



December 18, 2014

Pru Goward MP  
Minister for Planning  
Department of Planning & Environment

Dear Minister,

**RE: SICEEP Darling Square Mixed Use Building North-east Plot**

I refer to the above mentioned development application currently on exhibition and submit comments on behalf of the Haymarket Chamber of Commerce.

The Haymarket Chamber of Commerce is the peak representative body of the business community in Chinatown and surrounds. It is in our interests to ensure that the Darling Square development minimises any adverse impacts to the Haymarket area and facilitates any opportunities that the project may open up. Our feedback regarding the proposed development application is as follows:

**Interface with Haymarket/Chinatown along Harbour Street**

- There is an opportunity to improve the use of the southern end of Harbour Street by creating active uses. The DA currently proposes one shop on the south-east corner of the building however the remaining frontage includes a substation, car parking entrance and lobby. The proposal seems to be turning its back to Harbour Street. The Chamber prefers to see more retail activity along this side of the building to take advantage of the opportunity to redefine this portion of the street.
- This part of Harbour Street currently comprises 3 or 4 lanes despite generally being slower traffic in this area. Investigations should be undertaken to reduce the number of vehicular lanes and widen the footpaths to provide for pedestrianised uses and better retail frontages with potential for outdoor seating.
- The crossing from Chinatown to Darling Square via Little Hay Street could be improved by a pedestrian crossing which gives pedestrians priority over cars.
- The Little Hay St laneway into the square is proposed to be 8 metres in width. The preference is to maintain appropriate widths for pedestrians and therefore limit external trading/seating to only one side of the laneway (not both sides).
- Sufficient and appropriate street lighting should be planned (as well as other Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design strategies) for Harbour Street to reduce the potential for crime.
- Consider appropriate design elements to connect Darling Square to Chinatown at a higher level (eg. LED lighting, green canopy).



## Staging

- The demolition of the Entertainment Centre will likely have impacts on the businesses in Chinatown. The developer should ensure it implements a multi-lingual communications strategy to ensure local businesses and residents remain aware of any changes or impacts within the area.
- Staging of construction work should occur to minimise any impacts to the surrounding area, particularly to the local businesses.

Overall, the HCC supports economic and urban revitalisation of the precinct and also generally supports the proposal for the development application for the north-east plot. Some small improvements such as those proposed in this submission would simply improve the end delivery of the project and also achieve a better balance for all stakeholders.

Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned should you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

*Brad Chan*

Brad Chan  
Immediate Past President  
On behalf of the HCC