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Director, Key Sites Assessments
Department of Planning and Environment
GPOBox39
Sydney NSW 2001

25 Nelson Street
Woollahra 2025

Dear Sir,

I write as a long term member of both The Art Gallery of NSW and a Friend of the Botanic Gardens, both important institutions. I cannot, however believe the Art Gallery wish to take valuable green space from the Gardens in order to create what they see as a world class Gallery. I can sympathise that they always need more space for exhibitions and there is no doubt they do a first class job in every respect but it is not possible for the architects to claim it will be one of the finest galleries in the world with the collections we have.

There was a time when the Gallery rejected the purchase of affordable, significant paintings which would have placed it in this category. Modern art prices make this impossible.

I ask you which is the most important?

The Botanic Gardens are geographically and historically important in providing the people of Sydney with an educational, recreational and green environment. We are told our population will rise significantly in coming years which we means we will need every green lung available to us. It is too easy to chip away at our diminishing green space and replace it with bricks and mortar.

While I applaud the desire of the Art Gallery to expand and improve its facilities I cannot condone their desire to expand into one of the most important Botanic Gardens in the world.

I therefore beg you to reject the proposal.

Yours faithfully

Joanne Morris

