

Director: Key Sites Assessments  
Planning and Assessment  
Department of Planning, Industry and the Environment  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001  
12 November 2019

Re     SSD – 8924 – The new Sydney Fish Market Concept and Stage 1  
       SSD – 8925 – The new Sydney Fish Market Stage 2

## LETTER OF OBJECTION

Dear Sir/Madam

I am strongly opposed to the new Fish Market proposal in toto.

It appears that this elaborate and hugely disruptive project is a simple product of the desire to appropriate and privatise yet more well-placed publicly-owned land (the present fish market site) for high-rise development. As with the mad-dog project to move the Powerhouse Museum from its present location to a useless site in Parramatta.

This agenda to facilitate private profit at the expense of public amenity and a liveable city is essentially corrupt. The entire project is a costly diversion masking the main game, an issue that should be the subject of investigation at ICAC.

At the most basic level, the proposed project is ill-conceived. I am amazed that there have been no personnel in the Planning Department who have attempted to have this hair-brained scheme nipped in the bud early, not least before evidently large-scale sums have been expended on consultants to produce pretty pictures.

Self-evident problems:

1. Scale. The thing is basically too big for the site. Behind this excess, the essential function as a fish market is being instrumentalised to create a tourist and entertainment complex utterly dysfunctional for the site.
2. Location. Ridiculous. The whole thing over water. An excess of concrete and a significant churning of all the poisons and pollutants lying dormant on the site – a problem neatly downplayed by consultants who sing for their supper.

3. Parking. Where is it? Non-existent, entirely a product of the dysfunctional location. Why is it so difficult to find the parking dimension amongst hundreds of pages of glossy propaganda? And the plan is to double the patronage numbers?
4. Construction. A nightmare. The glossy photos show the new fairytale edifice magically in place as if dropped from the sky, with the surrounding area as is. There will apparently be no disruption to the traffic flow on the arterial Bridge Road, already in gridlock at Wattle Street.
5. Wentworth Park and the significant stand of fig trees. The glossy photos show no change. Then why has the Park been included in the State Significant Development enclave? We find it impossible to believe that Wentworth Park will not be degraded in the process.

The designation of the fish market as a State Significant Development denies an authoritative decision-making capacity to the Sydney City Council, and it trivialises to tokenism community input.

The State Government has form in its ignoring of community interest, as with the disastrous WestConnex project, and its manifestation in the Inner West in the form of the appallingly oppressive Rozelle Interchange. The contempt for affected community interest in these grandiose schemes is a contemptible practice.

The Government (and the subservient Planning Department) could earn much-needed brownie points if it belatedly acknowledged that this project is a lemon and shelved it permanently. More, it could earn some respect, of which there is currently none.

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