council will also make strong representations to the Parking Advisory Committee to provide loading zones in Pitt Street in reasonable proximity to your entrance to permit deliveries of small items to your building, as you requested in your submission.

In view of the above assurances, the Council requests that you now withdraw the objection lodged with the Minister for Lands concerning the proposed closure.



Draft. 10

THE COMMONWEALTH TAXATION OFFICE

Reference is made to your submission to the Minister for Lands concerning the closure of Martin Place wherein you expressed concern that a resultant reduction in traffic facilities would adversely affect the external servicing of the buildings occupied by the Taxation Office.

Whilst the proposed closure of Martin Place will restrict vehicular access to the front of your Martin Place entrance, it cannot be seen that there will be any detrimental affect on your Castlereagh Street and Elizabeth Street entrances.

The Council does however fully appreciate your need of special arrangements for service vehicles and will make strong representations through its Member on the Parking Advisory Committee that special consideration should be given to the allocation of kerbside loading zone facilities in Castlereagh Street and also Elizabeth Street, to meet the special requirements of the Commonwealth Tax Office. The question of reserving kerbside space exclusively for such purposes will also be examined.

In view of the assurances given, the Council requests that you now withdraw the objection lodged with the Minister for Lands concerning the proposed closure.

THE PARKING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE CITY OF SYDNEY

The Council's proposal to open Martin Place to Pedestrian Traffic between Pitt and Castlereagh Streets; between Castlereagh and Elizabeth Streets, between Elizabeth and Phillip Streets, and between Phillip and Macquarie Streets and as a consequence to close those Sections of Martin Place to vehicular traffic was notified in the Government Gazette by the Minister for Lands on 24th November, 1972.

The general expression of opinion on the proposal from property owners in Martin Place has been highly complimentary. The proposal was also placed on Public Exhibition in the Sydney Town Hall and received enthusiastic public support for its early implementation.

In view of doubts expressed by certain Authorities about the effect of closing the section of Martin Place between Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets, the Council has requested the Minister for Lands to proceed with the closure between Pitt and Elizabeth Streets and the Council will make a submission concerning the section between Elizabeth and Macquarie Streets at an appropriate time in the future.

The Council now requests the Parking Advisory Committee to conduct a special study and make recommendations for the improvement of kerbside loading zone facilities available in the north/south streets for the use of buildings fronting Martin Place. Particular attention might be given to the question of reserving a small number of vehicle spaces in Castlereagh and/or Pitt Streets for the servicing of the Commonwealth Taxation Office which has inadequate facilities for this purpose.

The consideration of the Parking Advisory Committee is also requested to the appropriate parking restrictions that will be necessary in Hunter and King Streets, consequent on closing Martin Place to east/west traffic between Pitt and Elizabeth Streets.