

12 August 2011

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP  
Minister for Planning and Infrastructure  
Level 33 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Minister

**DA 032072011 Glebe Island Concerts**

I write on behalf of a number of residents of Glebe and adjacent suburbs who are concerned about the noise impacts of a concert on Glebe Island proposed for January 3, 2012.

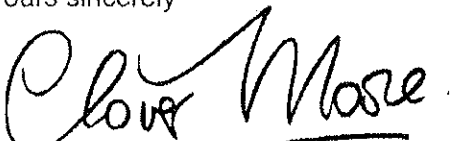
The residents tell me that the first of these concerts is planned for New Year's Eve 2011. They say that this will have little impact, as most people will be awake for festivities and that the following day is a Sunday.

Residents say that the second concert planned for Tuesday 3 January will create impacts, including loss of sleep the day before a working day. They are concerned that the planned 11.00pm finish will not be adhered to because event organisers would risk paying a fine over losing revenue.

The residents tell me that if two concerts are required to recoup costs that the event organiser should either hold the concert on the evening of Friday 30 December or use an alternative venue. They point out that all areas affected by noise impacts are high density housing.

***Could you please review planning controls for this concert and inform me what action you will take?***

Yours sincerely

  
Clover Moore  
Member for Sydney

02/09/11 Submit

**MARK AND JUDY CASHMORE AO**

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Michael Woodland  
Director, Metropolitan & Regional Projects South  
Planning and Infrastructure  
295 August 2011

Dear Mr Woodland

**Re: Sommerville Road, Glebe Island (ref: 11/13141)  
DA 032-07-2011**

We refer to the Development Application DA 032-07-2011 at **Glebe Island**, titled "**Music Concerts and related activities**". For the reasons outlined below we lodge our objections to this DA.

If approved, this proposal would have detrimental effects on the residents, for those who gather to see the fireworks in the surrounding area, and for those on boats using Rozelle and Blackwattle Bay.

- The noise of the events would considerably lower the amenity of residents in surrounding suburbs (including Glebe).
- The thousands of people who gather at Glebe Point to see the fireworks will have a degraded experience.
- The large number of boats that travel out of Rozelle and Blackwattle Bays to participate in the New Year's festivities (including virtually all vessels at the Sydney Superyacht Marina and the Sydney Heritage Fleet) will have difficulties with transiting past the old Glebe Island Bridge.

**Noise impact on residents at Glebe Point**

The "Acoustic Report" and "Statement of Environmental Effects" reveal that the residents at Glebe Point and the very large numbers of people who gather there on New Year's Eve will be subjected to noise from the music at the concert and from the people there. While it may sound like music to the people at the concert and be the choice of those attending, this is not the case for those nearby who do not choose to be there and will be subject to degraded noise from the concert.

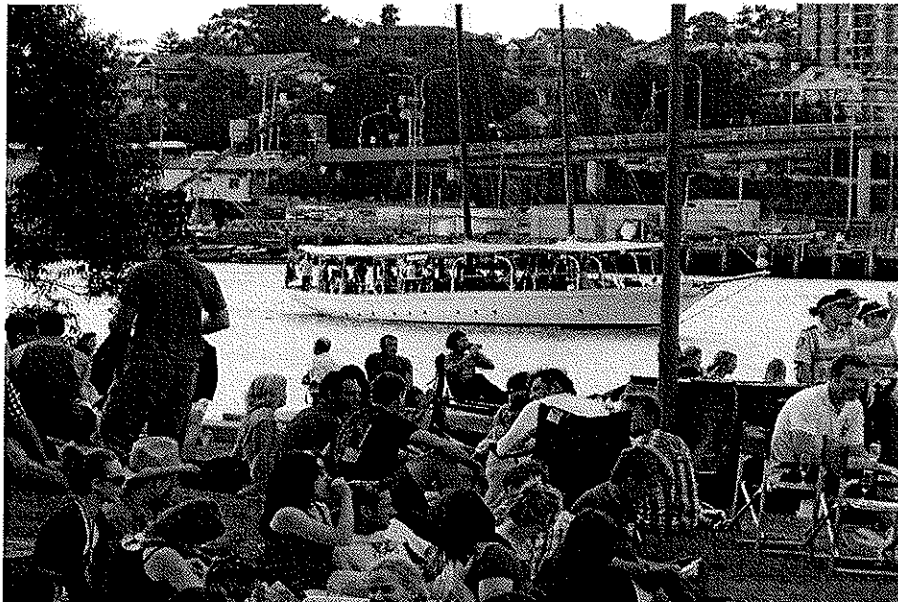
The documents referred to above focus on the noise impact at Pyrmont and White Bay / Balmain, but neglect any consideration of the impact at Glebe Point. In fact, the sound system is aimed directly at Glebe Point in order to minimise the impact at Pyrmont and Balmain. Glebe Point is line-of-sight over water and, as is well known, sound travels extremely efficiently over water.

