

Submission regarding Pemulwuy Concept Approval MP 06_0101 MOD 2, State Significant Development Application 8135, Pemulwuy Project Approval (MP11_0089 MOD1)

In the 1974 the Whitlam Government granted \$500,000 to the Aboriginal Housing Company enabling acquisition of the Block in Redfern. The area had great significance to the Redfern Aboriginal community, many of whom lived there. It was understood that the land would be used for Aboriginal housing, but no apparent effort was made to maintain existing houses.

A close association developed between the AHC and the developer Deicorp, which has built unit blocks near Redfern Station. Approval is being sought to build a 24-storey building on the Block to house 600 students. No parking would be provided. A 99-year lease is mooted. This proposal is much too large and would cause problems such as overshadowing and crowding of streets between the Block and Sydney University. If the demand for student accommodation lessens in future years (for example when countries such as China establish more premium universities), there is a real fear that the building would be converted into units. Approval of this development should be refused.

The AHC has controlled the site for 45 years. No Aboriginal housing has been built and the people who lived there have been moved away. This is a breach of faith. Surely an enquiry

should be held into the whole sorry saga. Perhaps it would be appropriate for the State or Federal Government to resume the land and, in consultation with the Redfern Aboriginal Community, build housing for Aboriginal people. There is room on the site for the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Aboriginal Health service.

Negotiations over development of the Block over the years have received little publicity. Why? The Independent Planning Commission's public meeting at 10 am on Thursday 15 November received little publicity. The Redfern Aboriginal community has been tragically let down. It is sad that a project started with such good intentions could have reached today's impasse.

B & G CARRARD

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