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Bill Wedderburn

To: Planning Services, Department of Planning & Environment, GPO Box 39 Sydney
NSW 2001
Cc: Attention : Director -Key Sites Assessments
Subject: Major Expansion of the Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, Sydney

Correspondent : Walter Wedderburn

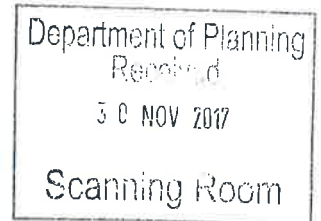
Date: November 27, 2017

Address:

407/6 Cowper Wharf Roadway, Woolloomooloo NSW 2011

E: billw@wedderburn.com.au

M: 0419 797 007



Dear Mr. Cameron Sargent, Team Leader, Key Sites Assessments

I wish to register my objection to the above referenced development, on the following grounds:

- (1) The footprint of the proposed development, annexes open public recreational green spaces, on land that is truly precious & irreplaceable. The design of the building, is intrusive, unattractive & dominates the location's current natural open spaces. Our extremely crowded city, with its ever increasing burgeoning population, needs breathing space, not concrete & glass structures.
- (2) I disagree with NSW Parliament's policy, of allowing unelected State Government officials, plan & promote extravagant schemes, that are not in the public interest.
- (3) I have noted that the patronage of the Art Gallery of NSW, has declined over the last 10 years... I suggest that the world is changing... and that more citizens are using the "internet of things" to discover & explore, things that were once only available in art galleries & museums... this is a global phenomenon.
- (4) An alternative site for the Art Gallery's extension, should be considered... perhaps the Olympic stadium should be considered, if the NSW Government really believes that we need more space to exhibit art.

Very Best Regards

Walter Wedderburn



13 November 2017

Our Ref: SSD 6471

Mr W W Wedderburn
407/6E Cowper Wharf Rdwy,
WOOLLOOMOOLOO NSW 2011

Dear Owner/Occupier

Notice of Exhibition
Art Gallery of NSW Expansion Project – Sydney Modern (SSD 6471)

Art Gallery of NSW Trust has submitted a Development Application for the Art Gallery of NSW Expansion Project, located at Art Gallery Road, Sydney in the City of Sydney Council local government area. You are being notified as you have been identified as a neighbouring landowner/occupier.

The application is seeking approval for a major expansion to the Art Gallery of NSW, Art Gallery Road, Sydney. The works include:

- site clearing/ demolition, tree removal, excavation, site earthworks and remediation works;
- construction of a new separate building over five levels (known as the 'Sydney Modern') to the north-east of the existing gallery incorporating the adaptive re-use of the former navy fuel bunker adjacent to Lincoln Crescent and contains:
 - new public plaza and canopy structure
 - entry pavilion
 - art gallery spaces
 - shop and café
 - back of house, multipurpose and education spaces
 - service areas and new loading dock accessed via Lincoln Crescent
 - outdoor terraces and green roofs.
- Landscaping, tree planting and public domain works including new plaza within forecourt of existing gallery building and new viewing and cultural plazas on western side of Art Gallery Road;
- Upgrade works to Art Gallery Road including new bus, coach and taxi parking and visitor drop off area;
- Upgrade works to Mrs Macquaries Road, Lincoln Crescent and Cowper Wharf Road; and
- Installation of an ancillary sea water exchange system adjacent to and within Woolloomooloo Bay.

The SSD Application, Environmental Impact Statement and accompanying documents will be on public exhibition from **Thursday 16 November 2017** until **Friday 15 December 2017**. These documents may be viewed on the department's website (www.planning.nsw.gov.au/sydneymodern).

If you wish to make a submission on the proposal you should read the submissions section overleaf. Submissions must reach the Department by close of business **on Friday 15 December 2017**.

Details on where to view the EIS during the exhibition period are also overleaf.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Sargent
Team Leader
Key Sites Assessments

Andy Nixey

From: Shane Oxenham <shaneoxenham@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, 15 December 2017 1:02 PM
To: Andy Nixey
Subject: Art Gallery NSW extension - objection

Dear Madam/ Sir,

As a resident of Woolloomooloo wharf, fourth floor apartment, 6 Cowper Wharf Road, I wish to raise the following objections to the construction, as proposed to the Art Gallery of NSW's extension.

I am very so disappointed about the visual impact Sydney Modern will have upon the area. I wish to raise the following issues.

As a preliminary matter, I take this opportunity of thanking the Department for allowing us to present our opinions. I do hope the Department is not simply going through the motions, but will take these submissions into account in determining the DA proposed.

