Robert Wirth
14 Pyrmont St
Corner Jones Bay Rd
PYRMONT, NSW, 2009
AUSTRALIA
0448 897 175
wirthgraphics@gmail.com

9 October 2018

**ATT: Matthew Rosel** 

Department of Planning and Environment GPO Box 39 SYDNEY, NSW, 2001 02 8275 1323 matthew.rosel@planning.nsw.gov.au

Re: MP08\_0098 - MOD 13 - The Star City Casino, 20-80 Pyrmont Street, Pyrmont

Dear Sir,

I am not a member of any political party nor have I made any political donations.

I am a resident of Pyrmont and strongly object to the Star City Casino's proposal to build a 237m tower on the corner of Jones Bay Road and Pirrama Street.

I am the owner of one of a group of three heritage listed terraces neighboring Star City Casino on the corner of Pyrmont St and Jones Bay Rd. My home, since 1986, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont, will be adversely affected by the proposal to build a 237m tower. This tower directly behind my property will loom large and foreboding and block all my existing sunlight.

#### **LOSS OF SUNLIGHT**

The loss of sunlight caused by the 237m tower will have a seriously detrimental effect to my quality of life. I have very real concerns for not only my own but my neighbors mental, spiritual and physical health. This tower will see my garden and the trees in neighboring yards die off – there will be no direct sunlight – light is crucial to plant survival as well as the mental health of people.

We will not be losing partial sun but <u>all</u> our sunlight! [See photos attached]

#### **STAR CITY DISPLAY PANELS AUGUST 2018**



#### **SHARING WITH NEIGHBORS: SOLAR & VIEWS (?)**

This massive 237m tower has extremely detrimental impacts on sunlight and views throughout the precinct!

The tower will completely block the existing precious sunlight that enters my property from the east. My property as a result will not have any sunlight throughout the whole year. This will have a major negative impact on my quality of life. The lack of sunlight will also see my garden, as well as my neighbors, die off – sunlight is essential. (Sunlight is blocked in the north throughout the year by the adjoining large heritage listed warehouse No. 12 Pyrmont St – maintaining the eastern light is crucial.)

My home is dark throughout winter and autumn. The increasing light entering my property after winter is always joyfully anticipated and appreciated. The eastern sunlight begins to enter my property in spring when the sun is higher. The sunlight to my property is extended as the height of the sun increases through summer. Beautiful sunlight enters my property from the east as late as 2pm in the height of summer – this light which I receive in the spring and summer months makes up for the lack of it in autumn and winter.

In winter no direct sunlight enters my property from the east – as the sun being at a lower angle is blocked by the Star building at this time of year. This zone of the Star had a strict height restriction placed on it by the State Government to protect the amenity and quality of life of its neighboring residents in 1994. I would also like to mention that the expansive view I had of the city was blocked by the Star building – "nobody owns a view" I was told by planners.

Today in 2018, if this tower is approved, it will mean that no-one has a right to light and that the profits and concerns of major corporations far out way legality, government promises and human rights.

[See photos attached]



#### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (?)**

I am a direct neighbor to Star City Casino and at no time has the Star or anyone associated with this proposal attempted to contact me by mail, phone, flyer or email. I have never received notification from the Star as a neighbor (directly affected by the proposal) about its plans. I have had no engagement with anyone associated with this proposal.

It appears to me that the community involvement has been strategically organised to avoid its close neighbors and expediate the approval process. I first heard about the scheme for a tower building when it was reported on the television news around April/May this year – I was unclear about where on the site it was to be located. (I have been overseas from 16th June until 12th September 2018.)

On the 19th September 2018 while walking through Star City Casino I was shocked to find a model and display for the proposed tower. I had no idea that this scheme had progressed so quickly and that it had already been submitted to the Minister for Planning for approval. It was also extremely disappointing to see it was strategically submitted as a modification, included in a long list of items in small type (on the back of a formal letter from the Department of Planning & Environment) greatly reducing its visibility to the public.

I would like to know who the Star is engaging with in the community and why they have **not** contacted me or other close neighbors. I would also like to know what processes or systems they have in place to inform their neighbors and the broader the community of this major development.

#### **STAR CITY DISPLAY PANELS AUGUST 2018**



#### **DESIGN PRINCIPLES (?)**

This massive 237m tower on the elevated peninsular of Pyrmont has no connection to the area. The design has no regard for any building legislation or environmental planning principles in the area! It greatly exceeds any existing building heights and is completely out of scale – Pyrmont is a predominately residential area with light commercial zoning and is not a high rise area. It is not the CBD of Sydney!

It is unbelievable that this 237m tower with its 220 hotel rooms, 204 residential apartments and 204 car parking spaces is being submitted as a "modification". Star City has a long and exasperating history of wearing down residents with its countless modifications – the addition of "63" storeys as a modification is beyond belief!

The tower is a stand alone imposing monument to Star City Casino positioning itself against **Crown Casino** at **Barangaroo** in the CBD to compete for international high rollers. It is not being created to benefit the community. Locating a neighborhood centre in this tower is totally disingenuous!

A neighborhood centre in a Casino is not appropriate. It is a commercial enterprise and has no connection with the community. Star City is a stand alone insular enterprise – it is all about itself and its own operations confining its activities and clients within its own walls. Pyrmont has a great neighborhood centre located in a large and beautiful historic building in Mount St which I attend. Where is the community need, or desire, to move it coming from? As a resident of Pyrmont since 1986 I have never heard of this.

