

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

I have lived on Vine Street Redfern for over 30 years, and in that time have experienced the results of the Aboriginal Housing Company's (AHC) total lack of interest in properly managing their property and total apathy and lack of interest in the impact of the activities of their residents on the neighbouring community. Having lived through seeing cars on fire on my street, having waded through thickets of drug needles discarded on Louis street, having been mugged on Abercrombie street, having been kept awake for long periods on many nights by the sounds of drunk people (mainly men, but sometimes women) yelling at each other for hours at a time (sometimes with punches being thrown), having heard glass bottles being constantly smashed on the road and footpath, I do not want a return to this sort of behaviour in the community. In those years, prior to the block being razed to the ground, the issues were constantly raised with the South Sydney Council, the Police, the AHC, and the Redfern Waterloo Authority. Ultimately some of us had no other option but to let the press, especially the Daily Telegraph, know how bad things were in the area. Many of us provided detailed submissions to the investigation into the Redfern riots. The area was awful to live in, due to the violent behaviour of some of the AHC residents. Many people's lives were badly impacted and some were psychologically scarred by the experience. As AHC properties were slowly vacated, often due to the Police closing down and boarding up known drug houses, the situation slowly became better. The situation is currently good, since there are no drug dealers or violent, drunken, drugged up residents living on The Block. Things were very bad even when there were few families living on the Block. Some of the families were good people, and we felt sorry for them, having to put up with so much shit from their brethren. Over time, most of the good families moved out, since they did not want to bring their children up in such a violent, drug infested environment. Many of the people who behaved the worst were not even the original residents, but rather "cousins" from the bush, who decided to move in and cause trouble. The AHC, though aware of the issues, had said on many occasions that they were not able to do anything about the issue. If the proposal goes ahead and students end up living in the buildings, with AHC residents living in the complex as well, I predict that the students are going to be freaked out and really stressed. Most Asian students are not used to living close to many people with anger management and domestic violence issues, constantly yelling at each other and assaulting each other. Studying in such an environment would be a difficult challenge for the students. Given the history of AHC apathy and incompetence, why on earth would any rational person expect any significant difference in AHC resident and visitor behaviour in any future incarnation of AHC housing on The Block? What the AHC said and wrote was often nothing like what they ended up doing. The AHC cannot be trusted, this is even the opinion of a large number of Aboriginal people.

The proposed height, 24 storeys, is totally out of character for the area. Even 18 storeys is too high. I think that even 6 storeys is pushing things, as far as being sympathetic to the heritage and appearance of the area. Yes, tall buildings exist on the other side of Lawson street, near Redfern station, but that area is a business and mixed-use area, whereas The Block is in the middle of a residential area. Furthermore, many of the properties near the block are constrained by various 'heritage area' planning laws - this indicates that the heritage nature of the area will be very compromised if a modern, high building is built on The Block. Refer to the objections raised by the Heritage Council for details about why the proposed building is inappropriate for the area. If the recommendations raised by the Heritage Council are going to be ignored, what is the point of even

having a Heritage Council? If the Heritage Council is not competent (I think they are competent) and are not correct in their recommendations (I think their recommendations are correct and sensible), why not just save tax payer's money and disband the Heritage Council and allocate the saved money to NSW Planning Commission Christmas parties? Any height over 6 storeys will cause significant shadowing of neighbouring properties, especially in the Winter months. The traffic and parking situation in the area is already pretty much at maximum capacity. The proposed car parking capacity within the property boundary is totally inadequate for the number of cars that the students and AHC residents will need to park. These cars will spill out onto neighbouring streets, and existing residents will have an even harder time trying to find a car parking spot. Maybe they will be forced to start double parking and parking on the pavements.

What is being proposed is a dystopian horror. I am aware that the majority of stakeholders are objecting to the proposal, but due to financial incentives to certain parties, organisations and people, the proposal might end up being the green light. I hope this does not happen. If the currently proposed development goes ahead, you can be sure that many of the local residents, myself included, will not accept such a decision, and will agitate for a different resolution with all parties that are involved, including, but not limited to: the AHC, NSW Police, Sydney City Council, the local member for the area (Ms Jenny Leong, MP), and the media.