

University plan breaches act

Isaac Wilson

Leichhardt councillors have slammed the “non-existent” community participation in the Callan Park master planning process, labelling it a set-up.

The councillors lashed out after learning that Sydney University’s preferred option for the site would breach the Callan Park Act. The preferred option was announced at two Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority (SHFA)-hosted forums held on October 28.

The preferred option includes 16



NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir at Friends of Callan Park’s public forum. Photo: Jack Carnegie

new buildings, an extra 30,000sq m of floor space and a minimum campus size of 5000 students.

The plans breach the Callan Park Act, which states that buildings cannot be constructed outside the footprint of existing buildings.

Greens councillor Rochelle Porteous has withdrawn as a member of the community reference panel as a means of protest.

“I will no longer be part of a consultation process that so far has been no more than a manipulative attempt to silence the community and lock out key stakeholders,” she said.

A community forum held by the

Friends of Callan Park on October 27 drew more than 300 people, including NSW Governor Professor Marie Bashir.

The forum championed the retention and upgrade of Rozelle Hospital and a community referendum on the master plan and any lease agreement with the university.

The university’s plans were announced a week after a NSW Health report linked a lack of mental health beds to suicides and homicides.

See report, page 11.