

Ben Eveleigh - Online Submission from Geoffrey Gordon of Retired (object)

From: Geoffrey Gordon <geoffreygordon1@gmail.com>
To: Ben Eveleigh <ben.eveleigh@planning.nsw.gov.au>
Date: 9/03/2011 10:43 AM
Subject: Online Submission from Geoffrey Gordon of Retired (object)
CC: <assessments@planning.nsw.gov.au>

I am writing to you to request you to give more consideration to the proposed redevelopment of the Graythwaite site at MacMahon's Point by Sydney Church of England Grammar School. This site is one of great heritage significance, in regard to its buildings and grounds. I find it completely unacceptable in this day and age of environmental awareness that so close to the heart of Sydney environmental values should be degraded by a development of this type. If the redevelopment goes ahead, green space would be lost, habitat for wildlife would be lost or disturbed, while further building on the site would also disrupt the water table. I have no doubt that the Sydney Church of England Grammar School has good reasons for wanting to expand its facilities, but quite simply, Graythwaite is an unsuitable location for an expansion of this scale.

The redevelopment proposal is not a minor or routine one that should be waved through without further debate. The development would involve great disruption to neighbouring properties and cause road congestion. It would involve the destruction of many trees, some of which, I understand, were planted by returned diggers from WW I. That generation is gone, but I think their wishes and contribution to our society should be remembered, respected and appreciated.

Lastly, I would like to add that the loss of heritage in Sydney has been widespread. As the song says 'You don't know what you've lost till it's gone'. The loss of heritage is a 'death by a thousand cuts'. A bit is lost here, a bit is lost there. To planners, no doubt, each little bit lost seems not important. But the net result is huge. 'Enough is enough'. My grandmother used to have a saying 'Think twice, cut once'. This redevelopment should be considered not just on its own merits in isolation, but in the context of the sorry history of heritage destruction that has gone on for years.

I urge you to put this redevelopment proposal on hold, so that the community can have a decent chance to reassess it. To proceed would only confirm the widespread impression that Sydney only cares about money and that it doesn't care about its past or its heritage values. I urge you to 'think twice' before you allow more of our precious heritage to disappear.

Yours sincerely,
Geoffrey Gordon

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Submission for Job: #4274 MP 10_0150 - Graythwaite Project Application
https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_job&id=4274

Site: #2350 Graythwaite

https://majorprojects.onhiive.com/index.pl?action=view_site&id=2350

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