

Date: **March 7, 2013**

To: NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure
23-33 Bridge Street
Sydney NSW
7 March 2013

From: **Nicola Sternberg**
43 Percival Rd
Stanmore
NSW 2048

Attention: **Alan Cadagan**

RE: Submission to MP09_0066 MOD 6 (Thomas Street and Albert Ave),
Chatswood

Dear Mr. Cadagan

Please consider this letter of objection to the above modification application. I object to the development adjacent to 12 Thomas Street for the following reasons:

For the past eight years I have been attending meditation classes each week at the Australian Institute for Tibetan Healing on Level 4, 12 Thomas Street, immediately adjacent to the proposed Meriton development.

I would like to express **my urgent objection** to the proposed modifications to this development

My objections are as follows:

- **The loss of public parking** for myself and my classmates at the Meditation Centre. Due to the proliferation of building in Chatswood, parking has now become notoriously difficult and frustrating.
- Chatswood is increasingly becoming **an eyesore** as it transforms from what was once a leafy suburb into a bland and unappealing concrete commercial centre. The loss of a car park for members of the community being replaced by a very tall building with private parking only adds to the sense of rampant and unthinking commercialisation.
- I felt added alarm upon learning that the proposed building's original **plans have been significantly modified** to the extent that they bear little or no resemblance to what was originally approved by Council.
- The original plan which was approved by Council allowed for a residential

building to be erected consisting of 33 floors. It is now expected to reach 48 floors. In my opinion these additional 15 floors are completely unnecessary and **simply a manifestation of greed, pure and simple**, on the part of the developers.

- The **increased traffic** that results from the additional occupants of these extra stories will only add to the heavy traffic volume in the streets around our Meditation Centre.
- The extras floors will **block sunlight** from falling upon Chatswood Oval - one of the few remaining areas of open space and commerce-free areas remaining in the Chatswood Community.
- The 15 extra floors which are to be added to the original plan will have a **negative impact on our meditation classes**. It goes without saying that the practice of meditation is best suited to a peaceful environment. An additional three floors above ground added to the building's car park would make it difficult to hear our teacher and have a negative impact on our ability to meditate, as we are on Level 4 of the building directly adjacent to the proposed development.
- **No provision has been made for disabled people to both leave the public car park and enter Fleet Lane or Thomas Street buildings**. This will be detrimental for many disabled people as there are many medical services in 12 Thomas Street and other adjacent buildings near the railway line. There is no mention of a ramp allowing disabled people to enter 12 Thomas Street or a pedestrian walkway allowing people to enter Fleet Lane. When all access to Fleet Lane and the car park is covered, pedestrians will also find it an unsafe location.
- Finally, I find the **removal of the open space in the centre of the complex** a puzzling decision. It would have been the one concession that allowed members of the public to relax and escape the incessant commercial buzz that has overtaken Chatswood. But apparently even this oasis of calm has been deemed insufficiently profitable.

In conclusion, I believe the latest round of proposed modifications is not in the best interests of the Chatswood community, and I strongly call for them to be rejected.

Yours sincerely,

Nicola Sternberg

