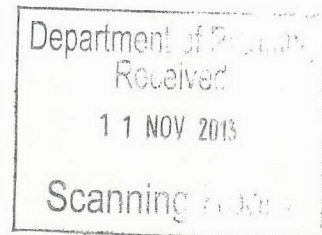


PCU049337

Letter to : Mr. Peter McManus [?]  
from : Honorary Associate Professor Winsome Evans, BEM, OAM  
dated : November 7th, 2013  
regarding : Modification Request for the  
University of Sydney  
Abercrombie Precinct Redevelopment  
application no : MPO7\_0158 MOD 3  
abstract : Reasons for strong objection  
to the nature and content  
of the proposal



446 Abercrombie Street  
Darlington. 2008  
7: xi : 2013

Dear Mr. McManus,

In any dealings with Sydney University as it is presently operating, I assume my comments will fall on "deaf" ears. Nevertheless, it is important to stir oneself to offer criticism or deserve the consequences.

This letter - written in considerable frustration - concerns the

current proposal by the Uni. of Sydney to modify their plan for the Student Accommodation component of their Abercrombie Street Precinct Development (MPOZ-0158).

The first comment to be made here is that the people (residents) of Darlington were told at previous S.Uni. meetings that the

planning and design of the Student Accommodation Block was to be undertaken much later - as a Stage 2 component - of the overall

development. However, we are now suddenly presented/confronted,

without warning as it were, with a "fait accompli" design, layout, etc. as a Part 1 proposal. This certainly confirms our estimation of

Syd. Uni. as acting in a typically underhand and sneaky way (badly);

Especially as the new design with its modifications are in no

way able to be qualified as "minor".

They are not - in their "miraculous" Stage 1 format -

"substantially the same [as those] approved [?]" in November, 2012. Here is a list of comments to explain my (& others) reservations that these plans need more residential-consultation and scrutiny:

(1) The building is too tall - overpowering the Darlington School and Mandelbaum House, and all the terraces across the road (even my 3-story one)!

(2) The style of the architecture does not suit the heritage terraces (in all their variations)! it looks like library shelving (? Fisher Library's rejects?)!

(3) Furthermore, its design does not blend well (not only with the above)

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but, more especially, with the far superior and gently creative ambience of Mandelbaum House (surely S.Uni. can devise a more suitable exterior?)

(4) The earlier "concept" plans for a "yet-to-be-finalised - Stage 2" development (which, as already noted, S.Uni. has craftily sailed beyond...) showed a building "block" (no design) set further back from the footpath. This setback must be restored!

(5) This would thus align with and match the creative setback of Mandelbaum House, with its pleasant gardens of shrubs and odiferous vines (lovely!).

(6) The Student Accomodation must be setback as originally planned with dense shrubs, foliage, small trees, etc. to soften the current proposal's stark and too propinquous facade.

(7) All the trees in Abercrombie Street's footpaths must remain. One of your photo mock-ups shows NO trees outside the proposed development!

(8) This is alarming as all the trees <sup>and bushes</sup> on the Cottingham Street corner - except the bluegum - have disappeared (bulldozed, built over, etc.)

(9) Foliage, in considerable density, in front of the Proposed Student Accomodation, would furthermore be in keeping with the front garden & porch foliage on the other side of the street;

(10) ~~20~~50, please set back the front of the building and restore the original accomodation numbers (i.e. 188 not 200);

(11) Guarantee there will be <sup>an</sup> 24-hour on-site manager/director when the building is functioning; finally,

(12) Sydney University seems determined to maintain and foster local residential ill will. Not only is this long-standing behaviour disrespectfully arrogant to current dwellers, but is also likewise to the GADIGAL people who owned and cared for this land.

Yours sincerely,

Honorary Associate Professor Wincome Evans, BEM, OAM.