Star City has never been a well designed site. It is a mish mash of additions and finishes. This final incarnation appears as an "oversized gigantic vase" on top of a mess of poorly designed buildings – it is not "architecture". It is not considered – its been rushed through – it does not respond to the site where it sits, has no visual or historical connection. This is all big money and no integrity – it is not world class!

## DA APPROVED (MAY 2018) REAR OF 14 PYRMONT ST, PYRMONT

Architecture firm: Andrew Donaldson Architecture & Design (ADAD).

Architect: Andrew Donaldson

(Brief to maximise sunlight into terrace and improve amenity and privacy.)



1. PERSPECTIVE

	I			DATE		REVISION				Architecture 8	d Design	
	as	adjustable shelf	COMPLY WITH RELEVANT AUTHORITIES REQUIREMENTS	22.12.17		DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION		Registered Architect No	SW 8472			
cm clm dr extg fa	cm	dr drawer	COMPLY WITH THE BUILDING CODE OF AUSTRALIA	13.1.17 B		DA REVISED: CITY OF SYDNEY ADDITIONAL INFO REQUEST		0412 839 465 Po Box 623 Surry Hills NSW 2010 Australia				
	dr		COMPLY WITH ALL RELEVANT AUSTRALIAN STANDARDS	3.4.18	С			andrew@andrewdonaldson.com.au				
	extg fo		DIMENSIONS IN MILLIMETRES			DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REVISED		www.andrewdonaldson.com.au				
	fly	insect screen	USE FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY			-						
	fs al	fixed shelf	- DO NOT SCALE FROM DRAWING				SCALE @ A3 UNO	PROJECT	PHASE	DRAWING NO	REVISION	
	its	glass not to scale	VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS ON SITE				NTS	W3	DA	A 12	С	
	sj tme	silicone joint to match existing	IF DISCREPANCY EXISTS NOTIFY ARCHITECT					-				
	uno	unless noted otherwise	• IF IN DOUBT ASK									
	vos	verify on site						Copyright in all documents and drawings prepared by ANDREW DONALDSON and in any works executed from those documents and drawings shall remain the				
	I							property of or on crea	tion vest in ANDREW	DONALDSON	_	

#### **RENOVATIONS TO REAR OF 14 PYRMONT ST**

It is extremely upsetting for me, after recieving DA approval in May 2018 to increase light and amenity inside my terrace, to find that Star City are proposing a massive 237m tower directly behind me. This tower will block all sunlight to my home and garden as well as destroy all of my privacy.

I have at great cost and time engaged an award winning architect specializing in contemporary yet sympathetic additions to heritage properties to work on upgrading my home. I would never have pursued this work had I known of the Stars intentions. I will absolutely have no privacy as thousands of people look into my living area from the enormous tower which will completely dominate the skyline. The build with its glass walls and large skylight to maximise on natural light will allow clear view into my home from the tower building.

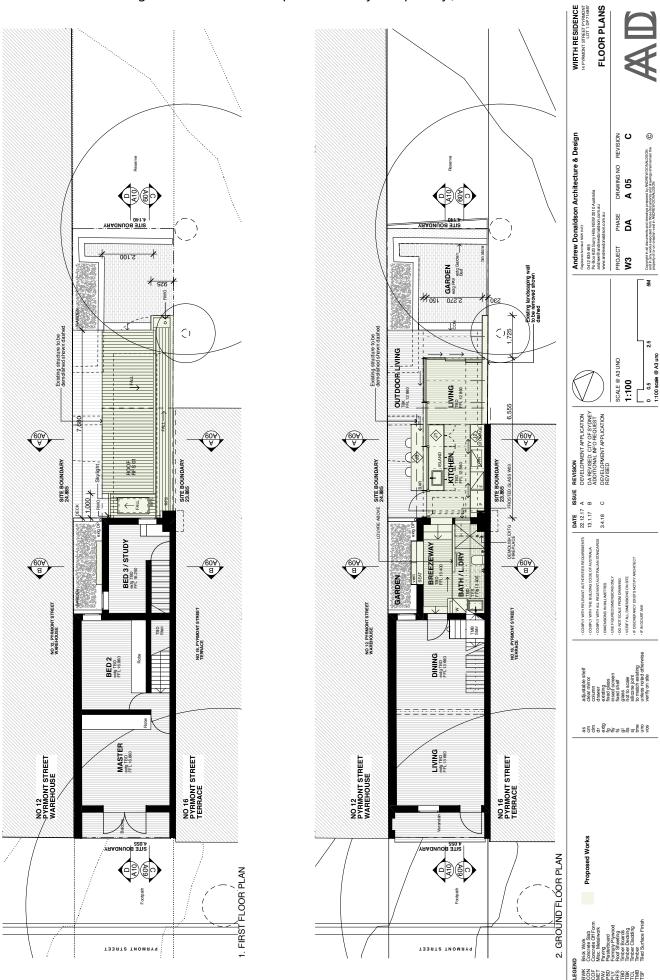
This tower has destroyed my plans for the future at my home as well as wasted money which could have been put to better use as I reach retirement.

# **DA APPROVED (MAY 2018) REAR OF 14 PYRMONT ST, PYRMONT**

Architecture firm: Andrew Donaldson Architecture & Design (ADAD).

Architect: Andrew Donaldson

(Brief to maximise sunlight into terrace and improve amenity and privacy.)



