

Star Casino Redevelopment MOD13

I wish to express my strong objection to the redevelopment of the Star Casino with the addition of the 61-storey residential/ hotel tower.

This proposal was rejected by the NSW Planning Department – a decision that was supported by the Minister. This decision was made primarily on the basis that the scale of the development did not fit with the low to medium character of the adjoining area. The Department stated in its advice that “the proposed tower is inconsistent with and would adversely affect the established character of Pymont”. The proposed tower would be over three times the height of the neighbouring buildings.

The City of Sydney and the local member Alex Greenwich supported the community of Pymont in its opposition to the development.

I therefore ask,

1. Why has the proposal been reconsidered?
2. Had the Department approved the development, would there have been a similar opportunity for public consultation to revisit the decision? The cynic in me says not.
3. What faith can the people of NSW have in the Planning System, when decisions can be overridden at the whim of the loudest objectors.
4. Why has the Premier seen fit to intervene so publicly in a decision of the relevant Minister and his Department?
5. There has been a comment by Chris Johnson, SEO Urban Taskforce [*SMH 21/8/19 Letters*] that the development would lead to “an amazing entertainment and innovation precinct”. This suggests that this development is the forerunner of other, similarly inappropriate towers. What is actually being planned for Pymont and how can a casino/ hotel/ apartment tower be considered of benefit to the wider community?

A planning system is supposed to be an orderly process of development for the greater good with community input. The current manoeuvres resemble a ruthless use of public amenity for private gain.

I am unable to attend the meeting on Tuesday 27 August. I would like this submission to be accepted as a rejection of proposal D573/19

Manuela Epstein

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]