

I am writing as a resident of Pymont to voice my strong objections to the plans for Pymont Peninsula.

I have lived in Pymont for 9 years and chose to live here because of its diversity. The City of Sydney's tag line is "City of Villages" and Pymont is certainly a village with the sense of community that that engenders very much in evidence. The Pymont peninsula, to me, begins at Darling Harbour and is made up of relatively low rise buildings comprising apartments and terrace houses. It is to be admired and retained because of its mix of terraces, apartments and social housing. Together with the corporate offices, small businesses, cafes, restaurants, hotels and bars this has resulted in a vibrant community.

Darling Harbour is already out of keeping with the feel and nature of the suburb. The size of the "Harbour" itself should lead to caution by those designing new buildings. The feeling is that one is at the bottom of a canyon and hemmed in by buildings which cast shadows and act as wind tunnels. To allow the building of the proposed Mirvac tower would have a further deleterious effect on the suburb and the amenity for both residents and visitors alike.

As of 2011, Pymont is Australia's most densely populated suburb. There can be little reason to add to this so dramatically. Pymont is a peninsula and getting into and out of Pymont can be problematic in peak times. The proposed public transport plans are applauded but when taken in conjunction with the size of the buildings proposed from Blackwattle Bay through to Darling harbour, the improvement will be negated. Parking is already an issue for visitors and the approach of recent developments to not offer parking for all residents will only make this worse.

The argument put by proponents seems mostly to focus on the importance of having yet more commercial and residential buildings and hotels close to the CBD. I believe that the state government is, indeed, seeing Darling Harbour as part of the CBD in its new plan. Has nothing been learned from the pandemic and its impact on work-spaces in the city? There is growing recognition of the viability of not working in an office in the city – or of doing so much less frequently. It is madness to continue to build such buildings when they so obviously have a negative impact on the environment and the public enjoyment of the foreshore.

That said, I am not against development per se. I am, however, strongly against a development which would change the character of such an important, historical part of Sydney forever. The proximity of the proposed buildings to the Pymont Bridge are also of great concern. The Bridge has great historic significance to the area and to Sydney's maritime history. The proposed new hotel at the Star is not warranted and will further add to the congestion and destruction of the village feel.

Sydney has experienced enough loss of amenity. This would be not just a step too far but one that would destroy all that those who live, work and visit Pymont enjoy.

I urge that consideration is given to the tagline of “city of villages”. This is a concept, and reality, that is what makes such cities as New York, Paris, London and Budapest such a joy to visit. Each borough, arrondissement and area has its own character, attraction and atmosphere. I am at a loss why planners in Sydney would not ensure that this same character is maintained in our city. I ask that the proposal be rejected.