

Andy Nixey

From: Tom Dixon <t.dixon@statechambers.net>
Sent: Saturday, 18 August 2018 3:33 PM
To: Andy Nixey
Subject: HPE CM: SSD 6471 - Sydney Modern, Art Gallery of NSW, Sydney

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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The Art Gallery's response to the public submissions that challenge the loss of amenity and the loss of public access through the Domain is as follows:

"The new SMP Lincoln Crescent lift will primarily be operational at the times the Gallery is open to limit safety and security issues that would be associated with its after-hours use. Current and proposed Gallery opening hours are 10:00am to 5:00pm daily (except Christmas Day and Good Friday), and until 10pm on Wednesdays. The Gallery is prepared to extend these operational hours for the lift from 8:00am to 6:00pm daily to serve commuters through the Domain, and until 10:00pm on Wednesday evenings to coincide with their late-night art viewing. Any need for an after-hours accessible path of travel from/to Lincoln Crescent across the site would be facilitated via the existing Wharf Terraces Apartments lift."

This submission fails to deal with the issues raised, and I remain strongly oppose the proposed extension.

The planned extension will not only destroy, in my view, the amenity of the parkland areas in the Domain and adjacent to the Botanic Gardens, but interrupt a major thoroughfare from Potts Point / Woolloomooloo into the City.

The Art Gallery's response is to continue to do away with the stairs from Lincoln Crescent to the Domain, and to install a lift – which is to only operate when the AG is open from 8am. Many people use the stairs to get to work well before 8am each day, and get home at night well after the Art Gallery closes.

Otherwise it is submitted by the Art Gallery people are to use the (very small) Wharf Terraces lift. That lift is used by residents of Wharf Terraces and the Finger Wharf to access the car park below. It is not made for high traffic. It is certainly not a lift which should end up in the state of disrepair from overuse as is the lift on Bourke Street which is used to access the overpass to the south end of the Art Gallery. It is a very poor substitute for the stairs which can handle the very high volume of traffic that a lift cannot.

I have lived and taken this route to work daily for 15 years, and I witness hundreds or thousands of people doing the same each day (Potts Point is one of the highest population density suburbs in NSW). I have seen no data confirming how many people the interruption would affect, or the economic effects on the costs of delaying people's progress to work. This is a major concern.

Finally, being a very frequent visitor to the Art Gallery, I query the need for this. It is a beautiful building in a beautiful setting as it is. I do not think one can see the entirety of the works in a single visit as it is. If there are more works that need to be shown, another site would be far more appropriate to house those works. It has never been bursting at the seams in any of my frequent visits.

This application should be rejected *in toto*.

Regards

Thomas J Dixon

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[I consent to this submission being made public]