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SSDA 7021 – The Darling Exchange

Pyrmont Action members have participated in every "consultation" held in association with the redevelopment of Darling Harbour and Haymarket. Despite our engagement, virtually none of the changes we have sought which would bring benefit to the Pyrmont and Ultimo communities have been included in the final approvals and both suburbs are now permanently blighted by the ICC development, in particular. The one benefit we thought we had achieved was the provision of a community building, to include a Library and childcare centre which, we understood, would be implemented in conjunction with the City of Sydney.

The building now on exhibition is not a community building, but a commercial building with 2 floors of space to be made available to the City of Sydney, and two floors for a commercial childcare centre. The other spaces are also for commercial use. This is not what we were promised. We are advised by the City of Sydney that it sought to obtain access to the childcare centre space, to enable provision of affordable, not-for-profit childcare which is desperately needed by inner city families, as well as workers, but that this was refused by the developers.

We understand that the fit-out of the library space will be subject to a separate DA, to be submitted by the City of Sydney and ask that community consultation with the City of Sydney during the development of these plans be a condition of approval for the SSDA.

We also ask that the Department of Planning, which made provision of a community building a condition of approval of the Darling Square redevelopment, make it a condition of approval of the SSDA for the Darling Exchange Building, that the City of Sydney be provided with the childcare space on the same terms as the space for the Library. In that way, the building will be primarily for community benefit, not simply a commercial building with 2 floors of community space.

Yours sincerely,



Elizabeth Elenius, Convenor

