

From: [REDACTED]
To: "plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au" <plan_comment@planning.nsw.gov.au>
CC: Elliott Hale <Elliott.Hale@minister.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 12/16/2012 10:36 pm
Subject: Glebe Island Temporary Exhibition Centre Proposals



Dear Sir,

I hope you will accept this brief note of comment on the plans. I have been unwell and did not quite make the Friday deadline.

I am generally in favour of the Temporary Exhibition Centre proposal and believe it is a highly suitable use of a very valuable Sydney asset.

I was the community representative on the Bays Precinct Taskforce which was charged by Minister Hazzard with considering the future of the Bays Precinct. Glebe Island is the centre of the Precinct so is important to the future of the area as a whole but its position also means that activities there can be a benefit or a problem for the surrounding residents and local businesses.

The Bays Precinct Taskforce produced its report in early August. Unfortunately it has not yet been publicly released. The public consultations for the Taskforce made it very clear that local residents consider that there should be no extra activities in the Precinct, and hence Glebe Island, without a comprehensive transport plan for the area. It is quite evident to all who live in the area that traffic congestion is at crisis point and that future development plans must include an important component of public transport. At the moment it is obvious that the bus services to the White Bay area are inadequate and need to be supplemented by other systems.

White Bay and its immediate hinterland are the most densely populated areas of Balmain and yet the only ones without any ferry service. Several thousand people (of whom I am one) live here and journey to work data suggest that many work in the CBD or North Sydney. At the moment we tend to use our cars as the buses are full when they reach us in peak hours and at other times the old and the parents of the very young find the walk to bus stops for irregular buses up and down hill arduous and discouraging. So we take our cars.

The community discussions indicated, in contrast, that many of us would be very willing to travel to the city, North Sydney and other areas by water transport, on other words by ferry. The White Bay Area is both the most densely populated zone of Balmain and the only one that currently has no ferry service at all. Grant Gilfillan, CEO of Sydney Ports, and other Ports staff have stated that Ports would not raise objections to granting access to their land for a ferry terminal at White Bay. This is a critically important change of heart for Ports and opens the way for great improvement in the living and travelling conditions of local residents, at once reducing car use and facilitating journeys to work and recreation. It also permits another point of entry to Balmain for visitors and hence a potential economic benefit for local businesses.

Finally, it would allow systematic access for people using the new Cruise Ship Terminal, already half built and yet, astonishingly, without plans for any public transport access at all.

The current proposals for the Glebe Island Exhibition Centre include plans for a ferry service BUT, again astonishingly given the acknowledged need for comprehensive planning of this valuable area, only on event days.

It is planning nonsense to make provision for a ferry service only on event days, even were a private operator prepared to make the investment for such an irregular need. It makes far more sense for a ferry service to operate every day, allowing permanent and regular use by local residents, cruise passengers and visitors alike. This would involve building a wharf at the White Bay Power Station end of the Bay (a proposal cleared by Sydney Ports), perhaps another nearer to the Cruise Terminal and the one proposed at Glebe Island. This is a relatively small investment and one that recognises the unavoidable interconnections between activities proposed for the area which include the Cruise Terminal and the Exhibition Centre as well as the daily working, education and leisure lives of the many thousand local residents. It makes perfect planning sense to consider these together rather than continuing the wholly dysfunctional practice of silo planning which has led to the present traffic

mess which causes much productivity loss as locals struggle to get to and from work and other essential activities. Equally important, this decision lies fully within the Terms of Reference and discussions of the Bays Precinct Taskforce, created by Minister Hazzard precisely to put an end to the ad hoc development of this valuable area.

I urge you therefore to act in the spirit of comprehensive planning, the work of the Bays Precinct Taskforce and the preceding Community Reference Group and the oft expressed concerns of local residents and business people alike and ensure that the ferry service to Glebe Island is fully integrated into a regular service for the whole area. This is one of the most important decisions which need to be made to valorise the Exhibition Centre and the area as a whole, which may ultimately include a restored Power Station as a new employment centre - NOW is the ideal time to make that decision and reap the praise and gratitude of all concerned in what is a major economic activity for Sydney.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information. I can be reached on [REDACTED] or my mobile [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Professor Jane Marceau

Sent from my iPad