

Feb 4,2022

In January 2019 the NSW Government and the Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) proposed an expansion of their facilities. The argument was that it would “consolidate” the national collections of maritime heritage vessels in a single location.

The residents of Pirrama Rd/Darling Island felt that this proposal would significantly increase vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the local area, that the proposed licensed venue at the time (the South Stayne) would be placed within 70m of Sydney Wharf Apartments, that the costs of security at Sydney Wharf Apartments would likely increase, we would be affected by the additional noise from the ferries which would have been located very close to Sydney Wharf Apartments, and increase pollution from steam driven vessels firing up their boilers.

So here we are, yet again, but in January 2022, with another similar proposal, but only worse. Why is the NSW Government choosing to continue this behaviour? The NSW Government has issued a 99 year lease for the land that the Sydney Wharf Apartments reside and a 20 year lease for the marina. [A lease of Crown land gives exclusive use of a particular piece of land for a specified term and purpose.](#)

Why is it that this “community consultation” always occurs in January when many residents are on holidays and have little time to respond to the consultation.

The NSW Government has taken our money, we pay rates, and every three years we are subjected to a proposal to take away what we have legitimately purchased? It’s a residential area and you want to turn it into an entertainment precinct at our expense. Why did the NSW Government allow the building of the Sydney Wharf Apartments and marina in the first place, if then it would subject the residents with continual harassment and inability to the peaceful enjoyment of their residents and require us to justify our position? . Why is it that we have to continually have to push back on plans that would affect the peaceful enjoyment of living at the Sydney Wharf Apartments?

If the ANMM needs more space, they either find another location for ANMM, or expand elsewhere that does not impinge on the peaceful enjoyment of others. But do not do this expansion at our expense.

You simply cannot have a maritime museum expanding and taking away the rights of residents who have purchased homes and marina berths in good faith. This is theft. Or is the NSW Government planning to notify us that our homes and marine berths will be compulsory acquired? Just bully us out of existence?

The iconic Australian film “The Castle” is a testament to what happens when a David and Goliath battle between private individuals and government authorities occurs, because there is a general reluctance of landowners to allow the NSW Government to interfere with their land. I do not think that the residents of Sydney Wharf are going to take this matter lightly and I’m sure that a lengthy legal battle will ensue. It will be hard fought and public.

Compulsory acquisition is generally reserved for rural area for public projects where there is less existing infrastructure. The NSW Court of Appeal has made it clear that the NSW Government does not have free reign to acquire private owned land on a whim. While we all love the ANMM, , it just cannot expand at other peoples expense and take what they have purchased. Darling Island sub-precinct is referred to as a mixed use recreational, cultural and entertainment destination. Despite a number of residential developments in the zone, there is no acknowledgement of the residential aspect of this sub-precinct and no considerations for protection of residential amenities are taken into account. And your reference to Pymont Bay 'pier connection' effectively cutting off half of Sydney Wharf Marina is a total disregard that we have our boats here and enjoy going out on the harbour and you want to destroy our way of life.

Please just stop.

Yours Sincerely

John & Victoria De Margheriti