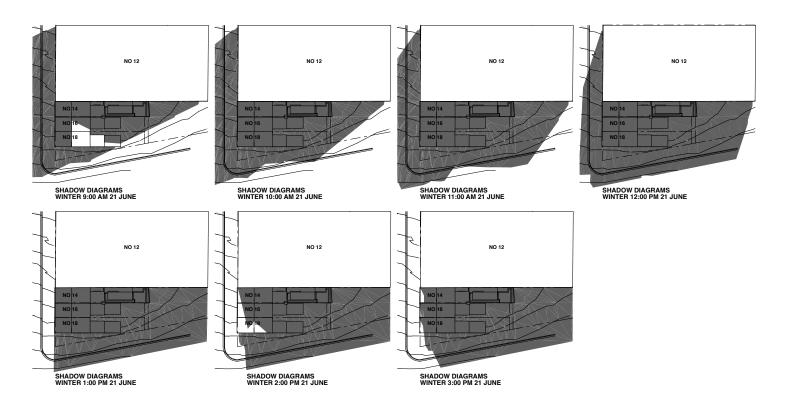
# **DA APPROVED (2018) EXTERIOR OF 14 PYRMONT ST**

Architecture firm: Andrew Donaldson Architecture & Design (ADAD).

Architect: Andrew Donaldson

#### **SHADOW DIAGRAMS**

NOTE: No. 12 Pyrmont St – This historic warehouse blocks the northern sun to 14 Pyrmont St all year round. The spring and summer sun enters the rear of the property as the height of the sun rises in the east (behind the low rise zone of Star City Casino). The autumn and winter sun is blocked by Star City Casino in the east. The new tower at a staggering 237m will completely block the existing light entering from the east at the Star City site. This will leave all three terraces 14,16 & 18 with no direct light throughout the year.





#### **THE BATTLE FOR LIGHT IN 1993**

I purchased my terrace, 14 Pyrmont St, in 1986 at the age of 27 – before gambling and Casinos were legalised in Australia in 1991. The site where Star City now sits was the Pyrmont Power Station (demolished in 1994). This site was being planned as a mix of residential and light commercial buildings in the late 1980s. It became the site for the Casino in 1993. My terrace had wonderful light in the east and an expansive view of the city. The view was lost, "nobody owns a view" I was told, but we fought hard to protect our right to sunlight. I had the support of the Prime Minister who described the Casino building as "ugly" and I was featured on the front page of the *Sydney Morning Herald* with an in depth editorial by the heritage reporter Geraldine O'Brien.

A height restriction was placed on The Star in 1994 by the State Government in the area where they now propose to build a staggering 237m tower! It is very depressing and disappointing for me that promises made by the Department of Planning in 1994 to protect our existing amenity and light has all but been forgotten. Now as I approach the age of 60 the worse possible scenario is eventuating – disregarding promises, flaunting all planning and environmental controls, an ominous completely out of scale tower is being proposed directly behind us!

We are not losing partial sun but all our sunlight! [See photos attached]

#### **LOSS OF PRIVACY**

This excessive 63 storey 237m tower with its 220 hotel rooms and 204 residential apartments will have windows looking directly down into my garden and living areas. There will be no privacy when I walk into my yard or in the rear living areas and bedrooms but a feeling of being on display. One only needs to look at the scale of the tower and its close proximity to my home, to imagine the impact and the overwhelming lack of privacy.

[See photos attached]

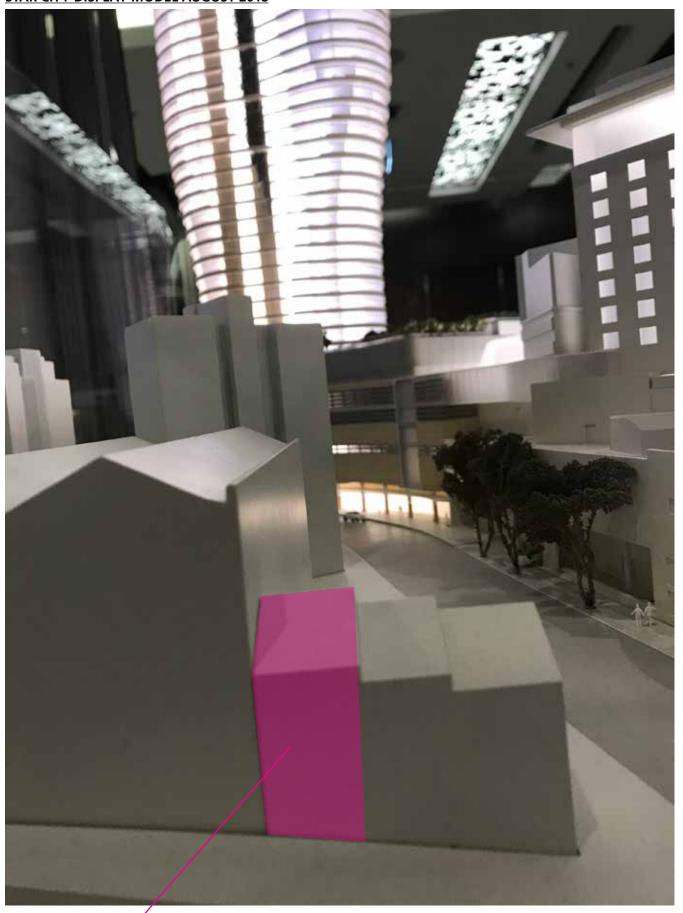
I urge the Minister for Planning to reject this excessive tower development and protect the right to light and the existing amenity of Pyrmont residents.

