

Application No: MP07_0158 MOD 4
Abercrombie Street Precinct University of Sydney

Date: 19th May 2014

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I object to Application No: MP07_0158 MOD 4 Abercrombie Street Precinct University of Sydney.

Originally, the University of Sydney informed residents that Stage 1 of the Abercrombie Precinct Development (APD) was only to consist of the Business School. Construction of Stage 1 started at the beginning of 2013 and it was to be completed and ready for operation by February 2015. The University of Sydney has belatedly included the Student Accommodation Building (Stage 2) in the project but despite the vastly increased scope the deadline has not been changed.

Extending construction hours to midnight on school nights and until 10pm on Saturdays to meet an unrealistic deadline will greatly impact on the amenity of local residents and should not be allowed.

It is unreasonable and unfair for the residents of Darlington living in the vicinity of the APD to suffer negative impacts upon their quality of life to satisfy the timetable set by the University.

If permitted, there will be light and lots of noise generated from the site during the extended hours. The noise will be much greater than the regular background noise in the neighbourhood. It is unfair and unreasonable for the University to propose to generate such an increase in noise and traffic in the neighbourhood during the proposed extended hours. The extended construction hours should not be allowed.

Workers coming into the area to work in the requested extended hours would greatly increase the noise whether by their voices, laughter, car doors opening and closing, extra traffic causing disruption to local residents during the nights, let alone by the work they will be doing. Any noise at these times is always amplified and echoes throughout the neighbourhood. Residents near to the APD have already experienced this a number of times when work has been done on at the site in the middle of the night.

The extended times proposed are the only quiet times for all Darlington residents, which include families, children, the elderly and students. Any extension to the current hours of operation will have detrimental effects on the residents of Darlington.

It is imperative that workers, schoolchildren, students and the elderly do not have their sleep, peace and quiet disturbed. The health of people in the community is most important. It is unfair and unreasonable for the University to propose to generate even further noise and traffic in our neighbourhood, especially during these hours.

John Holland P/L has submitted an Acoustic Report on the Out of Hours Construction prepared by Marshall Day Acoustics. It is astonishing for residents of Abercrombie Street who live across the road from and therefore in very close proximity to the site to discover that they have not been acknowledged as "Noise Affected Receivers" in this Report and have therefore been excluded from the assessment.

It beggars belief to think that residents of Abercrombie Street will not be affected by the increased hours if permitted. We have already been affected by noise from work on the site which has gone on outside of scheduled hours. John Holland P/L did not think to inform us about this work. It is likely that they will again disregard the extended hours and conditions if they so desire. It seems that John Holland P/L is showing the same lack of regard for local residents as the University of Sydney.

John Holland P/L have said that the work they will be undertaking during the extended hours will consist of floor lining and carpet laying; plastering; tiling; joinery installation; services fit out including electrical and communications wiring; and painting. These jobs and the equipment used to facilitate them make noise. It is unfair and unreasonable for the University to propose to generate this noise in our neighbourhood during these hours.

Currently, there is a lot of other construction going on in and around the suburb of Darlington as well as the Abercrombie Precinct Development: the North Eveleigh development, Urbanest on City Road, and the Abercrombie Street Upgrade. These developments are also bringing in heavy traffic and causing a lot of disruption to local residents by way of noise and pollution at all hours of the day. It is unfair and unreasonable for the University to propose to generate even further noise and traffic in our neighbourhood, especially during these hours.

As an affected local resident, I hope that the Department will take the objections I have raised into consideration and will not permit the extension of the construction hours.

Yours faithfully,

Your name

STEVEN REES