It is also unacceptable that the proposed maximum noise limits (at nearest residences) are well above those accepted at other residential sites within Sydney (with the exception of Sydney Olympic Park which is a different type of venue and location). The figures provided in the documentation indicate that the various concert noise limits (at nearest residences), expressed as  $L_{A10,15min}$ , are as

follows:

Centennial & Moore Park	65 dB(A)
Sydney Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust	70 dB(A)
ANZ Stadium	75 dB(A)
Sydney Cricket Ground	70 dB(A)
Football Stadium (Moore Park)	80 dB(A)
Sydney Olympic Park	85 dB(A)

The proposed noise limit for the Glebe Island events, at 85 dB(A), is at the extreme high end of this range and is completely unacceptable. Although the report indicates that levels of 65 & 70 dB(A) are noted as leading to patron dissatisfaction, the acoustic report states the noise limit chosen is unlikely to generate patron dissatisfaction that has been experienced at other venues. The proposal for a 85 dB(A) level is completely unacceptable, particularly since families and young people picnic in very large numbers from mid-day till well after mid-night on the foreshores for the fireworks. Photos attached:





### Rehearsals

Rehearsals are mentioned in the documentation but there is no discussion on the number, duration and noise level of rehearsals.

### Helicopter Noise

An emergency helicopter-landing site "at the end of the terminal" is proposed and this use is of course acceptable.

But using a helicopter to transport people to and from the venue is not acceptable. Advice from an acoustic expert, Dr Martin Lawrence, indicates that:

"helicopter noise at receiver location C is quoted as 68-73 dB(A). Clearly this helicopter noise is 20-28 dB(A) above ambient [quoted as 45 to 48 dB(A)]. Even allowing for the helicopter noise being at this level for only part of a 15 minute period, the noise will still be clearly over the limit of 5 dB(A) excess over a 15 minute period. Thus, it is clearly unacceptable to have helicopters use this site (other than for emergencies).<sup>1</sup>

While using a helicopter to transport the main performers and dignitaries may be a drawcard for them, it will be a burden on those subjected to this intrusion and associated noise. Water transport is an attractive and viable alternative and will not impact on

<sup>1</sup> Our submission in relation to noise and the assessment of the acoustic report has been assisted by the acoustic analyses undertaken by Dr Martin Lawrence. The Glebe Society submission is based on his work and deserves careful attention.

residents and others.

### **Monitoring and Complaints**

The Acoustic report refers to noise monitoring and a hotline during *rehearsals* as well as a complaints register for the *event*. A complaints register is necessary for any rehearsals as well as the main event/s and available in real time during these events. Live monitoring is also essential at a number of sites including a Glebe site at the end of Leichhardt Street to control the energy output of the sound system in real time.

### **Impact on boats from the closure of Glebe Island Bridge**

The proposal to close Glebe Island Bridge will prevent the passage of boats between Blackwattle and Rozelle Bays and the main body of Sydney Harbour. Since many boats including the Heritage Boat fleet (see Boomerang pictured in photos) travel to and from Blackwattle Bay and Rozelle Bays for the fireworks and festivities on the Harbour, closure of the bridge is likely to lead to confusion and congestion, and potential chaos. Proper management will be critical to guarantee equity of use and safety.

In summary, this proposal should be rejected. The quiet enjoyment and amenity of the foreshores should not be intruded upon by one group subjecting others to their noise and causing undue inconvenience on festive occasions such as New Year's Eve and other holidays.



If the proposal is to be considered over the objections of many residents with a right to quiet enjoyment, a number of factors outlined by the Glebe Society should be mandatory.

