

Reply to The Committee of The Draft Strategy for Pyrmont From a 12 year long Resident of Pyrmont

The fact is that **Pyrmont** (without parts of Glebe or Ultimo) **is the densest suburb in Australia**, thus, our residential population far exceeds the corporate or business ventures in the area and should have far more weight on decisions pertaining to the area.

The five precincts which this Draft made up to include parts of Glebe (Glebe Island Bridge) and Ultimo make no sense to the residents of Pyrmont. For instance, Darling Island is strictly the peninsula encompassing Darling Island Road, not the entire length of Pirrama Road. Tumbalong Park is a small area of grass in the newly rebuilt area of Darling Harbour next to the Chinese Gardens and is not a part of the Pyrmont area at all. How does this connect to the Pyrmont Street Western Distributor ramp and Allen Street?

It is impossible to properly assess this Draft without knowing exactly where or if the Metro Station will be sited locally. Highlighted for Metro station access are three possible locations: Pyrmont Village, Blackwattle Bay, and "Darling Island". Which one is it to be? To remove eastern access to the Western Distributor which takes the traffic pressure off the Bank Street connection and build a plaza/urban park at Allen Street as a result makes one wonder if this is where the proposed Metro Line Station will go. And, of course, the Pyrmont Street ramp removal would allow for all those proposed high rise buildings to be built over Darling Drive behind the ICC to the detriment of the Pyrmont residents (the already densest suburb in Australia will be even more dense with the proposed addition of the residential buildings to be built on the site of the current Fish Markets in Blackwattle Bay and the traffic in Pyrmont will be even more severely impacted).

There are several incorrect statements made in this Draft pertaining to access for pedestrians and public transport, of which Pyrmont is already well served: regular ferry services to other inner city Wharfs (Barangaroo, Balmain, Milsons Point and Circular Quay) as well as on to Rose Bay and Watsons Bay, two different bus services to both Central and Ryde as well as through the city to Paddington and Bondi Junction and back, and the light rail to Central to the east and Dulwich Hill to the west. Pedestrian and cycling access takes minutes into the city over the Pyrmont Bridge or through Darling Harbour. And Pyrmont is not "isolated" by the Western Distributor: it is a major thoroughfare, entry, and exit to the suburb from the Harbour Bridge to the north and Anzac Bridge and western suburbs to the west!

Frankly, this Draft Strategy seems to be only a marketing vehicle for the business advancement and continued building of The Star Casino; a business which has been in the news lately for all the wrong reasons (overseas gambling junkets and money laundering spring to mind). The Casino and The Pyrmont Bridge Hotel are the only 24 hour venues and both businesses cause the surrounding apartment

complexes to employ security guards to patrol overnight due to drunken and loutish behaviour. With the potential of two tall buildings on the Star Casino's footprint which would be totally out of character with the suburb, the overshadowing of Union Square and parts of Harris Street would not "respect privacy, open space such as Union Square, views to and from the Harbour, heritage items and existing buildings" as stated in this Draft. Certainly, "better sight lines and views from within and around the area to the water" as quoted in this Draft will not exist either.

We invite the committee members who are responsible for The Draft Strategy for Pyrmont to visit our suburb and see what is already in place. Walk around with residents, look physically at our land area and get a genuine "feel" for our precinct and where we would like to see changes: in other words, do not rely solely on lobbying by business owners who are not active in the broader community.

We hope that the Committee will take our comments seriously as we sincerely care about Pyrmont, our home, and believe the residents' concerns and suggestions should have at least as much weight as the local businesses.

Sincerely yours,

Carol & Bob Lynch

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Pyrmont NSW 2009

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