

SSD 5752. Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Precinct - Redevelopment of convention centre, exhibition centre, entertainment facilities and associated public domain works

Submission by:

Alan Sauran and Suzanne Aubrun

Unit 2202 The Peak

2 Quay St

Haymarket NSW 2000

22 April 2013

We object to the application on the grounds of conflict with SSD 5878 Sydney International Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Centre Precinct - Mixed use Development in the Southern Haymarket Precinct (Concept Proposal).

(a) Expansion of the Exhibition Centre at ground level is prevented

The proposed new Exhibition Centre building in SSD 5752 is multi-level. That is inefficient and inconvenient. If the Exhibition Centre expansion is not at ground level, Sydney's facilities will remain inadequate. The land on which the Entertainment Car Park stands is required in order to enable expansion of the Exhibition Centre at ground level. But SSD5878 proposes redeveloping the Entertainment Car Park as a residential area.

(b) Reduction in capacity of CBD music venue

The existing Entertainment Centre has a capacity of 12,000. SSD 5878 proposes to demolish it.

The new theatre in SSD 5752 will have a capacity of 8,000.

There is debate about which venue has the better sight-lines.

No evidence has been presented to suggest that the usable capacity will increase.

The CEO of the relevant industry association, Live Performance Australia, the peak body of the entertainment industry, was quoted in the Sydney Morning Herald of 17 December 2012 as saying that every major Australian capital city except Brisbane had a major music venue located in the central business district and that "If this is the design that has got to take the city through the next 10, 15, 20 years, then it just doesn't make sense to reduce your capacity in a city that's quite rapidly growing," she said of the proposal for Sydney. "I think it's a missed opportunity."

If it is not possible to build an expanded theatre in SSD 5752, then the existing facility should be retained and refurbished.