

***Art Gallery of NSW Expansion Project - Sydney Modern / State Significant DA SSD 6471***

Our review of the project documents to date indicates to us that the general nature of the proposal has been presented in it, perhaps understandably, without direct reference to issues of coherence within the context of the Sydney Harbour setting itself. Thus the documentation speaks warmly and enthusiastically about the outlooks and setting that are captured by the design concept, which may be seen as competent and even desirable. But it involves further structural fragmentation of the Harbour foreshore, for no *necessary* purpose.

It is, generally, pleasant to observe Sydney Harbour from most viewpoints. That does not itself justify the proliferation of structures at and near its foreshore. Indeed, the Harbour outlook may be said to be conceptually irrelevant in the case of an Art Gallery the primary purpose of which is to display and exhibit and make accessible art and artefacts. An art gallery is in most respects *introspective*.

Other than indirectly – perhaps - as an incidental aspect of visits made to the Gallery for its exhibitions and associated purposes, public appreciation and comprehension of the Harbour itself gain practically nothing from the activities of the Gallery. While the design concept and general uses envisaged may well be seen to be meritorious, those attributes could just as well be achieved on another site away from the Harbour foreshore.

Accordingly, while we recognise the aesthetic and technical qualities of the design concept as presently presented, we cannot support it.

We see it as inconsistent with the objective of the NSW Government as stated in *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005, Clause 2: Aims:*

*(1)(a)..... to ensure that the catchment, foreshores, waterways and islands of Sydney Harbour are recognised, protected, enhanced and maintained*

*(i) as an outstanding natural asset, and*

*(ii) as a public asset of national and heritage significance,*

*for existing and future generations.*

Certainly the *Sydney Modern* project would enhance the existing Art Gallery. But it fails to maintain or enhance the *Sydney Harbour* foreshore as an outstanding natural asset.

If the Gallery must expand, we request that an alternative - less sensitive - site be identified for the purpose.

Hylde Rolfe, Secretary  
3 December 2017

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*Sydney Harbour Association* was established in 2010, as successor body to Sydney Harbour and Foreshores Committee (est. 1979). The Association is an unincorporated body of individuals interested in Sydney Harbour. At all times we are concerned to support the objective of the Government as stated in *Sydney Regional Environmental Plan (Sydney Harbour Catchment) 2005*