

4 February 2022

NSW Department of Planning Industry and Environment

Re: Pyrmont Peninsula master plan

The Glebe Society has over 400 members and has been actively engaged in planning for over fifty years. As Glebe adjoins Pyrmont and Ultimo there are aspects of the plan which are of common interest to all three suburbs. Our comments on three particular aspects are set out below.

Wentworth Park Sub Precinct

The park has a distinguished history both in pre- and post-European occupation Sydney. Prior to its creation by land reclamation in the mid-19th century it was important to the traditional owners the Cadigal because it was part of an abundant eco-system where salt water changed to fresh water. In pre-colonial times only the corner of the park at the intersection of Wentworth Park Rd and Wattle Street was above water.

After its reclamation as a park it had a gardenesque plan which providing for active and passive recreation.

In the twentieth century the park was degraded by alienating a large core at the centre for greyhound racing, using other areas as temporary carparks and replacing the gardenesque layout with grass for ease of maintenance.

The Glebe Society:

1. Strongly supports your recommendation that the Greyhound Association licence not be renewed when it expires in 2027.
2. Recommends that the State Government commit to funding the rehabilitation of the park.
3. Recommends that these works include:
 - I. Removing the large grandstand
 - II. Recovering the landscape character using components of the formal nineteenth century design but with indigenous plantings thereby creating a unique park which marries indigenous and post-indigenous landscape and plantings
 - III. Strengthening links to the Glebe Foreshore walk and Johnstons Creek parklands thereby creating a unique landscape trail.
4. Notes the importance of developing a coherent interpretation strategy for Blackwattle Creek which has largely disappeared (though it survives in part as Lake Northam in Victoria Park) and using any opportunities provided by redevelopment along the former creek edge to identify, document and interpret the use of Blackwattle Bay and its estuary by the traditional owners.

The description of the Wentworth Park sub-precinct should include the words contained in square brackets below:

6. Wentworth Park: a park-side community of historic warehouses and terraces that builds upon the scale and experience of the Ultimo heritage conservation zone, local heart of Quarry Green [and the Glebe Heritage Conservation Zones along its western edge].

Blackwattle Bay Sub-Precinct

Foreshore walk

We are concerned by the words *where feasible* the foreshore walk is to be 20 metres wide. The harbourside promenade in Glebe is already heavily used and at times congested. We know from experience it should ideally be 30 metres wide.

The new fish markets will be a local, national and international tourist attraction. This, along with the completion of the 'missing link' in the foreshore walk from Circular Quay to Rozelle Bay, means it will be used by large numbers of people. Users will include pedestrians, joggers, people with infants in prams and cyclists. The promenade should be 30 metres wide and at no point be less than 20 metres. This is achievable. The promenade will be there forever – making it too narrow is a serious design flaw which future generations will rue. It must be wider.

Blackwattle Bay Sub-Precinct

View and Height Strategy

Aspects of the plan recognise the need to retain the legibility of the topography of Pyrmont and to reinforce and create visual connections with Blackwattle Bay.

The Western Distributor is a shadowy chasm separating Pyrmont from Blackwattle Bay. It destroys the legibility of Pyrmont as a peninsula, is a gloomy wasteland and feels like an unsafe area. More needs to be done to improve the pedestrian experience of walking across Pyrmont to the bay. The views to the west with the harbour in the foreground and Glebe Point with its beautiful landscape and architecture in the distance framing the horizon are picturesque. Great potential exists to open up these vistas. It is a distinguished, indeed, a painterly vista which allows the Distributor with its vertical stanchions and horizontal roadway to be read as a frame enclosing a magnificent landscape. Apart from a narrow slot of open space to the bay on the Miller Street axis the proposal does not take advantage of these opportunities.

It is of paramount importance that the master plan engage with the Blackwattle Bay State Significant project in a creative way. Only by doing so will the best outcomes for the people of Sydney be achieved.

Yours sincerely



Ian Stephenson
President