

# OPERA HSE V CASINO

Would the NSW Govt build a Casino at Bennelong Point these days – rather than the world famous Opera House we now have ? Former Aboriginal housing land opposite busy Redfern Rail Station – is now being offered to a private developer.

Save Our Sydney has now used an official application form request to speak at the Last Chance “public” meeting for the community to oppose the granting of State Significance permission - to the so-called Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC), to lease part of the Block in Redfern. On afternoon of 12 Nov permission to speak at the 15 Nov 10am forum was notified.

The reputed 99 year lease selloff for hi-rise housing is on the former Pemulwuy Park and previous local School section - opposite the now demolished Everleigh St housing. That former private housing - already due for redevelopment, was bought by the AHC - set up by the mid 1970's to receive a grant from the Whitlam Labor Govt. The estate was then left to rot.

## BLACK HISTORY NOT FOR SALE FOR PROFIT ?

The original Pemulwuy plan by AHC was to build a car parking station there to raise money for rebuilding over 60 flats plus lease shops. That was opposed by Sydney City Council. The Block now is effectively parkland, with the proposed 99 year lease section opposite down Everleigh St, along the railway line.

This cultural precinct, just down from Redfern Station – is now slated for a private developer to build a (minimum?)16 storey hi-rise commercial “student” accommodation. That will be higher than the rash of new high rise accommodation on Redfern St side. Successive state Govt's have failed to build a foot-bridge from Redfern St - over busy Gibbons Rd to a southern Concourse above the station – with lifts.

A MODERN INDIGENOUS GATEWAY TO AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CITY - IS BEING CARVED UP FOR SALE AS LUXURY FLATS IN HI-RISE FOR MAINLY FOREIGN “UNI STUDENTS”. ALL TO FUND 70 UNITS.

Clearly the Block housing experiment was meant to be a disaster – with the AHC running an Aboriginality Test, to decide who was eligible to get into it. In true soviet style – some tenants often resisted paying rent, while the AHC often only pretended to maintain the old houses. Then the demolitions started to evict people.

Despite the Block's inevitable descent into a drug dealing no-go area over the decades – all main political parties have supported the supposed Pemulwuy Plan to commercialise a redevelopment of the now demolished Block housing area. Problem is, no Govt would fund it or any Bank finance it.

## BLACK PARK PLUS MUSEUM - NOT HI-RISE !

For a number of years now, the Save Our Sydney project of the non-profit NGO UPE, has been trying to campaign for the AHC owned Block area to become a cultural precinct. It should be controlled by a responsible Aboriginal run organisation – which the AHC clearly is not. An Aboriginal community housing mini estate could operate by lease elsewhere in Everleigh – such in an existing FACS Housing estate on Henderson Rd on the corner of Progress Rd. Erskineville

The now grassed area in the Block should be developed as a *public* park – controlled by that democratically elected Aboriginal NGO, for ceremonial purposes. A modern Aboriginal Political Museum should be located at a restored ex- Mundine Gym as soon as possible – perhaps later to relocate, at least in part, to a building along with murals in old Pemulwuy Park.

