

CONFERENCE OF LEADERS OF RELIGIOUS INSTITUTES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

CLRI (NSW)

ABN: 52 476 362 010
Member of the Catholic Church Religious Group

11 April 2006

Redfern-Waterloo Authority,
P.O. Box 3332,
Redfern,
NSW 2016

Re: Draft Redfern-Waterloo Built Environment Plan (Stage One).

Thank you for the opportunity to present a submission about the above Draft Plan especially about the area known as 'The Block'. We understand that this piece of private land has been listed as part of a State Significant Development. This land is a significant site for the local Aboriginal community because of its unique history and the sense of identity connected with it. The local Aboriginal people, therefore, need to be involved and listened to in any planning for the future.

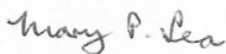
We are concerned about the limitations put on the development of The Block. The Pemulwuy Project, including 62 dwellings, would enhance the significance of the area for Aboriginal people and others. There is the potential for tourism as well as the on-going development of a vibrant, cultural community.

The Block was given to the Aboriginal community by the Whitlam Government in 1973 and its development should be in accordance with its needs and aspirations. In a letter to The Sydney Morning Herald, Peter Valilis from the Aboriginal Housing Company, pointed out that the NSW Premier's Department and the AHC worked closely together "on perfecting the social and urban planning for the Pemulwuy Project" such that the design has won a number of awards. The Pemulwuy Project, including the 62 dwellings, is an important way of building positive social, cultural and economic outcomes. We urge the Authority to have goals that have 'substance' and not to reject the Project on the grounds of commercial interest and the desire for a different social mix in the area.

We understand that there is Government-owned land near Redfern Station which has no current zoning. A suggestion would be for that land to be zoned with a reduced residential occupancy to maintain the Government's plan for a wider social make-up of the area without changing the proposed Pemulwuy Project.

We strongly urge the Redfern-Waterloo Authority and the NSW Government to reconsider the Pemulwuy Project and to support and empower it.

Yours faithfully,



Mary P. Lea

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

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