

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> 19 October 2019

**ATTENTION: DIRECTOR – KEY SITES ASSESSMENTS**

Planning and Assessment

Department of Planning, Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Director,

**OBJECTION**

**State Significant Development Application No: SSD-10300**

**Coffs Harbour Cultural and Civic Space**

**I object to the Development Application and request that a Public Hearing be held.**

The reasons for my objection are as follows:

1. The original public proposal included Performing Arts space and did not include Council offices.
2. There has been no meaningful community engagement for the inclusion of Council Chambers.
3. Council has restricted its invited consultation to special interest groups.
4. 14,768 residents have signed a community petition calling the project to be suspended, which has been ignored by Council.
5. The development is contrary to public interests with the cumulative impacts not sufficiently considered in terms of the "growth contingency" of the existing build that factored in future Council needs, engineering and building for additional floors. Save for a preference for new offices, there is no legitimate argument for not renovating the current Council building.
6. Since 2000 (19 years) Council has charged CBD Special Rates to "revitalise" the precinct yet it continues to struggle. The proposed building negates two decades of artificial support by the addition of significant vacant office space when current Chambers are vacated.
7. Setting aside the necessary sale of four public buildings to lower debt, Council will still burden current and future residents with repayments of \$66million over 30 years, plus maintenance costs for a building that will not produce income. This is an example of improper and imprudent financial management.

**Other issues:**

- 8 Potential rate increases in the future being imposed on a large pensioners community
- 9 Increased traffic in both Gordon & Harbour Drive - already traffic jams in Harbour Drive

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- 10 Parking in and around CBD is difficult at times for both workers and customers of local business. This will further exacerbate the problem.
- 11 Building this complex on City Hill & the sale of all but the Council offices would substantially reduce council losses.