

# RESCISSON MOTION NR8/16

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When NM66/16 was on the agenda of Randwick Council's meeting of 13th December 2016, one would have thought such a motion will never come to pass because it goes against the Council's express commitment to consult and engage the local community in its decision-making process through its precinct system.

The resolution did pass. Nine of its fifteen councillors voted in favour of establishing a virtual online version of the Kensington West Kingsford (KWK) Precinct.

KWK Precinct has been an active and successful precinct. It holds regular precinct meetings that are well attended. It also holds special community meetings on specific issues affecting the precinct and these too are very well attended.

Its elected executives articulate the view of its residents and ratepayers effectively to Council.

It's paradoxical that Council is now moving to silence this precinct after awarding its elected executive the coveted Randwick City Council's Australia Day Community Service Award for outstanding service to the community.

In 2015 the Metro Model for Precincts proposal (for want of a better name) to expand the precinct system through online presence was rejected by Council. When a precinct could not hold face to face meetings and used emails for discussions, it was no longer recognised by Council as a precinct.

## QUESTIONS

Why set up an online precinct now?

Why should it parallel the real precinct?

Why Council appointed executives in place of elected executives?

Why KWK Precinct?

Which precinct is next?

It clear to me that Council's is attempting to present its version of the community view different to that presented by the real KWK Precinct to justify its formulation of the Kingsford and Kensington Planning Strategy and completion of the CSELR light rail project in accordance with the State Government's agenda.

My Independent analysis of Randwick City Council's Fit for the Future Community Survey Data (Appendix A to submission No 168 to the Local Government Inquiry in NSW) is an example of how the views of the real residents and ratepayers can be misrepresented to serve Council's objectives.

The amendment to NM66/16 is a giveaway as to the motive:

The virtual online precinct “will include all interested registered candidates for upcoming local government elections”.

When I first met the Councillor who proposed this motion he expressed the view that KWK Precinct was costing him votes and that he was disappointed that its meeting minutes were published on Council website.

I heard the same Councillor thought it was a good idea to link the legislated “committees of council” to committees that run precincts.

Council tried to use this to impose its Code of Conduct to try control the precincts through their executives. That exercise failed.

This is as good an indicator you can get as to the view of residents and rate payers on how Randwick City Council is doing in relation to carrying out its community consultation obligations.

Is this a case of “if you can’t make it, fake it”?

Jayasooriah  
KWK Precinct  
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