

# JOHN A. HENDERSON

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Planning and Assessment

Dept of Planning, Industry and Environment

GPO Box 39

Sydney NSW 2001

Subject: Sydney Opera House Lower Concourse (SSD-9794)

I object to the above proposal on the following grounds:

- Noise
  - Amplified music from the Opera Bar can be heard in our unit in Bennelong with the doors and windows closed, and this proposal will admittedly make it even louder.
  - The application for the Opera Bar will make it basically a night club in the Forecourt of the Opera House located in a concrete bowl which causes distorted sound (it doesn't resemble music) to reverberate out and disturb the entire area, including the residential buildings of Bennelong and nearby neighbors.
  - The Opera House Forecourt must currently comply with sound level restrictions. Do those same restrictions apply to the Opera Bar, and if not, why not?
  - The current speakers face away from our residence, but the new speakers are to be located to make the noise worse, a point admitted in the proposal
  - The current stage has a baffle on the south side. Where is the new stage and what will contain the sound?
  - Is a dance floor part of the proposal? This will turn the Opera Bar into the areas' largest outdoor nightclub and subject the Bennelong residents and our neighbors across the Harbour to New Year's Eve level of noise every night of the year.
  - New umbrellas are proposed. Are they acoustic? Will they absorb the sound in any way?
  - When the wind is blowing in our direction, the noise becomes significantly worse. Will wind direction and levels be considered when setting noise limits?
  - The Opera Bar has a history of non-compliance regarding noise levels. Who will be held accountable for violations? Who do the residents of Bennelong call when noise issues arise?
- Public Safety
  - Currently access to the Wilson Opera House parking garage is heavily congested when the Opera Bar is busy, which is most evenings. Will the new proposal alleviate that congestion? I fear it will get worse, making it more dangerous for

people with children, people with disabilities, and other patrons of the Opera House to get through.

- Will capacity be constrained and controlled? This is necessary to ensure public access as mentioned above.
  - Will security be increased? We already have a problem with drunks disturbing the peace late at night, loitering around Macquarie Street, particularly by the round-about at the northern end of the street.
  - A walkway should be secured, separating the Opera Bar patrons from the access to ensure the safety of the public. Access to the Opera House from the parking garage, and especially during inclement weather, is difficult on busy nights due to the Opera Bar crowds blocking access.
  - Noise levels in the walkway should also be controlled to ensure safe decibel levels for the public (particularly children) who need access to the car park and Opera House.
- Hours of Operation
    - I strongly object to extending the operating hours of the Opera Bar. This move will exacerbate all of the above issues, and is putting greed ahead of public safety and concern for the residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

John A. Henderson