

30 August 2019

Independent Planning Commission

By Email

Dear Panel members

Re The Star hotel and residential development

I'm a resident of Pyrmont. I live in the Watermark Tower across from The Star. I believe the design of the tower is futuristic and a 21st century design. It's not a boring round or square tower – there's too many of those in Sydney already. It's a design and a building that will define Pyrmont in a positive way for many years to come.

I am supportive of this proposal for a number of other reasons as well. But it does concern me that there are some in Pyrmont who do not want to see any further development, even though they are the beneficiaries of the developments that have occurred in the last 20 years. We can't stand still.

The proposal by The Star provides many benefits for us – including new restaurants, cafes and bars. The proposed tower will enhance the area in terms of built form, streetscape and public domain. I know that The Star engaged in a public design competition – they have sought to involve the community from day one and that is appreciated by locals.

The proposal will create a landmark development that contributes positively not only to Pyrmont but to the city in terms of design and architectural features. But we should also look beyond the tower and while there are some who deride and focus on the height of the tower there are other measures that should be applauded. I don't mind by the way, the tower's height, because it adds a unique architectural dimension to the Sydney skyline and to Pyrmont.

The proposal will encourage public transport use and active transport activity. The proposal provides improved vehicle movement including taxis, pedestrian and cycle access, as well as long overdue upgrades to the light rail interchange.

The biggest issue for those who live and work in Pyrmont is connectivity to the CBD. The proposal at least tries to improve the pedestrian and bicycle access to and from the site and improve the site's connection to the CBD along the Pyrmont Bridge and Darling Drive cycleways.

The Star should be congratulated for including the Neighbourhood Centre in its proposal. The Pyrmont Community Centre is overused. Any proposal which includes new community facilities that can be used by locals should be supported.

Your sincerely

Jason Alcock

