Councillor Freeman - MoN - Hindley Street Revitalisation Forum

Tuesday, 10 November 2026
Council

Council Member
Councillor Eleanor Freeman

Public

Contact Officer:
Anthony Spartalis, Chief Operating Officer

MOTION ON NOTICE

Councillor Eleanor Freeman will move a motion and seek a seconder for the matter shown below to facilitate consideration by the Council:

'THAT COUNCIL:

1. Notes that the Hindley Street Revitalisation Project will deliver significant infrastructure upgrades to Hindley Street, with construction commencing in 2028.
2. Requests the Lord Mayor to facilitate a Hindley Street Revitalisation Forum, or series of forums, with relevant stakeholders to discuss additional, broader or more immediate opportunities to revitalise the Hindley Street precinct, including
   - 2.1 Attracting new investment and business diversity
   - 2.2 Reducing building vacancy or underutilisation
   - 2.3 Activating shopfronts, streets and spaces
   - 2.4 Implementing support measures for existing businesses
3. Requests that the first Hindley Street Revitalisation Forum be held as soon as practicable within FY2026-27 and attended by relevant government and industry representatives, together with interested property owners and local businesses.
4. Requests the Administration to prepare a report to Council prior to the 2027 Caretaker Period outlining the proposed facilitation of the Hindley Street Revitalisation Forum(s), including recommended membership, discussion topics, timeframes, budgetary impacts and next steps.'

ADMINISTRATION COMMENT

1. Administration notes the intent of the proposed motion and acknowledges the importance of supporting the ongoing revitalisation of the Hindley Street precinct in advance of the delivery of the Hindley Street Revitalisation Project.
2. The Hindley Street Revitalisation Project represents a significant long-term investment in public realm and infrastructure improvements and is expected to contribute to increased visitation, safety, amenity and economic activity within the precinct. While construction is currently anticipated to commence in 2028, there may be value in exploring complementary initiatives that could support business confidence, investment attraction and precinct activation in the interim.

3. The establishment of a Hindley Street Revitalisation Forum, or series of forums, could provide an opportunity to bring together key stakeholders, including government agencies, industry representatives, property owners, businesses and institutions operating within the precinct, to identify opportunities, challenges and potential collaborative actions.

4. The matters identified in the proposed motion, including attracting new investment and business diversity, reducing vacancy and underutilisation, activating streets and shopfronts, and supporting existing businesses, align with a range of strategic outcomes already pursued by Council through its economic development, city activation, planning and partnerships functions.

5. Administration notes, however, that the establishment of a new forum structure would require consideration of its purpose, membership, governance arrangements, facilitation requirements, desired outcomes, relationship to existing stakeholder groups and engagement activities, engagement appetite of key stakeholders, and any associated budgetary and resourcing implications.

6. Administration recommends that should the proposed forum be established, it should be incorporated into the broader Hindley Street Revitalisation project, to build on existing engagement, and avoid duplication of effort, rather than being established as a separate initiative.

7. Should Council resolve to support the proposed motion, Administration will prepare a report prior to the 2027 Caretaker Period outlining:

    7.1. Proposed objectives and scope of the forum(s);

    7.2. Recommended stakeholder participation and governance arrangements;

    7.3. Potential discussion themes and priority focus areas;

    7.4. Delivery options and indicative timeframes;

    7.5. Resource and budget implications;

    7.6. Approach to incorporating the forum into existing engagement; and

    7.7. Opportunities for implementation and ongoing stakeholder collaboration.

8. If external advice or assistance is required Administration will engage appropriate professional input.

9. This would enable Council to consider the most appropriate approach to facilitating stakeholder engagement and identifying practical opportunities to support the continued revitalisation and economic development of the Hindley Street precinct.

Should the proposed motion be supported by Council, the following implications of this motion should be considered. Note any costs provided are estimates only – no quotes or prices have been obtained:	
Public consultation	Not applicable
External consultant advice	As noted Administration may seek advice from a suitably qualified consultant if required but would expect a cost of under $10,000.
Legal advice / litigation (eg contract breach)	Not applicable
Impacts on existing projects	Not applicable
Budget reallocation	Not applicable
Capital investment	Not applicable
Staff time in preparing the workshop / report requested in the motion	Staff time of perhaps around 90-120 hours is anticipated for the scoping, planning, coordination and delivery of the forum, and reporting of its outcomes.
Other	Not applicable
Staff time in receiving and preparing this administration comment	To prepare this administration comment in response to the motion on notice took approximately 4.5 hours.

- END OF REPORT –