

For the attention of the General Manager / Planning Manager / Planning Department

Application	SSD 16_7874
Address	Darling Drive, Sydney, NSW
Description	Harbourside - Staged Development Application (Concept Proposal) for a new retail shopping centre, residential apartment tower and public domain improvements.
Name of commenter	donald denoon
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Comment

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12 February 2017

Ms Michele Nettlefold,
Department of Planning & Environment,
Level 22, 320 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY NSW 200

Dear Ms Nettlefold,

Thank you for encouraging the community to comment on:
Concept Proposal – Cockle Bay Wharf Redevelopment.

Like many residents in Pyrmont and Ultimo, I have engaged in many “community consultations” and discussions of development and redevelopment projects over recent decades. So far, there is no sign that community views have any impact, since projects are far advanced before the community is consulted. You may think of this as consultation: we experience it as information sessions.

But I state these views in case anyone reads these submissions, and for the benefit of social historians of the future who wonder what happened to Sydney in the 21st Century.

First, while this proposal makes good sense to the developer, and to State revenue, it ignores social needs, the social infrastructure deficit, and parallel development proposals by other agencies in the Inner West (not to mention The Star). I hoped that the Greater Sydney Commission’s emphasis on inter-agency coordination, town planning, and community

consultation might have had some influence on this and similar proposals, but apparently this has not yet occurred. Is it too much to ask that – even though you ignore the people - you consult the Departments of Education, Health and Transport before imposing this ill-considered proposal on the communities affected?

Second, even without such consultation, it is clear that the proposal involves gross overdevelopment in terms of bulk and height, transforming Darling Harbour into a series of cliffs which overshadow neighbouring buildings, obscure such social facilities as survive, and transform the Harbour into a pond which is often covered by plastic boats.

In brief, this proposal assumes either that nobody lives in Pyrmont or Ultimo, or that we have no social needs, or that we do not mind the new barriers between us and the CBD.

Yours more in sorrow than in anger,

Donald Denoon

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