I have the following concerns:

1. The building is too prominent when viewed from Woolloomooloo Wharf , and from adjacent areas of Kings Cross and Garden Island.
2. The building is greedy in its attempt to capture major views through large expanses of glass which are undisguised hard surfaces and will reflect poorly against the gallery's other windows; these deep-set in to the sandstone facades.
3. The colour of the building is stark white, probably representing the architects' attempt to reflect their building as a modest lightweight construction. This is simply not appropriate for a series of pavilion facades which cascade down a significant and important Sydney site.
4. It would be far more appropriate that the elements of the building that are so visually important are painted a more neutral colour which will not be so dominant in this location.
5. An inspection of the Sydney MCA premises, also constructed with a white exterior, will indicate how difficult it is to maintain this white exterior in pristine state. The current dirty rusty appearance of the MCA building, less than a decade after its construction, does not portend well for the proposed Gallery of NSW building's white facade.
6. Areas of the building are simply too stark, and the extremely limited and disappointing landscape plan is most underwhelming. A significant number of additional trees should be planted to further disguise the impact of this new building on its local environment.
7. Surely it is not too much to expect that at a time when Sydney is calling for denser landscaping vegetation, that the building can incorporate significant new plantings to disguise the bland stark nature of the proposed construction. Views, looking out from the proposed extension through a canopy of trees, would not only provide an

interesting experience for the gallery uses, but would do much to diminish the impact of the large "greedy" windows, which, when lit at night, will appear as stark harsh light wells.

8. For an art gallery to be the source of light pollution seems outdated and inappropriate. A gallery in an International city has no such warrant.

Therefore I respectfully suggest the following actions could be taken which would prove an advantage, not only to the building and its users, but to Sydneysiders generally:

- Colours – more neutral so designed to blend in with and complement the existing Gallery building and its surrounding landscape.
- Gardens – extensive planting around the building.
- Rooftop gardens – used extensively, in a similar way to the adjacent Lincoln Crescent site.
- Green curtains – foliage to grow down the building, again to make it blend in, especially on sections of sheer facades and walls.
- Trees – trees to break up the visual impact of the proposed building, and importantly to disguise the source of light at night,
- Trees - relocation of existing mature trees where possible and planting of new mature trees.
- Noise barriers via foliage.

In summary, the building needs to have much more greenery, especially mature trees, and more subtle colours to make it blend into the current landscape. This gives the Gallery the opportunity to make the building a positive addition to enhance the area. The current plan has, in my opinion, an extremely disappointing impact.

The proposed extension is rather underwhelming in nature and does not suit the magnificent site on which is located. The building, as proposed, as a temporary look, particularly in the absence of landscaping as proposed in this submission.

It is a rather disappointing resolution of a city need which smacks of a temporary nature reflecting the worst examples of Darling Harbour construction.

The easy option of building over existing green space has obviously been taken. Surely it would have been possible, with greater wit, to build in a manner that would disguise the existing gaping wound that the Eastern distributor makes through the Domain and towards Woolloomooloo.

We can do better, and so can the architects briefed by the Gallery.

Yours sincerely,

Shane Oxenham

Sent from my iPhone

15 December 2017

Attention: Andy Nixey
Planner
Department of Planning
Andy.Nixey@planning.nsw.gov.au

Sydney Modern, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

The Sydney Modern, Art Gallery of NSW expansion project aims to deliver additional, flexible exhibition space for the gallery's extensive collection and for international exhibitions that the current gallery cannot accommodate. This is vital to the state's position as a leader in the arts and to further develop Sydney's cultural life.

While there is widespread community agreement that the art gallery needs to be expanded to ensure that it can reach its full potential as an international arts institution, there is some division in the community over the location of the proposed development. The resultant loss of green open space would come at a time when space for recreation and green grasslands are being rapidly diminished and population projections show demand for such space escalating, particularly from apartment dwellers where residents have no private open green space.

It is the responsibility of the Department of Planning and Environment to ensure that this project proceeds only if it is in the best interest of the state and its residents and with conditions of consent that minimise impacts: **central to the final planning determination is whether the proposal represents an acceptable loss to open space.**

Green Open Space

The proposed development is located in an environmentally sensitive area within and adjacent to the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Domain, sitting over what is currently public green open space.

The gardens and the Domain play a vital role in providing open space, green grass and trees at the fringe of the central business district to inner city residents and workers, as well as visitors from the wider metropolitan area, interstate and overseas. People are increasingly living with little to no private open space and rely on public parks like the gardens and the Domain for passive recreation.

Unfortunately, government projects continue to destroy green open space: recently we have lost much from light rail, the Tibby Cotter Bridge and the WestConnex motorway. Loss of recurrent funding to open space means that park administrators are often required to fence-off parklands for ticketed events, alienating them from public use.

