

2 June 2021

The Hon Melinda Pavey, MP
Minister for Water, Property and Housing
Parliament of NSW

Dear Minister

Thank you meeting with us.

Our Society is over 50 years old and has over 400 members. Since our foundation in 1969 we have been actively engaged in nurturing heritage, good planning and community.

Many things have come together to make Glebe unique:

- its proximity to the city (its only 3 kilometres to Parliament House)
- its range of dwellings from early colonial mansions to modest terrace houses
- its intactness, the National Trust has identified it as having *the largest number of 1860s and 70s cottages and terraces forming a continuous townscape in Australia*
- its broad social demographic from rich, middle to poor – this has been a feature of Glebe for 180 years
- its proximity to Sydney University, for almost 170 years Glebe's intellectual vitality has been shaped by academics and students
- its place at the vanguard of the urban conservation movement in Australia when governments restored and renovated over 700 historic houses and added 1,000 bedrooms of new social housing with no building over three storeys high.

It is a special place for the people of NSW. City's must grow and change but they are also vitalised and enriched by places like Glebe. It is as important to Sydney as Spitalfields is to London and Back Bay is to Boston.

There are three things which LAHC need to take account of in planning in Glebe:

- Its coherence
- Its scale
- The integration of public housing into the community (not to make Glebe a tale of two cities with the private owners in houses and the public housing tenants in apartments)

The Land and Housing Corporation is the biggest landowner in Glebe. The removal of low-rise infill housing from the heritage conservation areas and its replacement by 8 storey apartment buildings, as is currently happening at 17-31 Cowper St and 2A-D Wentworth Park Rd, will destroy its scale and community.

We support the provision of additional social housing but not in this way. Urban character and community must be respected.

The Society requests that the Land and Housing Corporation:

1. Make no more rezoning applications to increase the height limits of LAHC sites in Glebe.
2. Respect Glebe's heritage conservation areas
3. Explore opportunities to add additional housing by low rise infill designed to reflect the scale and character of Glebe.

The Society has read the Housing 2041, NSW Housing Strategy and the 2021-2022 Housing Action Plan and believes there are special opportunities for the government to use Glebe as an exemplar of best practice. Particularly in regard to:

Respecting Local Character: what makes a neighbourhood distinctive and gives a place identity, including the way it looks and feels. A combination of land, people, the built environment, history, culture and tradition create local character

Establishing a research agenda which promotes best practice in inserting new housing into heritage conservation zones

Partnerships to better manage Glebe's existing public housing estates by exploring innovative housing models such as community land trusts which draw on skills from across the Glebe community to provide better and more cost-effective outcomes for Glebe's public housing.

Glebe is a unique suburb which a broad range of talents and skills, a strong sense of place and a commitment to social diversity.

Minister, thank you for taking the time to meet with us. We would be grateful if you could consider and advise us of the government's position of in relation to our request that LAHC:

1. Make no more rezoning applications to increase the height limits of LAHC sites in Glebe.
2. Respect Glebe's heritage conservation areas
3. Explore opportunities to add additional housing by low rise infill designed to reflect the scale and character of Glebe.

We believe Glebe can play a special role in the delivery of the NSW Government's Housing Strategy. On behalf of the Society, I extend a cordial invitation for you to visit and allow us to show you round.

Yours sincerely



Janet Wahlquist
President

