

13 September 2018



Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

MPO8_0098 – Modification – The Star Casino

Dear Sir,

I am writing as the CEO of Foundation Theatres, the owner and operator of the Sydney Lyric Theatre. Our company has operated in the Pyrmont and surrounding area for over 10 years.

As a theatre operator, we are acutely aware of the infrastructure and support that makes a theatre and its precinct thrive. For some time we have been of the strong view that an additional hotel offering in the immediate Sydney Lyric precinct would be a great benefit to the Pyrmont visitor ecology. We attract first class theatrical productions from Broadway and the West End to play at the Sydney Lyric which appeal to local, national and international visitors to the area. Many visitors seek great accommodation options close to the theatre, and many of those options are currently at capacity. Sydney is crying out for new destinational developments of this kind with hotels, theatre, entertainment & dining options all in a single complex that serves a broad array of offerings.

We are very excited about the return of The Ritz-Carlton brand to Sydney and in particular to The Star. A hotel of this caliber and capability is ideal for the area and is a once in a generation opportunity to deliver a great hotel to the mix here in Pyrmont. Having worked closely with The Star for almost eight years, we appreciate the importance of this hotel project to the development of the complex and its surrounds. In 2017 our theatre underwent an \$18.2m upgrade which has transformed it into one of the most highly sought after theatres in Australia to producers and presenters. The combination of the upgraded theatre, the new Ritz Carlton and the vision of The Star for the precinct is a potent and powerful mix for us.

Apart from the return of The Ritz-Carlton to Sydney, the plans that have been submitted by The Star will do much to enhance the transformation of The Star. We fully support this next stage of what will be an exciting and major rebuild over the next four years if these plans are approved.

While the focus has been on The Ritz-Carlton tower which we think is a major enhancement on the Sydney skyline, the addition of new restaurants, cafes and bars, a new Sky Terrace as well as premium hotel facilities will do much to transform The Star and enhance the visitor experience to the Sydney Lyric Theatre and wider complex.

From an economic perspective the development supports more jobs and it will provide greater opportunities for our patrons to meet, engage & dine both before and after performances. Increasing international tourism and visitation must be accommodated with developments of this kind, ensuring that Sydney, a Global City has the supply to meet demand. This project provides a magnificent opportunity for everyone involved – the state government, our industry, Sydney and the local community.

We support this development and look forward to its completion.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Graeme Kearns".

Graeme Kearns
Chief Executive Officer