



24 September 2018

Department of Planning and Environment
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

Attn: Matthew Rosel

Dear Sir

Re: MP08_0098 – Modification 13 – Construction of a new hotel and residential tower and alterations to existing building

I write on behalf of the Pymont-Ultimo Chamber of Commerce. We represent almost 100 member businesses that operate in the Pymont- Ultimo area. The Star is one of our members and is very supportive of our activities and other local organisations in the area. The Star is the principal partner of our Pymont Festival as well as Christmas in Pymont which is run by local volunteers. The Star supports the local Anzac Day ceremony, Mustardseed Uniting Church's Nativity Play and a number of other local events.

The Chamber is very supportive of the Star's proposal to build a new Ritz-Carlton Hotel tower as well as new restaurants , cafes and other outlets as set out in the Development Application.

Put Pymont on the map

Pymont has changed over the past 30 years, and this new tower is the next phase in the evolution of the area. The new tower will be an icon, a beacon for tourists and locals, something that we can be proud of. Great cities have iconic buildings like this. They attract tourists and become landmarks. This building will define Pymont.

With other developments already happening at Barangaroo and Darling Harbour, and the new Sydney Fish Market being planned, we need to make sure we remain a part of this exciting emerging Western Harbour precinct.

The Ritz-Carlton is a well-known and respected brand that we would welcome to Pyrmont. While there are other hotels in the area, the introduction of this luxury brand will raise the overall standard of accommodation.

Support our local community

As I have already indicated, The Star has been a good neighbour, contributing to our local community by supporting local activities and groups. The hotel is a significant investment in the local area, will bring new jobs to the area, and potentially offer job and training opportunities for our young people. It will also benefit the many small businesses that are members of our Chamber. The hotel will bring more tourists to the area, who will spend in the surrounding area – where there are at least a thousand businesses including many restaurants and bars.

We are also excited about the proposed neighbourhood centre which is supported by many in the community. The proposal includes a new four-level neighbourhood centre with tech hub, library, community space and function centre – these are facilities that are currently lacking in our area. With all the recent growth in Pyrmont and surrounding suburbs, the only community centre in the area, the Pyrmont Community Centre, is at capacity and often booked out. This new community facility will support the needs of our growing community.

I am very pleased to see that The Star is proposing that the new centre be jointly managed by it and a neighbourhood advisory committee. The Star team seems to be genuine in its commitment to work with the community on this plan.

Upgraded light rail interchange

The biggest challenge for Pyrmont area is connectivity with the CBD. The light rail interchange needs an upgrade, particularly since the opening of the new ICC and the increased patronage on the light rail. More and more people are travelling on the light rail for work and to visit the tourist hot spots, and a better light rail interchange will improve the experience and efficiency for everyone.

For these reasons alone, we believe the Star's proposal should be supported. We are aware that there are some who oppose the project for a number of reasons but these people are in a minority. Pyrmont can't stand still. It's important that Pyrmont keeps pace with the changes taking place in this part of the city and the Star's proposal is a step in the right direction.

Best Regards,



Rob McCourt
Co President
Pyrmont Ultimo Chamber of Commerce