Descriptions in the environmental impact statement that describe the land as "underutilised and disturbed" ignore the potential of the site to contribute to future open space needs: grassed land above existing structures is still useful for passive recreation including picnics, sunbathing and walking. Statements that the proposal is consistent with the *Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain*

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Trust Act 1980 objects because the project would encourage the use of the land, increase the educational, historical, cultural and recreational value of the land, and disseminate knowledge of plant life of Australia through significant soft landscaping have little merit.

The objects of the act have at their core the protection and promotion of publicly accessible grasslands and vegetation, and encouraging visits to undeveloped land for recreation. The educational and recreational values of the land, and knowledge of plant life are clearly best achieved through maintaining land as green open recreational space. This land is at the centre of Sydney and open space lost will never be replaced.

Of great concern is that no compensation for the loss of green open space is proposed because of qualitative improvements to "biodiversity", "pedestrian access" and "quality of landscape spaces and embellishments". The proposed development will reduce biodiversity, grassed spaces and tree canopy with a net loss of landscaped spaces. ***Compensation that results in the provision of new green open space should be a condition of consent for this project.***

I share the community view that there must be no permanent transfer of land currently under the control of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust to the Art Gallery of NSW for this project. Control of the land should be retained under the trust.

Entry Plaza

The Entry Plaza proposes a 1,495 square metre hard surfaced outdoor area under cover for shade and in some areas to protect from rain. Materials to be used are glass and aluminium. It is adjacent to Art Gallery Road with only a small 5.7-metre setback and sits close to the existing classical Art Gallery of NSW building. I am concerned that the design drawings in the environmental impact statement fail to properly depict how big the structure would be.

There is community concern that the proposed Entry Plaza is too large and not sympathetic to its environmentally sensitive surrounds. Outdoor undercover hard surfaces are not appropriate for this heritage garden setting. It will be responsible for the loss of open space, trees and opportunities to plant more trees and vegetation. The proposed Entry Plaza interferes with eastern vistas that would be opened up if it were removed. The proposed Entry Plaza is visually intrusive, particularly from Art Gallery Road when heading north.

There are assessments that the Entry Plaza will likely be windy and this will result in future proposals to enclose it completely from the outdoors.

The biggest reason for objections to the proposed Sydney Modern project is the removal of essential public open space and any final approval should aim to maximise as much untouched grass areas as possible. The Entry Plaza is not an essential part of the proposal, it does not add to the aesthetics of the design and its function as a meeting place could be met if the area continued as landscaped green grassland without a roof, with the open space extended into the Art Garden. This would create a green entry to the building, making it more sensitive to its garden location, while reducing the loss of public green open space.

The Entry Plaza should be removed or at least reduced significantly.

Tree Loss

The project would result in the loss of 140 trees, seven of which are deemed "high retention value" and 91 of which are deemed "moderate retention value". The project proposes to plant 260 new trees to compensate for this.

There is a great deal of concern in the community about the loss of trees, especially when trees provide rare and significant canopy in the inner city. Trees provide shade, encourage bird life, filter pollution from the air and are visually attractive. The loss of such a large number of mature trees

will have a serious impact on the amenity and beauty of the gardens. It should be recognised that it will take many years for regrowth to again achieve tree canopy, habitat and a local ecosystem. I share a widespread community view that there should be a net gain in *tree canopy* as well as tree numbers as a result of the project. This would help achieve the aims of the NSW Government's draft Greener Places policy and help prevent additional heat sink effects that are expected to cause significant increases in heatwave conditions in Sydney in the future.

Where high and medium value trees are removed, mature trees should be replanted in their place as a condition of consent. The project should also result in a net gain in tree canopy.

Building Design

There is community support for the winning SANAA design which is aesthetically sensitive to its surrounds with low level pavilion forms that step down with the topography. Importantly, the proposed development does not turn its back on any area. The proposal also involves good sustainability measures including solar photovoltaic panels and rainwater tanks.

There is community concern that the greening of the terraced roofs could be expanded. Plans show minimal vegetation with most of the terraced roofs concrete. ***Soft landscaping should dominate the roofs to fit in with the garden setting, protect vistas and reduce impacts from the loss of green open space.***

Art Garden

The Art Garden is an excellent addition to the proposal that has widespread support. It would retain green open space and provide welcome opportunities for public art. There is concern about the proposed hard surfaced area identified in the plans adjacent to the existing gallery building. The purpose and need for such a hard surface is not clear as sculptures could sit easily on grass.

I share the community view that hard surfaces should be minimised to allow for more grass and soft landscaping.

Woolloomooloo Lift

I strongly welcome the proposal for a pedestrian lift linking Woolloomooloo to the gallery and the Domain and gardens. While Woolloomooloo is geographically adjacent to the precinct, the existing stairs are a challenge for many residents, especially elderly and frail residents including those who live in public housing in the region. Visitors to the gallery and the Domain and gardens will also be able to better access the local Woolloomooloo art galleries and food and beverage services.

