

28 March 2014

Department of Planning & Infrastructure – Submission in relation to proposed changes to planning controls for Newcastle City Centre

This letter is my request for the review some of the aspects of the above planning changes in regard to the high rise development planned for the Hunter Street Mall.

Whilst I am in favour of the revitalization of Central Newcastle I believe that allowing the changes from the agreed height restriction of buildings to 70 metres is not in the long-term interests of the City.

Restricting all buildings to a lower height:

- Allows light into the main city areas, encouraging and enhancing enjoyment of public areas, street dining etc, by Novacastrians and tourists alike
- Maintains the Heritage skyline and allows views of the Cathedral and Hill areas from the lower street and Harbour sites
- Allows for the retention of Heritage facades on existing buildings, further adding to a unique and appealing city area (as seen to advantage in many European cities such as Paris, Rome, Florence)
- Avoids the ugly cityscape created by soulless, out-of-place, quite unsuitable tall buildings

I submit that the proposal to increase DCP height limits in relation to the Hunter Street Mall Development should be rejected, given the existing height limits are sufficient to achieve the objective of “Revitalising Newcastle” (as against turning a huge profit). I also submit that Urban Growth NSW/GPT should put forward alternative proposals within the existing height limits of the DCP/LEP for the consideration of the community, as against trying to force their option on the local community by providing only a single option.

Jennifer Slee