Yours faithfully
Robert Wirth
Michael Wirth
Warrick Saunders

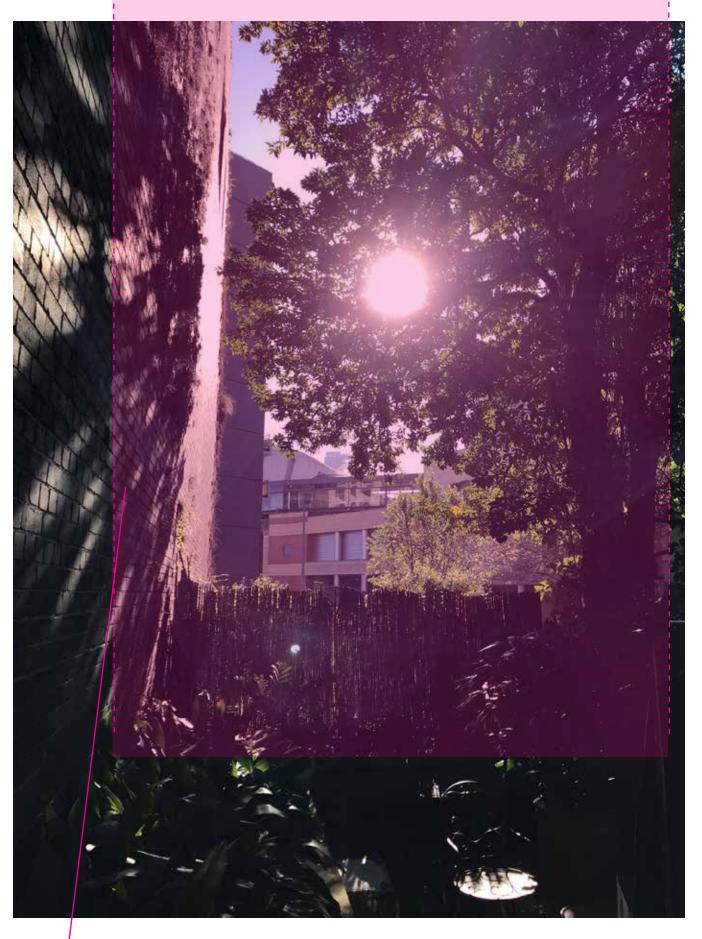


**14 PYRMONT ST, PYRMONT** (MY HOME SINCE 1986)

237M STAR CITY CASINO TOWER



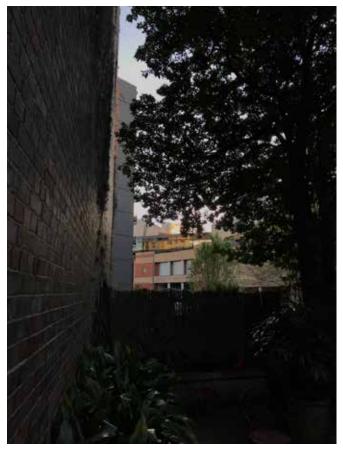
14 PYRMONT ST, PYRMONT (MY HOME SINCE 1986).
WILL BE IN THE SHADOW OF THE GIGANTIC TOWER
PROPOSED BY THE STAR CITY CASINO LOSING ALL
EXISTING SUNLIGHT IN THE EAST. THE TERRACE IS IN THE
SHADOW OF AN HISTORIC WAREHOUSE WHICH BLOCKS
THE NORTHERN LIGHT – THE EXISTING EASTERN LIGHT TO
THE TERRACE IS CRITICAL TO MAINTAIN.



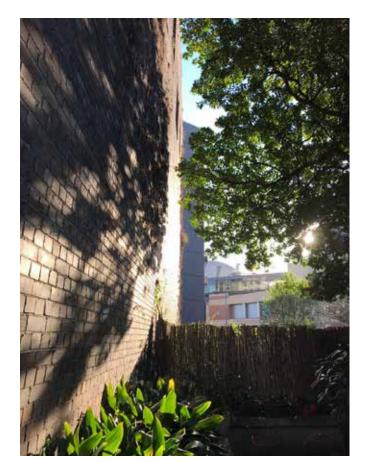
APPROXIMATE POSITION OF PROPOSED 237 METRE TOWER BEHIND HERITAGE TERRACES
14, 16 & 18 PYRMONT ST, PYRMONT (PHOTO TAKEN FROM 14 PYRMONT ST BACKYARD 30.9.18 AT 7.34AM.)

# **EASTERN MORNING SUN 28/09/2018**

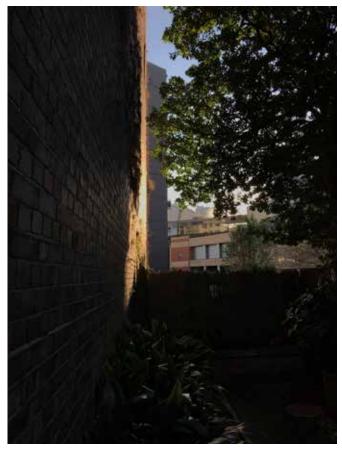
14 Pyrmont st, Pyrmont.



