

I am Ian Dance, a resident of Pier 6/7 at Walsh Bay; i.dance@unsw.edu.au; 0413725781.

I have visited the site and attended the community presentation on Saturday December 3. The details of the plan were explained to me very well by several staff present.

I am very familiar with the internal space of Pier 2/3, and have attended many events there over the years, including Writer's Festival talks, Biennale exhibitions, an ACO/Bell concert, and the Arts Long Table.

My wife and I are producing a theatrical event in the Philharmonia rehearsal space in Walsh Bay in April 2017.

I fully support the development of the Walsh Bay Arts Precinct, as currently proposed.

There are five matters that I would like to raise.

### **1. The provision of public toilets in the development.**

There are no publicly accessible toilets in Walsh Bay, and this development is an opportunity to rectify this. The nearest public toilets are at George St. North, and the Barangaroo Headland Park. There are toilets within Sydney Theatre venues and Sydney Dance Company, but these are not always open, and are not welcoming to the general public. There are locked toilets available only to restaurant patrons. There is no signage about public toilets in Walsh Bay. I urge that a public toilet (open all hours) be included in the redeveloped Pier 2/3, preferably at the Hickson Road end, and that suitable signage be provided.

### **2. Fishing at the harbour end of Pier 2/3.**

I have observed that these people, who often come as families, and are mostly quiet, peaceful and unobtrusive. A number of them are Asian, probably trying to replicate a waterside fishing culture in their homeland. I like having the fishing people here: they add a diversity of culture and activity to Walsh Bay.

Sometimes they leave messes, and there have been complaints about this. I propose that the development of the end of the pier incorporate the facilities that would permit the fishing people to leave no trace of their activities. Three items are needed: (1) a public toilet (which would be provided by implementation of point 1 above), (2) good rubbish bins or rubbish disposal chutes, and (3) a water tap/drinking fountain, of the type currently installed around the city. With these facilities I believe a clean, tidy and peaceful small community of fishing people could use the end of the pier, and generally enhance the diversity of culture in Walsh Bay.

### **3. Inclusion of a small independent theatre, less than 100 seats.**

While the theatrical scene is healthy in Walsh Bay, it is dominated by big companies with large audiences. What is missing is the small fringe theatrical presence. I draw attention to the

remarkable success of the Griffin Theatre Company, operating in the Stable Theatre with 99 seats at Kings Cross. Similarly, Belvoir downstairs in Surry Hills is very popular, and The Old Fitz pub theatre in Woolloomooloo is thriving. Both have less than 100 seats.

Walsh Bay needs something similar, a small space that can be rented by the independent theatre companies of Sydney, and which fosters independent small theatre and performers. A small independent theatre space at Walsh Bay would probably also be attractive to the Festival of Sydney, allowing productions analogous to the Edinburgh Fringe. Other festivals such as Vivid, and the Writers Festival, would probably be interested in holding events in this small theatre (lets name it the Walsh Bay Fringe Theatre). A bar should be provided in its foyer, and ideally there would be a small rehearsal space included.

I strongly urge that a Walsh Bay Fringe Theatre, with less than 100 seats, and preferable in a semi-round configuration, be built into the redevelopment of Pier 2/3.

#### **4. The covered external space on the eastern side of Pier 2/3.**

This is valuable space, as demonstrated by the Annual Arts Long Table dinner. I suggest that kitchen facilities be located adjacent to this space, to facilitate its use for external dining.

#### **5. Shuttle transport connecting with Circular Quay.**

Ideally this would be a ferry using the existing wharf, and connecting also with the new Barangaroo wharves. Circular Quay is the main nearby transport hub, with trains, buses and ferries connecting with all of greater Sydney, with light rail to come. Barangaroo may eventually equal Circular Quay as a transport hub, but until that time a shuttle system involving Circular Quay should be developed. Ferries are more attractive than buses for this, and emphasise the harbour aspect of this area. The shuttle ferry could use the Commissioners Steps at the Quay (a heavily populated location close to the MCA and the Cruise terminal), and the existing Pier 2/3 wharf.