

## **The disaster of the decade**

Whether you like Darling Harbour or not, the current buildings are low rise, generally converse with the environment and provide open sunny recreational space.

The new concept gives us unimaginative overpowering blocks with no appeal and will create a cold dark space for half the year.

What a waste of the one in a lifetime opportunity.

To quote Elizabeth Farrelly:

*“As if that weren't private-sucking-of-public-realm enough, consider Darling Harbour, where billions of public dollars and land are deployed to repeat past errors.*

*They say it's essential to Sydney's future, but so little changes. Three massive buildings - convention, exhibition, entertainment - will replace convention, exhibition, entertainment. There's an extra hotel at the north and some student housing at the south where, at least, streets are extended. Otherwise, same.*

*The net gains, across a 50,000 square metre development, are a bigger banquet space and a 20 per cent increase in exhibition. Otherwise, same size, same parvenu aesthetic, same blasted public realm, same cold-shoulder to Ultimo, same disdain for public space.*

*I'm no Darling Harbour fan but honestly, why break so many eggs just to make the same old omelette?”*