1: *Live monitoring of the event should include monitoring from a site at the end of Leichhardt Street. This live monitoring must be used, like that at Pyrmont and White Bay, to control the energy output of the sound system in real time.*

2: *The noise limit at residential properties should never exceed 75 dB(A).*

3: *The post-midnight segment of the New Year Event should be controlled to a specified lower limit.*

4: *Helicopters should be restricted to emergency use only.*

5: *There must be a statement limiting the number, duration and noise level of rehearsals.*

6: *A complaints register must be mandatory. Feedback from complaints at the New Year's event complaints should be used to guide maximum sound levels at the second event.*

Sydney Harbour Association's submission dated 27 August 2011 relating to DA 032-07-2011 – Glebe Island, suggested that the Department confer with Sydney Harbour Federation Trust in relation to noise management measures utilised at the Trust's Cockatoo Island venue.

I now provide the text of advice to me from the Trust, on that matter, as a supplement to our submission. I commend the material to your attention. Queries might usefully be directed to Kathryn Werner, Senior Planner, Planning and Special Projects, at the Trust, ph. 02 8969 2126 (direct) , [www.harbourtrust.gov.au](http://www.harbourtrust.gov.au) .

The text follows:

"As discussed ...., the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust adopts the following Noise Management Strategy for noisy events, including concerts, at Cockatoo Island. The Strategy is based on the recommendations in the Cockatoo Island Land Use Planning Noise Survey prepared by Dick Benbow and Associates in 2004.

- Residents in Drummoyne, Birchgrove, Hunter's Hill, Woolwich and Greenwich, as well as Local Councils are notified by letter box drops prior to the event.
- Noise emitted from the event shall be limited set to a maximum of 65 dBLAmax and 85 dBLAmax between 10.00 and 22.30 hours, 50 dBLAmax and 70 dBLAmax between 22.30 and 03.00 hours and 40 dBLAmax between 03.00 hours and 07.00 hours at any residential receiver. In addition an amenity level of 41 dBLAeq is set between 0.700 and 10.00 hours.
- An independent noise consultant is to be engaged to undertake a monitoring program throughout the event to ensure that the noise criteria are met.
- During the event, a noise hotline operated by the Trust is set up which will enable any complaints to go directly to a designated staff member from event, who will have direct contact with the hirer's Acoustic Consultant. The acoustic consultant must be present throughout the event and must respond to any noise complaints received. This response will include reducing the level of amplification and/or carrying out noise testing at a location close to the address of the complainant to ensure the permitted noise levels are not being breached.
- Where a complaint is made and the complainant believes the noise is impacting offensively on their amenity, an independent consultant will attend the boundary of their property and monitor the noise. If the noise is found to be excessive by the independent noise consultant they will contact the production and stage managers (both radio and mobile phone contact is to be maintained throughout the event) and the volume of the stage causing the problems will be reduced. Compliance with the criteria will then be confirmed.
- Any indoor venue with doorways facing residential areas shall be fitted with noise control barriers across the openings with a width 50% wider than the doorway and extending from the floor to significantly higher than the doorway. The barriers shall have a transmission loss of at least 10dB.
- Speakers and the public address systems are directed into the Island to minimise noise spillage to areas around each venue.
- The Trust reserves the right to independently test the amplification levels and the noise levels at mainland locations, and if it is found to exceed the permitted level, the amplification will be required to be reduced."

Michael Rolfe, President  
Sydney Harbour Association  
02 9337 5058

Margaret & Alan Donaldson

5/1-13 Grafton Street  
Balmain  
NSW 2041  
Australia

RECEIVED

- 1 SEP 2011

Director-General

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amdonald@bigpond.net.au

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31 August 2011

The Director,  
Department of Planning & Infrastructure

Dear Sir/Madam,

**DA 032-07-2011 PROPOSED CONCERTS ON GLEBE ISLAND**

We write to express our opposition to this proposal because of the noise it will generate in our home and surroundings.


The application argues, in effect, that almost any level of noise must be tolerated. It includes weasel words about what 'could' or 'should' be done to limit noise in the event that the very generous levels argued for are exceeded, but nothing that 'will' be done.

We appreciate that a high levels of noise – music, fireworks and shipping etc – is part of the New Year's Eve phenomenon, and have learned to tolerate it.

The application is, however, cheeky enough to plead that the second concert on 3 January is necessary to make the project 'commercially viable' ie we are to be subject to not one but two occasions of helicopter and concert cacophony, simply for someone to make money.

The proposal is outrageous.

Yours sincerely,



A. Donaldson



M. Donaldson



[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

30 August 2011

Major Projects Assessment  
Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Sir/Madam

**Development Application: DA 03207-2011**  
**Property: Sommerville Road, Glebe Island**

I wish to object to the DA 03207-2011 for New Year's Eve concerts, and a helicopter landing area at Glebe Island.