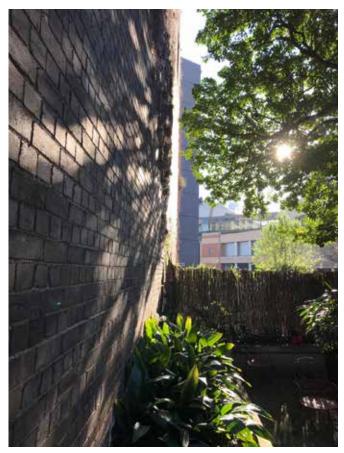
6.14AM 28/09/18



6.51AM 28/09/18



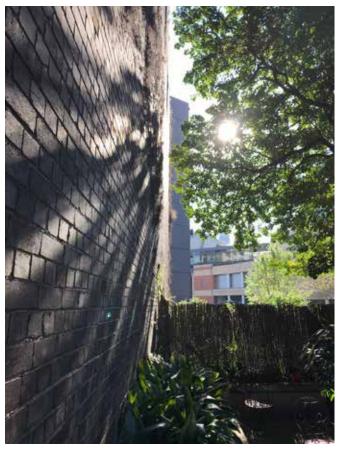
6.41AM 28/09/18



7.10AM 28/09/18

## **EASTERN MORNING SUN 28/09/2018**

Wirth Residence, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont.



7.52AM 28/09/18



8.37AM 28/09/18



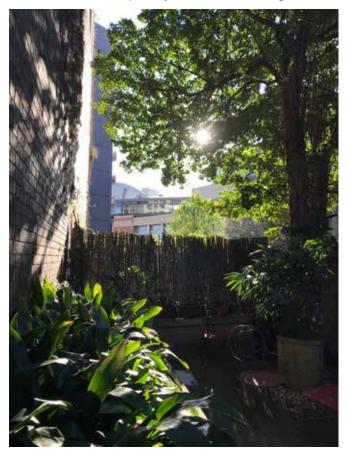
8.11AM 28/09/18



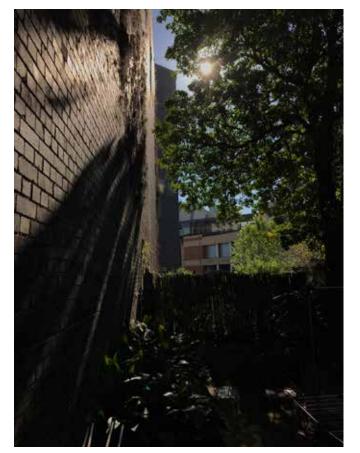
8.46AM 28/09/18 View looking at the terraces from Jones Bay Rd

## **EASTERN MORNING SUN 01/10/2018**

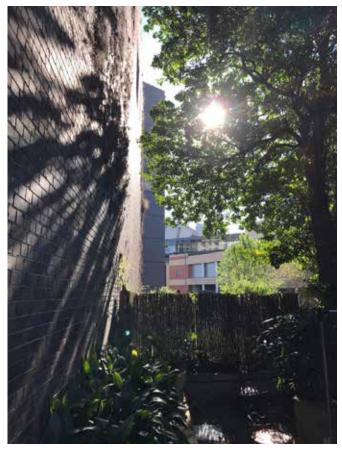
Wirth Residence, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont.



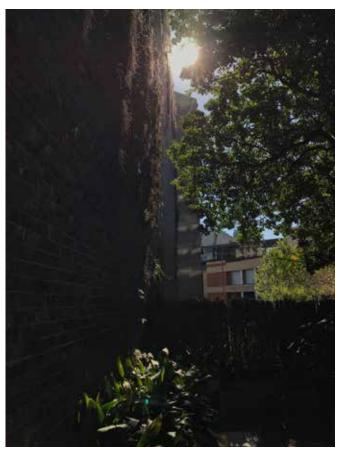
7.07AM 01/10/18



8.09AM 01/10/18



7.50AM 01/10/18



8.42AM 01/10/18

## **EASTERN MORNING SUN 01/10/2018**

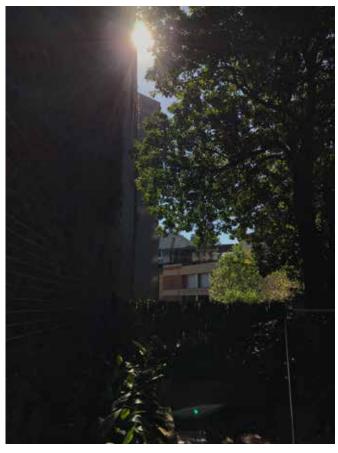
Wirth Residence, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont.



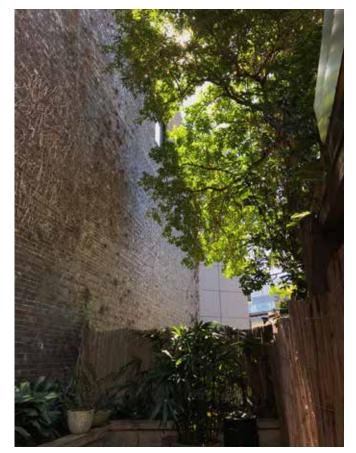
8.52AM 01/10/18



9.06AM 01/10/18



8.54AM 01/10/18



9.34AM 01/10/18

# **EASTERN MORNING SUN 01/10/2018**

# Wirth Residence, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont



8.52AM 01/10/18



9.06AM 01/10/18



8.54AM 01/10/18



9.34AM 01/10/18

# EASTERN MORNING SUN 08/09/2015 & 15/09/2015

# Wirth Residence, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont



6.52AM 08/09/15 (APIDISTRA & CORDOLINES)



7.46AM 08/09/15 (STAGHORNS & ELKHORNS)



7.48AM 08/09/15 (RADIATA PALMS)



8.24AM 15/09/15 (SYDNEY ROCK ORCHID)

