

Matthew Rosel - Re: Darling Harbour Heritage Alert

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Date: 22/05/2013 7:11 PM
Subject: Re: Darling Harbour Heritage Alert

Dear Premier,

I am writing to you again to reconsider your plan regarding the redevelopment of the Darling Harbour precinct and to put the whole area on heritage list.

Sydney as a whole has not many heritage sites for visitors and tourists to visit; being a relatively young country,

it has no impressive castles, cathedrals, monuments, gothic buildings and natural landmarks for tourists to visit within

a day, especially for those tourists that come by luxury cruise liners, these people only stay a day or two to see Sydney and the liners

move on to another country.

Darling Harbour had been voted as having one of the world's most beautiful harbours, most tourists would know about Darling Harbour

and with Entertainment Centre and Convention Centre of world significance, Sydney 2000 Olympic site the former and venue for APEC Australia 2007

and Queen Elizabeth II visit to the latter, I would think they deserve some consideration and recognition especially to the architects who designed them.

In the Daily Telegraph, Monday 13, 2013 Lord Mayor Clover Moore says it is no good increasing council size without increasing it's responsibilities and areas of control.

She would welcome the existing council taking control of some state-run areas such as The Rocks, Darling Harbour, Barangaroo and the Botanic Gardens. Would that

mean it will be more transparent and the rate payers in the city will have a say in the city's planning and infrastructure?

Also in the same paper, Mark Morri (Crime Editor) reported crimes especially on the rail network, naming the Top 10 Hot Spots and Haymarket is top on the list.

With a would be very high density population in a small Haymarket area, would crime and violence increase?

Would Darling Harbour/Haymarket compact high-rise housing in a small area be similar to the

Government Housing Commission flats at Villawood East which eventually have to be pulled down because of social problems and crime?

Instead of tax-payer's money spent on developing Darling Harbour which is already beautiful, the money could be best spent on developing the rundown areas leading to and from the Kingsford Smith Airport which are an eyesore to tourists as well as to the people of NSW.

Many International Airports around the world have well maintained, wide roads to welcome and impress tourists and travellers into their city but Sydney lacks that.

Mr Tim Parker (Project Director) wrote about quote' ensuring that Sydney has world-class convention, exhibition and entertainment facilities befitting of a global city will generate \$200 million each year in economic benefit for the taxpayers of NSW - a total of \$5 billion to the State over 25 years, when the entrance, the "door to the city"(roads & infrastructures) are not fixed first and in need of upgrading. Adding to the private high-rise at Darling Harbour with no open, eye-level space, separating the surrounding Chinatown, Power House museum, Paddy's Market and Chinese Friendship Garden, one can argue that the public land put aside for the people of NSW has shrunk and about one third is now used for private development.

The Sydney Morning Herald May 22 2013 (Nicole Hasham) reports on Missing the buses: Darling Harbour upgrade raises transport concerns.

Transport authorities say cars will bank up, public bus zones are non-existent and traffic analysis is flawed in a plan to attract thousands of extra people to Darling Harbour.

The criticism raises questions over how Darling Harbour will cope with predicted crowd numbers following its highly-billed remake, which includes an expanded outdoor event space to hold 27,000 people and Australia's largest convention space for more than 12,000 people. ETC.....

The Government has a duty of care when planning this big project of State Significant Development, taking ALL aspects into consideration especially Health & Safety

How it is going to impact on the neighbouring residents, the workers, the retailers that are already there, during the process of construction which will take many years.

In view of a terrorist attack or disaster, with more residents and visitors to Darling Harbour, how will the Emergency Disaster Plan work, with hospital fundings cut, hospital wards closed and staff not being replaced when they leave?

Today, in the city CBD. a fire from a restaurant kitchen sent thick smoke from one of the buildings, sending 1000s of city workers and people scrambling for safety in the streets. It took several fire engines to put the flames out and the city to lockdown, it was chaotic and that is only one kitchen fire!

Regards

Mei Ling Ooi