

26 May, 2014

Mr Brian James
Chairman
Sydney Superyacht Marina Pty Ltd
PO Box 436
ROZELLE NSW 2039

Dear Mr James.

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the Community Consultative Committee in which you asked The Glebe Society to agree that “the committee is representative of the District and fulfils adequately the requirements of the PAC approval...” Your letter sets out the membership of the committee as it is now founded.

Before joining the committee we sought advice from the Team Leader for Industry, Social Projects and Key Sites of the NSW Department of Planning and Infrastructure as we were concerned about the method by which the committee was founded and the independence of its chair. In asking “What are the criteria for independence?” and “What is the consultative governance process for appointments to CLCs?” we emphasised,

This development is significant and will require sensitive, mutually respectful discussions. It is essential to establish the committee safely in the first instance and for its members to be seen by all parties as legitimate. Consultation requires trust. We commend the Planning Assessment Commission for requiring the formation of a CLC.

The Department replied that, “In general, the department is satisfied that the membership of the Committee represents an appropriate mix of stakeholders including community represents (sic) and that this will ensure transparency in the consideration of issues raised by the community and a balance (sic) outcome.” It also noted that the Chair, Mr Waters, “has no financial interest in Sydney Superyacht Marina and therefore, has an appropriate degree of independence to chair the Committee.”

The Glebe Society then made an on balance decision to accept membership of the committee. We did so in the expectation that we would have better access to progress of the development and any changes or clarifications to existing approvals, which we could share with the community in an orderly manner.

However, by separate investigations we formed the position that consultative committees must meet at least the standards set out in NSW Department of Planning (2007) *Guidelines for Establishing and Operating Consultative Committees in the Mining Industry*. We maintain that position.

At least in its formation the Superyacht Marina committee does not meet these criteria and therefore we cannot know if “the committee is representative of the District and fulfils adequately the requirements of the PAC approval...” as you ask. This question could only be reasonably answered if a process had proceeded which was within the guidelines.

Nonetheless, we have accepted membership of the CCC as currently formed and will work within it. We welcome the presence of another residents’ group representative (White Bay Joint Steering Committee) and the Leichhardt Municipal Council. We note that there are two representatives from 501 Glebe Point Rd, which exceeds the requirement of the PAC decision.

Yours truly

Dr. John Gray
President