# **EASTERN MORNING SUN 08/09/2015**

# Wirth Residence, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont



c11.21AM 16/02/2018. Cnr Jones Bay Rd and Pyrmont St (Terraces & Warehouse)



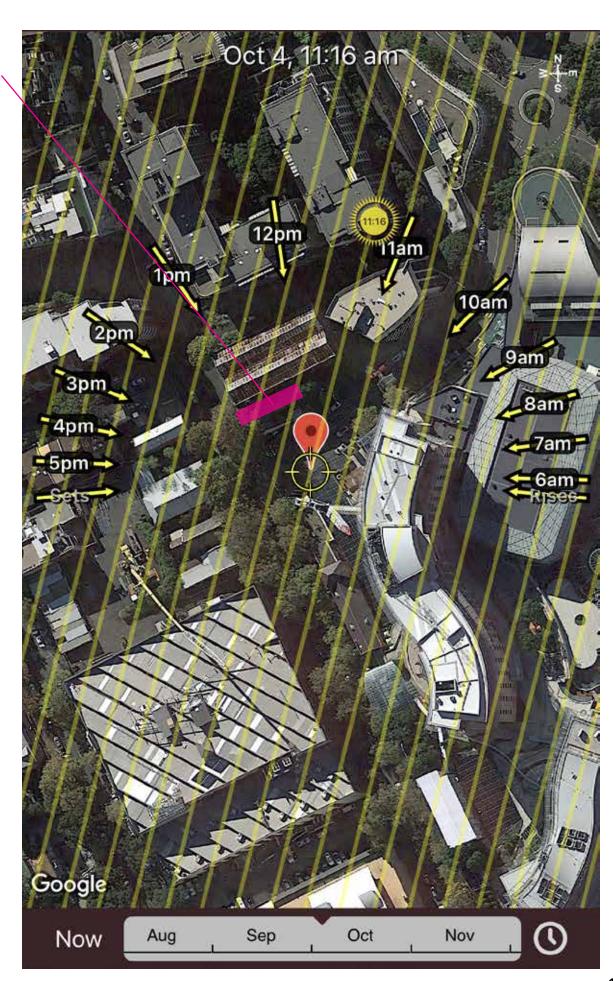
c11.21AM 16/02/2018 Wirth Residence, 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont.



c11.21AM 16/02/2018 Jones Bay Rd (Terraces & Warehouse)

Showing view of solar path its hour and intervals on 4.10.18 Sun exposure, directions and times for 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont

HERITAGE
TERRACE c1890
14 Pyrmont St
(My home since
1986.)



# STAR CITY – HEIGHT RESTRICTED ZONE 1994

#### **SUN SEEKER – 3D AUGMENTED REALITY VIEWER**

Showing view of solar path its hour and intervals on 4.10.18

Sun exposure, directions and times for 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont

Surrounding buildings and the height restriction zone placed on Star City Casino by the State Government in 1994.

# HEIGHT RESTRICTED

**ZONE** to maintain sunlight to 14, 16 & 18 Pyrmont St. Sunlight was a key issue to ensure health and maintain the existing amenity of neighboring residents. Maintaining the existing eastern sunlight is critical for 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont - its primary source of sunlight.

# HERITAGE WAREHOUSE

12 Pyrmont St (The northern sunlight is blocked – casts shadow over Terraces).

# HERITAGE / TERRACE c1890

14 Pyrmont St (My home since 1986.)

# HERITAGE / TERRACES c1890

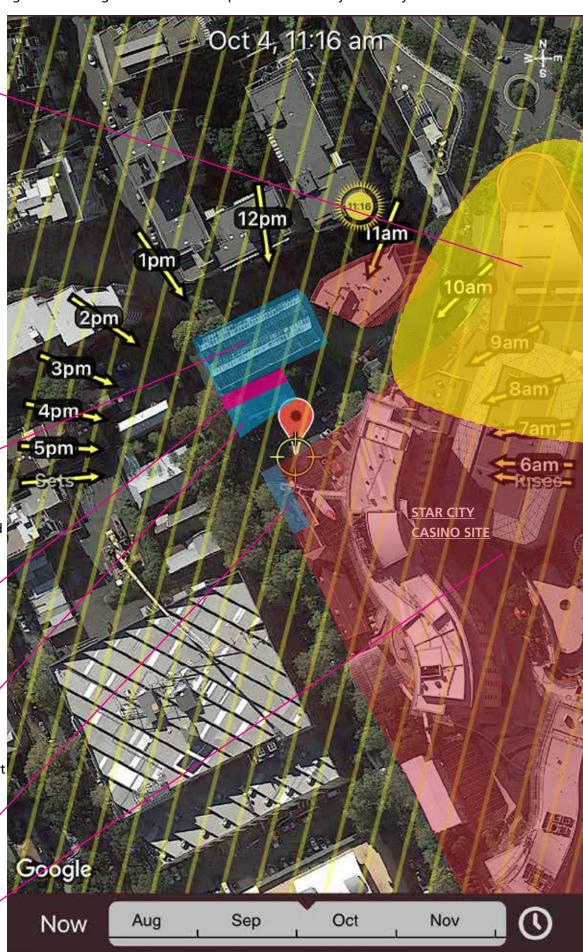
16 & 18 Pyrmont St

# STAR CITY SITE 1993

Facade of 'A'

Power Station
c1917 remains.

Main 'B' Power Station (1905) site demolished 1993.