This link would be a positive contribution to pedestrian access between Kings Cross and the CBD, which the City of Sydney's wayfinding research identified as important. The lift should be designed to allow use with bicycles and motorised scooters.

Lincoln Crescent

An expected 95 vehicle movements are expected to be generated from the operations of the new proposed gallery between 3am and midnight each day, with additional movements during exhibition changeover including 2 to 10 trucks per day for one to two days before and after a changeover along Lincoln Crescent to access the loading dock.

This timeframe includes times when most adjacent residents sleep; they are timeframes usually excluded from heavy vehicle deliveries during approved construction and development. Conditions of consent should impose limits on the use of operational truck movements between late night and early morning hours to protect local residents; truck movements should only be permitted when it is absolutely necessary with a ban on reverse beepers at certain times. Unloading should be restricted to inside the loading dock with closed doors to reduce intrusive noise impacts.

Proposed construction would allow for deliveries of heavy machinery outside peak hours and standard construction hours. Where this occurs, affected residents must be notified in advance and conditions of consent must require acoustic protections and ensure that its frequency allows residents respite.

The Sydney Modern Project proposes a good outcome for the Art Gallery of NSW with a state-of-the-art building and new modernised, flexible exhibition space. The resultant loss of green open space however has serious negative impacts on Sydney's recreation needs and it is important that the two are properly weighed up to ensure the final determination reflects the best public outcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'AG', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney



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4C/55 Darling Point Road
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8 December 2017

Department of Planning and Environment
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Sydney NSW 2001

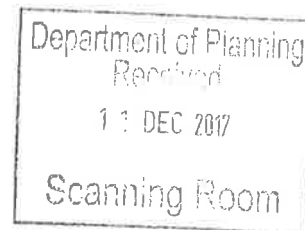
Dear Sirs,

Re: DA SSD 6471, Sydney Modern, Art Gallery of NSW

Attached is my personal submission objecting to the above Development Application.
I have made no reportable political donations and I agree with the Department's
conditions concerning privacy, publication and so on.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Peter Valder OAM PhD(Cantab) MAIH
Senior Lecturer (retired), School of Biological Sciences,
University of Sydney



DR PETER VALDER'S SUBMISSION OBJECTING TO DA SSD 6471, SYDNEY MODERN, ART GALLERY OF NSW

With its unrivalled situation, the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain form an oasis of green abutting the city centre and, together with the city skyline, the Opera House and the Harbour Bridge, form an integral part of a stunning visual composition. No wonder then that the Gardens and Domain are among the most visited areas in the country. Occupying what remains of the area originally set aside by Governor Phillip in 1788, they are among Sydney's greatest treasures and their history has ensured that they comprise an invaluable part of our heritage. Not only this but, immediately adjacent to downtown Sydney, their value as open space and public amenity is inestimable. However, from the earliest times, they have been subjected to various alienations of territory and unwelcome incursions. Notable amongst these during my lifetime have been the construction of the Cahill Expressway, an earlier extension to the Art Gallery and the enlargement of the Conservatorium.

In the light of all this it is outrageous that the Art Gallery should be planning to take over a further large area of the Domain for its Sydney Modern Project. If the Gallery genuinely requires space to expand for the purposes it claims and, should it be decided that the provision of a building to accommodate a development of the Sydney Modern type is of sufficient importance, it should certainly not be permitted on the proposed site but constructed elsewhere in the city, perhaps in the west where there are as yet no major public galleries. It is hoped that, for once, the welfare of the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain will be recognized as having precedence over the plans of the Art Gallery. In this regard I would like to draw attention to the shabby treatment meted out to the Gardens and Domain at the time of previous claims on their territory. For example, when the previous extension to the Gallery was proposed it was indicated that its new lecture theatre would be made available to the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust with access via a separate external entrance. Likewise in the case of the Conservatorium extensions there was to be a large exhibition and conference space made available to the Gardens. Neither of these "promises" was fulfilled and the Gardens remains without a fully satisfactory visitor centre, lecture theatre or function space.

As I see it, the Environmental Impact Statement fails to draw adequate attention to the unsatisfactory effects the development would have on the Botanic Garden and Domain. For a start, although the planting of new trees is proposed, a large number of those at present existing would be removed, including those which would not be replaced but which occupy strategic positions from a visual point of view. For example, it is proposed to remove those opposite the Woolloomooloo Gates on Mrs Macquaries Road to make way for the new building. Mrs Macquaries Road provides the principal vehicular access to the Garden and Domain and not only would the proposed development result in disruption during what would be an extensive construction period but there would be expected to be greatly increased traffic to an already congested area subsequently. All in all the proposed development would be an unwelcome intrusion on to the Gardens and Domain land when, as I believe, an alternative site could be found elsewhere.