

PBL's \$206m Ch9 project – work in progress

by Michelle Sloane

The owner of Channel 9, PBL Media Pty Ltd, in January lodged a proposal for a \$206m, 663-dwelling redevelopment of its 2.9ha site in Willoughby, which one resident claims will create Sydney's most densely populated block.

PBL Media, which is in the early stages of investigating options for the long term future of its television broadcasting studios, has lodged an initial application with the NSW Department of Planning to authorise preparation of a concept plan for the redevelopment. PBL Media hopes the development of a concept plan will enable it to understand potential development options and seek council and community feedback.

No decision has been made on the future of the site. What has been proposed is mainly a work in progress and community members will be asked for their input.

At this stage the proposed project would include:

- A gross floor area of 66,600sq m – 66,000sq m for residential and 600sq m for retail.

- Building heights ranging from two to five storeys along Richmond Ave and Artarmon Rd and 16-20 storeys in the central part of the site, accommodating about 663 dwellings
- Car parking for residents and visitors
- Communal and public open space across about half the site and the public open space to be dedicated to council.

NSW Minister for Planning Tony Kelly said: "The proposal will be assessed under Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, because it meets the non-discretionary criteria to be considered a major project, as it is a residential-retail development with a capital investment value of more than \$100m."

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Photo: AUSIMAGE © Sinclair Knight Merz Pty Ltd

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Police witness appeal in Robert St attack

Police are still appealing for witnesses to come forward in relation to the sexual assault of a 17-year old Artarmon girl in Robert St at 4:15pm, on January 17.

The teenager was dragged into a silver van by a man and sexually assaulted. The man then pushed her out of the van and the teenager ran home and called police.

The attacker was described as 165cm-170cm tall with olive

complexion and hairy arms. Police are now hoping someone may have witnessed the incident, possibly without realising how serious it was.

North Shore LAC commander, detective superintendent Terry Dalton, said police were concerned about the random incident, which took place in broad daylight. Anyone with information about the incident should contact Chatswood Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. ■

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