

Friday, 4 February 2022

Project Leader
Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy
Department of Planning, Industry and Environment
4 Parramatta Square
Parramatta NSW 2150

To: The Project Leader

RE: Submission re Proposed Pymont Peninsula Special Infrastructure Contribution (SIC)

The Australian National Maritime Museum (the Museum) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Pymont Peninsula Special Infrastructure Contribution (SIC). While the Museum broadly supports the proposed SIC in relation to the Pymont Metro station, the details of the proposed SIC require further consultation, discussion and consideration.

For background, the Museum was conceived as the leading cultural offer in Darling Harbour, with the main museum building co-funded by the Commonwealth and NSW Governments. As the only national cultural institution headquartered outside of Canberra, the Museum is a key cultural anchor and tourism driver for Pymont, and ordinarily attracts over 1 million onsite visitors each year (of which approximately 50% are tourists; 2/3 domestic and 1/3 international). The Museum collaborates with the NSW Government, City of Sydney and other strategic partners to ensure its Museum buildings and precinct provide a compelling, world-class offer that supports the vision of the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy to provide a vibrant 24-hour cultural and entertainment destination.

The 10 key directions of the Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy importantly identify creatively, culture and heritage as a key factor to the successful future development of the Peninsula, including building on existing cultural and entertainment offerings. The arts, culture and creativity are what bring an area to life and provide a reason to visit.

With the proposed SIC rate of \$200 per sqm of new GFA to be imposed on new non-residential developments, the Museum believes there should be further definition and exclusion added for Government-funded and other arts and cultural institutions that operate on a not-for-profit basis, such as the Museum.

With the imposition of a SIC on arts and cultural institutions, the objectives of the Pyrmont Peninsula Place Strategy to provide jobs in arts, culture, and entertainment while promoting the area's (and the wider state and national) heritage, amenity and character, will be undermined. If these institutions were exempted from the SIC, this would support future investment in the expansion of local arts and cultural facilities and the activation of public spaces to create a vibrant 24-hour cultural and entertainment destination of benefit to both visitors and the local community.

The Museum trusts that the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will give due consideration to the above in relation to the proposed Pyrmont Peninsula SIC.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Sumption', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kevin Sumption PSM

Director and CEO