I am objecting to the DA on the grounds of noise from the concert, the helicopters, and the construction work. I wish to make the following points:

- \* noise levels from these concerts will be much greater than the former industrial noise from Glebe Island,
- \* buildings at Pyrmont may have acoustic protection from industrial noise. However, my building at Mary Street, Glebe dates from the early 1970s; there was no requirement then to provide acoustic protection from industrial noise, or any other type of noise,
- \* noise of helicopter flights will affect a wide area of the inner west, and
- \* the noise levels from concerts and from helicopters will impact on people picnicking and watching fireworks from Glebe Point park and from Pyrmont park, as well as residents of those suburbs.

NB Noise carries a long way, eg ships horns from Glebe Island vicinity could be heard in parts of Glebe well back from the waterfront, and fireworks at Darling Harbour can be heard at in most parts of Glebe. During the APEC conference held in Sydney a few years ago, helicopter noise impacted all the residents of Glebe and the inner west.

**Please note that I do not wish my contact details to be made available to the applicant, relevant authorities, or on the Department's website.**

Yours Faithfully

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

02/09/11 Submit

31 August 2011

Major Projects Assessment  
Department of Planning & Infrastructure  
GPO Box 39  
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear sirs,

**Development Application No. DA 032-07-2011**  
**Property: Sommerville Road, Glebe Island**

## **1. Background and introduction**

I am writing to you in connection with the Notice of Development Exhibition for Development Application DA 032-07-2011 for the property of Sommerville Road, Glebe Island (the **Glebe Island Property**). Your reference number for this notice is 11/13141.

I am a owner of a property in Pyrmont located at 21 Cadigal Avenue, Pyrmont. My property is in close proximity to the Glebe Island Property, being located less than one kilometre from the Glebe Island Property (using a straight line measurement).

## **2. Objections to the proposal**

**I object to the proposed development on the following grounds:**

- It will have adverse impacts on the natural and built environment in the locality of Pyrmont, for the following reasons:
  - the nature of the proposed development, which includes a series of music concerts scheduled for New Years Eve 2011 and following days, is not in keeping with the residential and communal nature of the Pyrmont area immediately bordering the Glebe Island Property, and will cause noise disturbance to the Pyrmont area during a time when many local residents are enjoying the parks and other outdoor facilities available in Pyrmont;
  - there is very limited parking in the Pyrmont area, and streets are narrow and frequently used by pedestrians, including the elderly and parents with small children. The proposed development on the Glebe Island Property, including the music concerts referred to above, will attract a number of attendees to Pyrmont for the purpose of parking and travelling to the venue. This will result in an overcrowding of the Pyrmont area at this time, and increase the risk of collisions between vehicles and pedestrians, as well as severely limiting the amount of car space for local Pyrmont residents during what is traditionally a key holiday period; and
  - the development application notes that there will be licensed venues available at the Glebe Island Property for the duration of the events scheduled to take place at the Glebe Island Property. This increases the likelihood of drunken and other inappropriate behaviour in and around the Pyrmont area, with related noise disturbance and increased litter, as well as increased dangers from things such as broken glass.
- it will have adverse social impacts on the Pyrmont locality, as it will detract from the quiet, community-focused atmosphere that has developed in Pyrmont in recent years (and which the City of Sydney Council, amongst others, has done much to promote and support), particularly if the proposed events on the Glebe Island Property become a yearly fixture on the Glebe Island Property; and
- in my view, the Glebe Island Property is not suitable for the proposed development, nor is it set up in a way that could minimise the impact on the Pyrmont area (in terms

of noise and other social disturbances), in that the proposed venue is very open, does not contain any natural or artificial barriers to reduce noise disturbance, has not (to my knowledge) been used for a development of the type described in the development application previously, and is not equipped with parking, security, safety or crowd control features that are necessary for a proposal of this type (other than what the applicant will bring to the site itself);

### **3. Concluding remarks**

For the reasons given above, I strongly oppose the proposed development. I am very worried that such events will become a regular feature at the Glebe Island Property, with continuing adverse impacts on the Pyrmont community.

The Pyrmont community is still growing, as more families move into the area and more residential and community services are introduced. To allow music concerts to take place within a very close proximity to Pyrmont will in no way add to or foster the growing community spirit in Pyrmont.

I ask the council to reject the proposed development application.

Yours faithfully,

Justin Sprogis

906/21 Cadigal Avenue, Pyrmont, NSW, 2009.