

Pymont Community Group

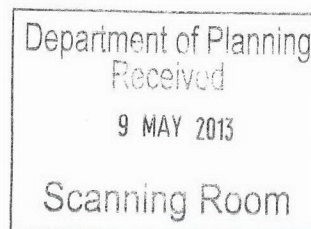
working for a better environment

Mr Sam Haddad
Director General
Department of Planning and Infrastructure
P.O. Box 39
Sydney 2000
29.4.2013



ATTN: MATTHEW ROSCI.

Dear Mr Haddad,



Darling Harbour Live Redevelopment.

Without the Strategic Plan for the Bays Precinct it is difficult to respond to this DA in isolation. We do not know where the infrastructure and public amenities such as the urgently needed primary schools and child care facilities will be accommodated. However DHL is to be constructed on public land and we do need to have an overview as to how its development will service the needs of the growing population of Sydney.

The census figures show that the assumptions around Pymont/Ultimo (Sue Haliday of DOP stated: *"There will be no children in Pymont or Ultimo"*) were wrong and times have changed – families do live in apartments and the infrastructure must accommodate their needs.

Central park, Harold Park, Darling Harbour Live, and many other DAs are in the pipeline and we need to know that a strategic plan is in place to cater for the communities who will live in them.

Developer profits will not be enough to "reboot the NSW economy", if there is no social, health and educational infrastructure to support it.

We have attended a number of community consultations and would like to support the concerns and recommendations raised by Pymont Action in their excellent submission dated 20.4.2013 re parking, traffic, public transport, the cycling network, linkages to Pymont and Ultimo, signage, the Chinese gardens, health and aged care, accommodation mix, and landscaping. We will not repeat the above points raised in their submission so please note they are supported.

Consultation Process

At the second consultation process on 12.3.2013 the community met to discuss the infrastructure needs raised at the previous meeting, the outcome of which they understood had been communicated to Council and Lend Lease.

We expected to discuss the options and siting of the proposed facilities, including:

- Two open air basketball courts. The existing courts at Darling Harbour were destroyed when Sega World was constructed and the then Government promised they would be restored. DHL would be an ideal place to restore them or Bank Street, also zoned open space, but under threat from redevelopment to find a home for the Heritage Fleet which is being squeezed out of Rozelle Bay.
- An all-weather space adjacent to the playground area where children could meet and engage in cultural activities. Bringing local children and visitors together and fostering community values.
- A childcare centre – preferred at the Pymont end but we were informed that was not negotiable.
- The removal of the concrete paths from Tumbalong Park enabling a more flexible use of the open space for impromptu sports, cricket/ball games etc. There are many organic-based products on the market which may be employed to define desired lines, rather than the use of concrete.
- A site for the proposed relocation of the City Library into the complex. The proposed floor area and number and function of meeting rooms.

Unfortunately the plans the landscape designer Angus Bruce brought to the meeting did not show or reflect the changes and additions discussed and it was clear he had not been briefed as to the previous discussions.

This is a classic example of the community going to a consultation – or even several consultations – in good faith, spending many hours discussing options, yet finally viewing a plan which reflects few if any of these options.

It is this kind of flawed consultation which has engendered a jaded view of the planning process in the eyes of the communities affected.

Recommendation

It is essential that communication between Government, developers, and the community be upgraded in order that we can take a clear message back to our communities, and that all adjacent and proposed sites be evaluated as to the impacts on each other in order that ad hoc planning may cease and proper strategic plans be developed for the CBD, and the Bays Precinct.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Stewart President Pyrmont
Community Group.