

City of Sydney's Cloud Arch sculpture approved in fiery council meeting

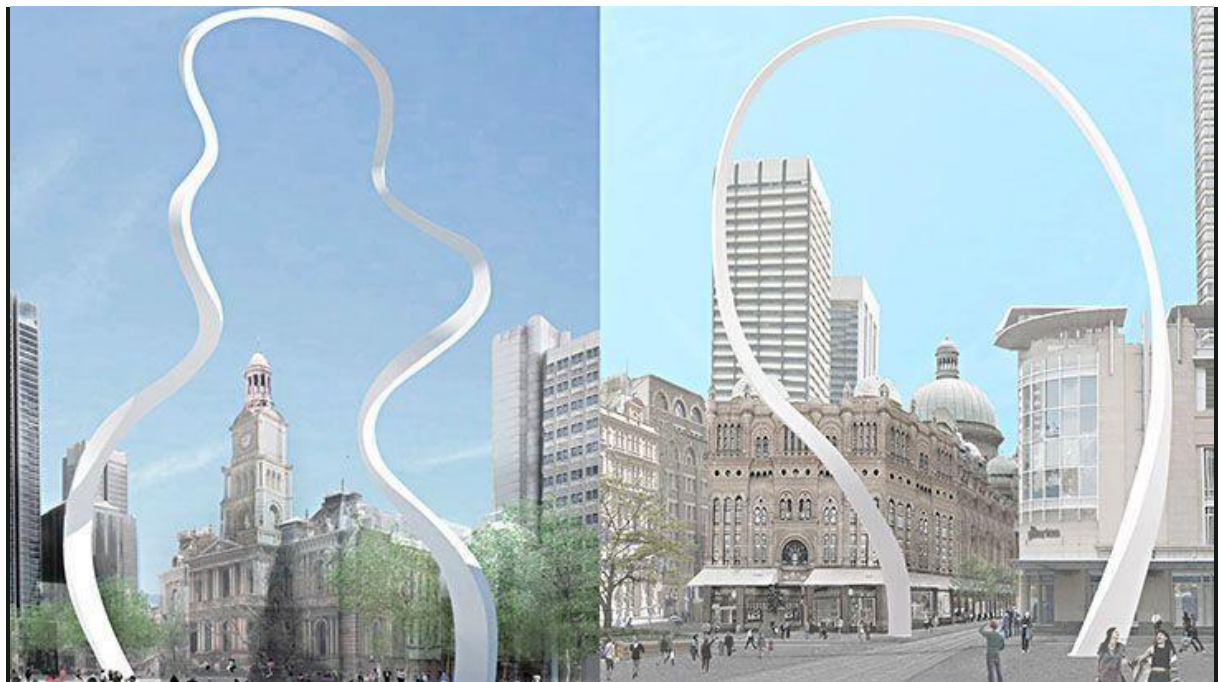


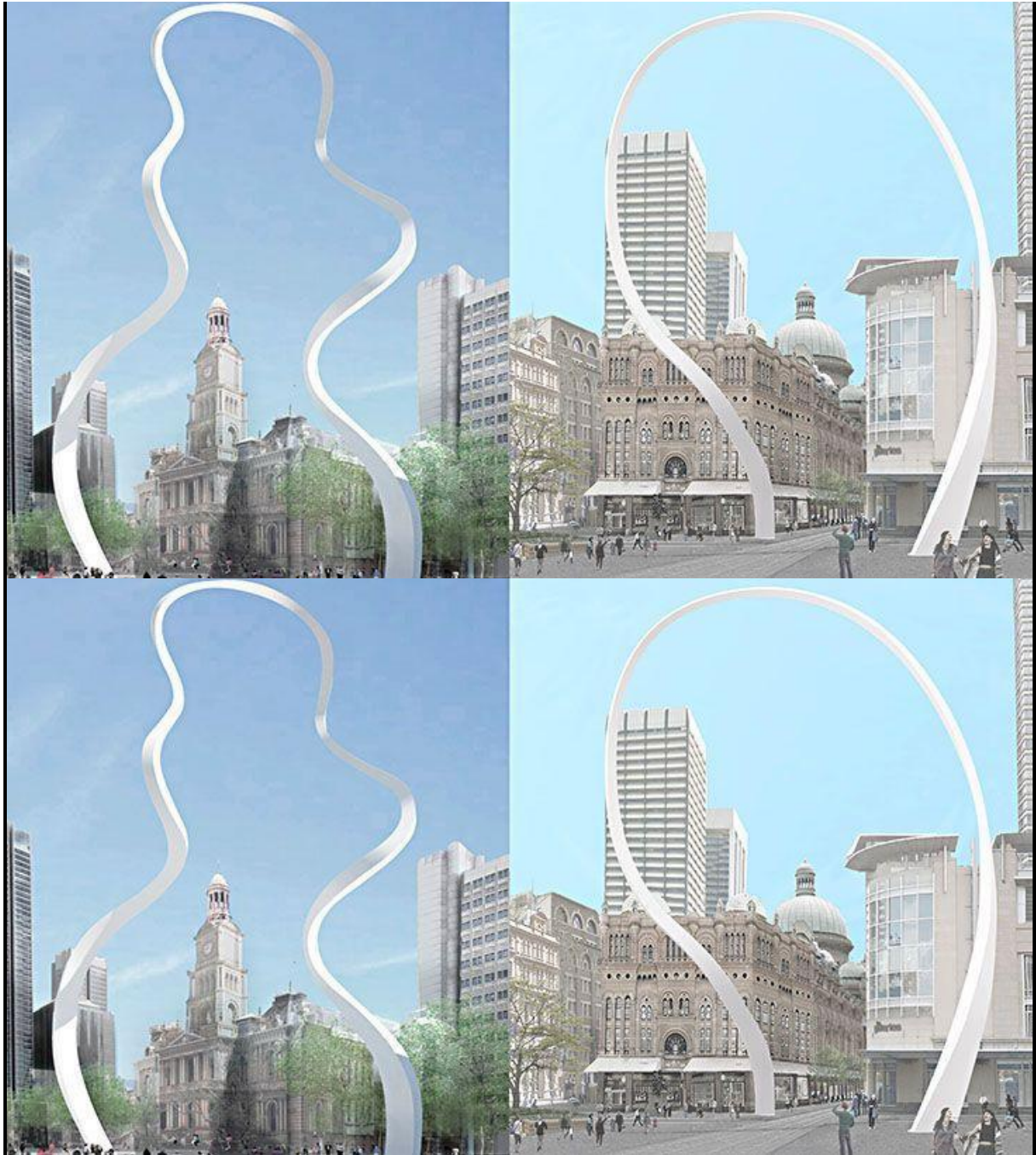
By **Lisa Visentin**

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The controversial Cloud Arch has cleared its first hurdle, after a majority of councillors at the City of Sydney voted to approve the sculpture at a fiery council meeting on Tuesday night.

The \$11.3 million sculpture was approved six votes to four following more than an hour of heated debate over the project's substantial cost blowout by \$8 million.

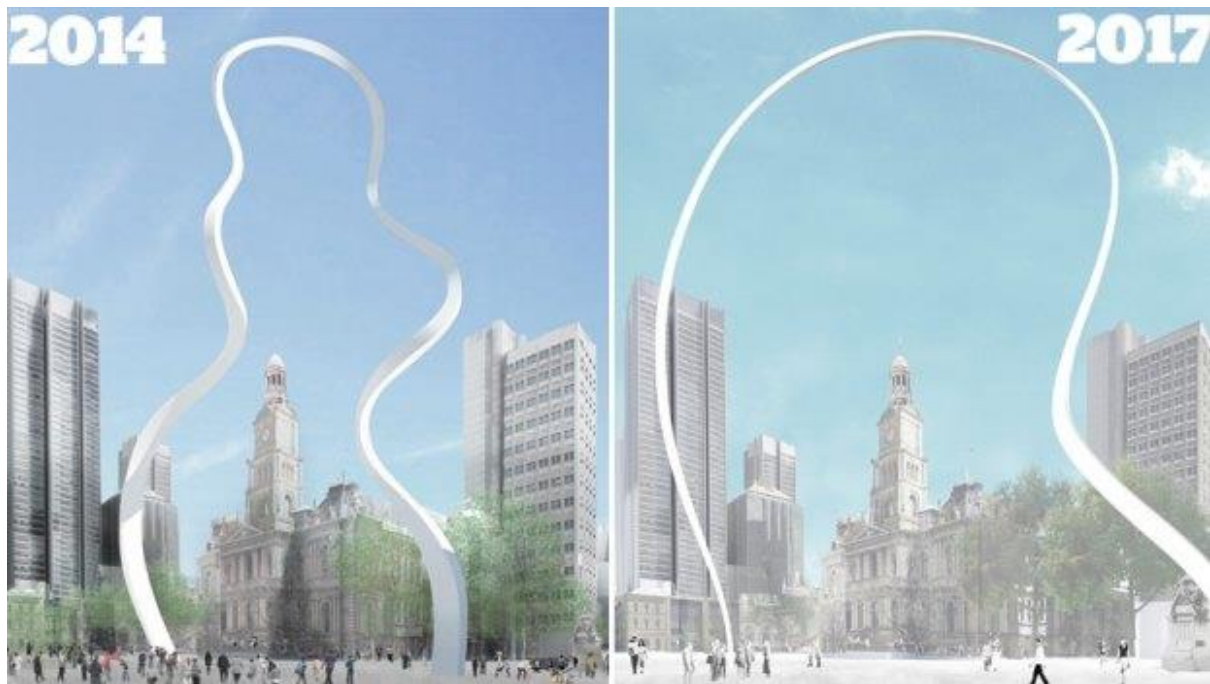




Once completed, a "bold and heroic" sculpture will soar 58 metres over Sydney's CBD.

A battle over the Cloud Arch had been brewing among the councillors since last week, when updated plans for the artwork were released, revealing the cost had increased from \$3.5 million to \$11.3 million.

Lord mayor Clover Moore attributed the cost increase to "serious and unforeseen constraints" caused by the incompatibility of the initial Cloud Arch design with the light rail and transport infrastructure located beneath George Street.



Cloud Arch sculpture 2014 vs 2017.

"We have had to change the footings [of the arch] and as a result the design has also changed," she said.

The remodelled arch is almost double the width of the original design and will soar 58 metres over George Street, spanning from the Queen Victoria Building across the intersection with Park Street, framing Town Hall.

The most vociferous criticism came from Liberal councillor Christine Forster and independent councillor Angela Vithoulkas, who voted in support of the original Cloud Arch plans when it was first approved by council in 2014.

Drawing a comparison with Goulburn's Big Merino and Coffs Harbour's Big Banana, Cr Forster slammed the Cloud Arch as a "big tapeworm".