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SYDNEY FISH MARKET DEVELOPMENT.

As a resident of over 30 years, and a frequent visitor to the current Fish Market, I submit that the current proposal should be rejected because it:

- is wrongly sited,
- imposes a dominating and glitzy structure that blocks the connectivity of Wentworth Park open space with Blackwattle Bay, and
- obliterates an invaluable opportunity to create a people friendly, functional open green space corridor that respects the historical links of place and connections between adjoining and now increasingly developed areas of Glebe, Ultimo and Pyrmont.

The history and ongoing significance of the Fish Market warrant it being regarded as of state significance, but this should not be such as to curtail community and Council involvement in its planning and development.

I support Improvements to the Fish Market site and recognise these as long overdue. In accordance with its role in the life of NSW, it is appropriate that the NSW State Government makes a substantial contribution to achieving an outcome that is sustainable, functional, efficient and in keeping with its current location. At the same time, the public purse should not be used to foster trendy commercial developments contrary to long term community and user interests.

The currently proposed site encompasses what at the time of early colonisation was the swampy outlet of a bushy creek – commemorated today in the name of Wattle Street. A remanent feature, the old Coal Loader ruin, is a reminder of a previous historical era, with the current busy Bridge Road replacing what was once a foot-track connecting the present-day Annandale and Glebe with Ultimo, Pyrmont and beyond towards central Sydney. A truly imaginative approach to the Fish Market re-development should respect this accumulated past, drawing on examples such as the innovative coastal open space developments in Birchgrove and Balls Head.

The current development proposal risks over-catering for retail tourist interests at the expense of a functional wholesale and local retail entity, and in doing so risks loss of character while imposing a costly visual eyesore and traffic hazard. Dependency on tourism into the future for financial viability also has to be evaluated in the face of a probable decline in growth of international tourism in the longer term.

I sincerely hope that the lack of wisdom inherent in this current development is understood and allows a re-think before it is too late.

Despite the challenge of upgrading the Fish Market on its current site, this would be far preferable to imposing an intrusive structure along the Blackwattle Bay foreshore adjacent to Pyrmont Bridge Road once the cement works finally close down and the ugly and ill-kempt temporary boating facilities are moved elsewhere.