

Alan Cadogan - Fwd: Objection to Thomas St Chatswood Mod 6

From: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
To: Alan Cadogan
Date: 4/06/2013 1:37 PM
Subject: Fwd: Objection to Thomas St Chatswood Mod 6

Alan

Last one to note and file please.

Rose

>>> Laurel Acton <l.acton@bigpond.com> 26-05-2013 4:26 pm >>>
The Minister for Planning

Dear Mr Hazzard

I am writing with deep concern about the planning process in relation to Mod 6 of the Meriton Thomas St Chatswood development. I visit the building directly adjoining this site on a weekly basis, and quite apart from the damaging effect this development would have on activities at 12 Thomas St, I am quite frankly shocked and disillusioned that the application could have reached this point and be seriously considered.

1. The proposed building is almost twice the building height and way above the allowed Floor: Space ratio, so contravening Willoughby Council's planning guidelines. In light of this, I believe a completely new Development Application is essential, which should then be exhibited to allow for proper public consultation. It would be totally wrong for this gross over-development to be directed to the Planning Assessment Commission as is.
2. I have heard from several members of the public who attended the recent Willoughby Council meeting that the Councillors completely changed their minds on the proposal after a Meriton representative threatened to withdraw the VPA of \$12 million if the Council didn't support MOD. Whereas Council were previously strongly against Mod 6, even sending a letter to that effect to the Department of Planning, suddenly Council voted in support of this grotesque, inappropriate development. Quite frankly, I can see the headlines on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald right now, especially if the development goes through from the Department to the Planning Assessment Commission and is approved. It would be a classic story for the top investigative reporter Kate McClymont, whose skill and determination in uncovering 'irregular' processes involving organisations and authorities with responsibility for decisions affecting the public are without peer.
3. Quite apart from the process issues, if approved, Mod 6 would create enormous problems in an already over-crowded area. It would, in my opinion, be a very poor example to the NSW population of what the Government would allow to be built in urban areas. Traffic would become even worse, local schools even more crowded, and disability access very poor on the Mod 6 specifications. That is not the kind of future I believe we should be creating for our beautiful Sydney.

I urge you to act in this matter and prevent this monstrosity from being built. Public faith in the process of urban development is at stake. Please send me a reply to confirm what action will be taken by the NSW Government.

Yours sincerely

Laurel Acton
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