

I have resided in the Woolloomooloo area for over twenty years. In the last ten years as the population of Sydney has grown exponentially largely fuelled by rampant immigration, the pressure on the CBD has become marked and there is a definite decline in the quality of the environment - it's noisier, more polluted, more crowded and increasingly unpleasant.

Interestingly the few public open spaces that there are around the Sydney CBD have become increasingly cluttered with structures which see grassed areas covered in hard surfacing and trees removed. Examples include a new memorial beside the War Memorial in Hyde Park south, the Police memorial in the Domain to the south of the AGNSW and the recent upgrades to Hyde Park north with significant tree removal and the installation of wide boulevards to cope with pedestrian traffic for the various events which cover the grassed areas constantly for various festivals from the Speigeltent and pop-up bars for the Festival of Sydney to the Night Noodle Markets in October. Added to this is the fencing off of a large area of the Domain across the road from the AGNSW for the months of December and January for the installation of a "temporary" stage structure for various large scale musical events.

All this while the State Government tries to tell us that the geographical heartland of Sydney is west of Parramatta which is why the Powerhouse museum has to be relocated there and that site sold off for high rise apartment buildings. Surely the people of the west also need access to modern art?

The original large areas of planned public open space at Barrangaroo were significantly scaled back with the experts arguing that there was already plenty of open space in the Domain and Botanic Gardens. Yet here we are again, looking at the potential for more open space being permanently alienated. Next some bright spark will be suggesting that all grassed area be sprayed with green cement to keep maintenance costs under control.

In my view, the size of the proposed extension to AGNSW takes up far too much valuable open space. I am opposed to yet more destruction of grass and trees. The trees in this vicinity provide valuable habitat for birds, bats and possums, not to mention spiders and other insects. The impact on these creatures by the destruction and permanent removal of 140 trees in the development footprint is unacceptable.

I am also concerned about the proposed height of the new buildings and the impact on the harbour views from the area. This precinct is popular with both locals and tourists. Quiet enjoyment and contemplation of the harbour foreshore is surely as valuable as being in a concrete bunker admiring pieces of artwork.

During the construction period there will be constant noise, dust and disruption.

I always understood that there was to be a station at AGNSW on the Martin Place to Kings Cross railway line but this doesn't seem to be addressed at all. I believe a public transport plan must be provided.

I understand that a significant part of the roadway which is currently providing parking income to the Botanic Gardens trust is to be transferred to the AGNSW. I think this is unfair. The AGNSW is always going to be able to attract significant bequests of "artworks" if not cash. The Botanic Gardens can never compete with this as there is simply not that much kudos in having a plaque on a tree or a park bench to memorialize certain individuals.

Finally I think the seawater heat exchange system sounds dubious. It is interesting to see how the foreshore has regenerated as Sydney Harbour has been cleaned up. In what was once a barren wasteland of sandstone and saltwater, seaweeds and fish and other marine flora and fauna again are flourishing. I can only imagine that a heat exchange using seawater will be detrimental to the Woolloomooloo Bay ecosystem.

I am opposed to the current expansion plans of the AGNSW onto land owned by the Royal Botanic Gardens and Domain Trust. State Significant Development Applications usually reflect political ambitions with no consideration of what the people want.

Sincerely
Jennifer Harris
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