

The Director
Major Planning Assessments
Department of Planning
GPO Box 39
Sydney NSW 2001

29 February 2016

Dear Director,

Submission: Australian Technology Park Redevelopment (SSD 15_7317)

I wish to make a submission on the Environmental Impact Statement provided by Mirvac for the redevelopment of Australian Technology Park. I am concerned about damage to the nationally significant heritage, the transport implications, poor public access, commercialisation of public space, and impact on local residents.

I wish to object to the overdevelopment of the Australian Technology Park. The two proposed buildings are too big. They are out of scale with the heritage listed Railway Workshop Buildings and the Alexandria Park Conservation Area on the opposite side of Henderson Road in which I live. Not only will the two proposed buildings obscure the heritage buildings but their designs are unsympathetic to the beautiful brick railway buildings. The grotesque ridges on the roof of one building which I can only surmise is the architects' misguided (cynical?) attempt to suggest the roof line of the old buildings looks ridiculous. The Railway Workshops are nationally significant parts of our heritage and it is shameful that this will be compromised by commercial interests which value nothing but the bottom line.

The transport implications of an extra 10,000 people are alarming. This area is not well served by public transport. It is impossible to get on a train from Redfern station in peak times, buses do not stop in peak times, and roads are clogged during most of the day and are at a standstill in peak times. Even now workers from the Park park in local streets 24 hours a day, 7 days a week because they won't pay the parking fees charged by the car parks. With thousands of new residents coming in to the area as the massive new housing developments are completed these problems will only get worse. The developers seem not to have taken any of this into consideration. One would think that with modern technology, it would be possible for many of these workers to work at home thus eliminating the need for such huge buildings.

I also wish to object to the commercialisation of public space. This is happening all too frequently and this is yet another handover of public assets to private developers for which the public gets nothing. As a resident I am worried that my access to the station could be lost, that the many people who use the carriage works for all sorts of cultural and commercial purposes will be locked out, that we will lose access to the pleasant, quiet open spaces which are a priceless community amenity in this overcrowded, noisy area. If the developers think that locals would be willing to forgo all the advantages of a smaller more compatible development for the chance to go shopping in the

proposed one they are very much mistaken. Similarly, it is outrageous that they can trumpet the advantages of a child care centre while destroying the amenity of the nearby existing child care centre by building a massive building too close and overshadowing it.

As local resident I can't see anything good about this development. I have lived here for 26 years. When I first came the Railway Workshops still did what they were built for. When they closed and the Technology Park was planned it was sold to the local residents on the grounds that it would ensure the integrity of the heritage, provide buildings to house enterprises which would enhance the scientific and technological progress of the country, ensure that public access to heritage items such as old machinery and plant would be possible and provide a pleasant, quiet environment for locals to enjoy. Bit by bit these advantages have been whittled away and this development, as it is proposed, will ensure that none of these guarantees will remain.

For the above reasons I object to this development. I would like an acknowledgement of receipt of this objection and a reply which specifically addresses the points I have made.

Yours sincerely,

Louise Gilbert
84 Gerard St
Alexandria NSW 2015
centaurcc@bigpond.com