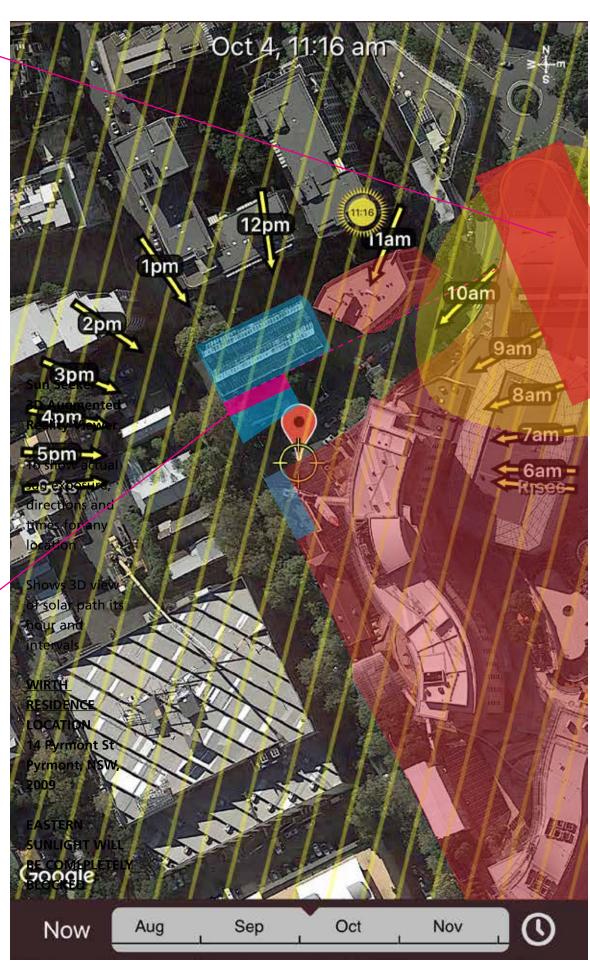
Showing view of solar path its hour and intervals on 4.10.18 Sun exposure, directions and times for 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont

## PROPOSED TOWER WILL BLOCK ALL SUNLIGHT

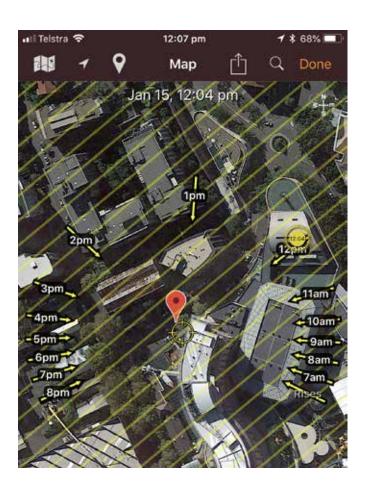
**REX CARLTON HOTEL & APARTMENTS LOCATION** OF THE 237M **TOWER** WHICH WIILL **COMPLETEY BLOCK ALL EXISTING EASTERN SUNLIGHT TO RESIDENCES** - 14, 16 & 18 PYRMONT ST. **NO SUNLIGHT** WILL SERIUOSLY **IMPACT ON OUR QUALITY OF LIFE** - ALL EXISTING **VEGETATION** (TREES, SHRUBS, FERNS, ORCHIDS **ETC) WILL NOT** SURVIVE.

# RESIDENCE c1890 14 Pyrmont St (My home since

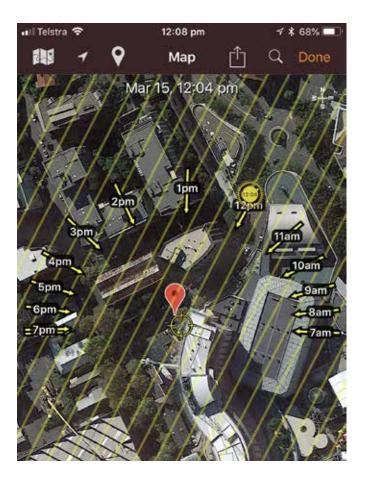
1986.)

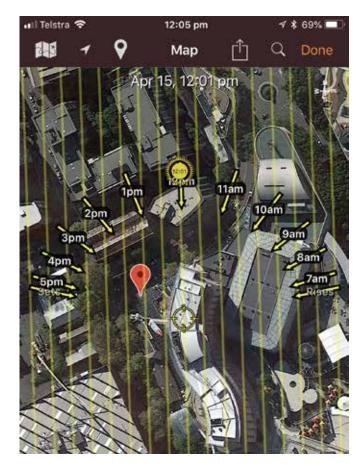


Showing view of solar path its hour and intervals 15th day of January, February, March and April at 12.04pm Sun exposure, directions and times for 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont

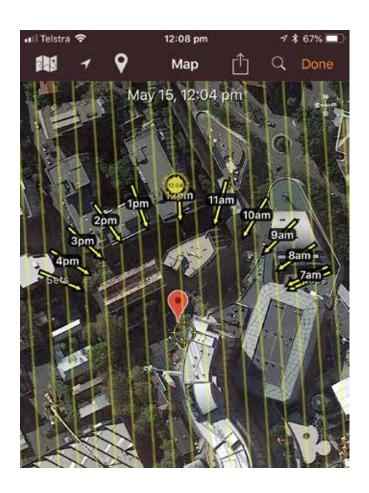


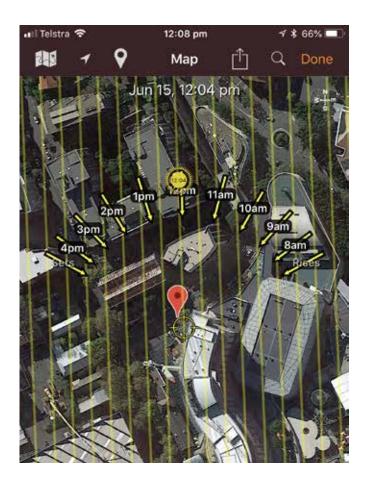


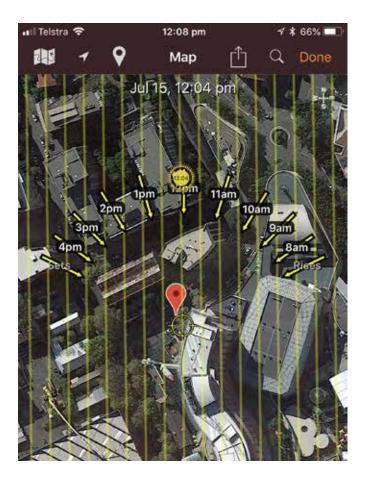


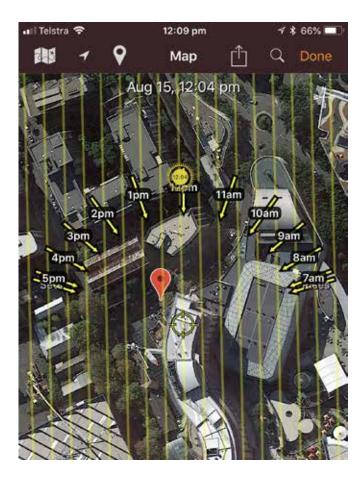


Showing view of solar path its hour and intervals 15th day of May, June, July and August at 12.04pm Sun exposure, directions and times for 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont



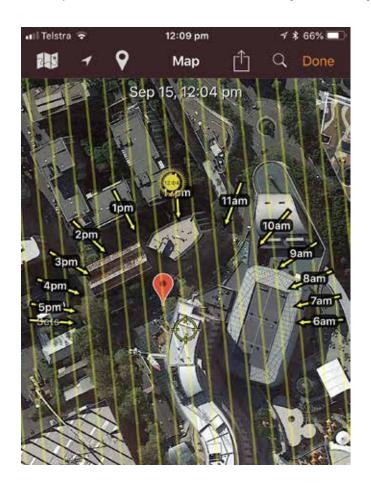


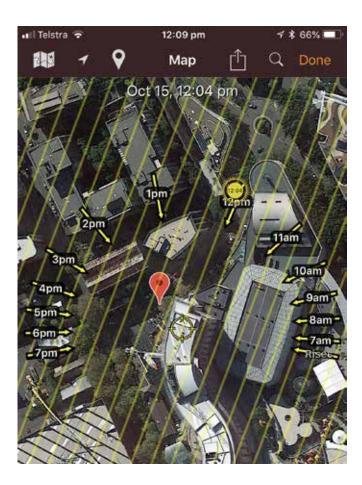


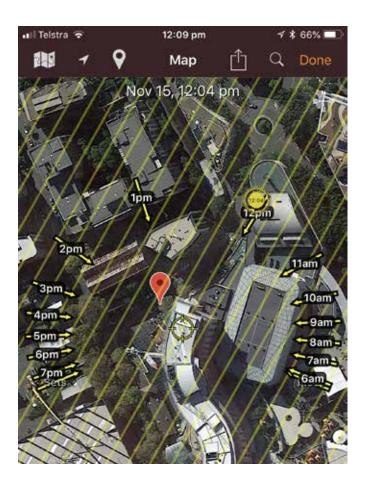


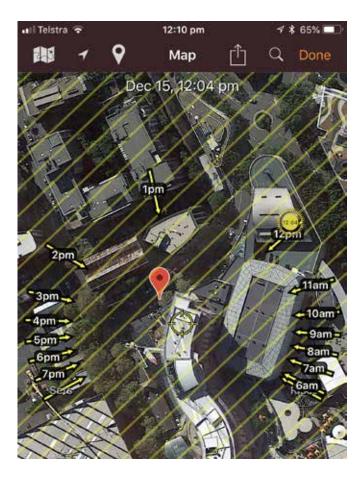
Showing view of solar path its hour and intervals 15th day of September, October, November and December at 12.04pm.

Sun exposure, directions and times for 14 Pyrmont St, Pyrmont









## **HISTORIC IMAGES**



Heritage Terraces 14, 16, 18 - No. 20 (far fright) demolished to create Jones Bay Rd and Heritage listed Warehouse No. 12 Pyrmont St (far left).



# 10/08/1916

Heritage Terraces 14, 16, 18, 20 (No. 20 demolished to widen laneway and create Jones Bay Rd). Heritage listed Warehouse No. 12 Pyrmont St far left – the original Pyrmont 'A' Power Station c1904 on right (demolished c1917).

#### **HISTORIC IMAGES**



10/08/1916

Heritage Terraces 14, 16, 18 & 20 (far left). Terrace No. 20 and the cottages in foreground were demolished to create Jones Bay Rd. Heritage listed Warehouse No. 12 Pyrmont St (Australian Thermit) is behind.



## c.1917

Heritage Terraces 14-18 Pyrmont St. By this time No. 20 Pyrmont St and the cottages have been demolished to create Jones Bay Rd. In foreground the original Pyrmont Power Station 'A' was demolished for a new plant construction. Heritage listed Warehouse No. 12 Pyrmont St (now Darling Island Bond & Free Store) is behind.