



The Hon. Barry O'Farrell, MP  
Level 40 Governor Macquarie Tower  
1 Farrer Place  
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

At the request of your Minister for Planning, many members of the Glebe Society attended a series of community consultations concerning the Bays Precinct Task Force. Professor Jane Marceau was the only direct community representative appointed to the Task Force –*albeit* assisted by Glebe Society member, Dr Lesley Lynch as an alternate representative able to attend meetings. The Task Force was overwhelmingly dominated by government agencies. The purpose of the Task Force was to produce a Report that would form the basis for long overdue strategic planning for the Bays Precinct and bring an end to the scandalous piecemeal development that has occurred over past decades.

We participated enthusiastically and saw this public consultation as part of your electoral promise to properly engage communities in policy making. While we had severe disappointments with the manner in which the consultation occurred and the lack of voice provided to the community, we committed to make the most of the process. We are therefore dismayed at your Government's inaction. The Task Force reported in August 2012 but its report has still not been released and we have no indication of the Government's views. We have heard nothing strategic but piecemeal development of our bays- in total conflict with the community supported principles continues on multiple projects. .

Premier, there are two strategic policy issues here.

The first is that the Bays Precinct needs proper strategic planning. The release of the Report should be expedited and a strategic plan incorporating the strong community supported planning principle developed with proper community engagement. The second goes to the heart of your Government's *bona fides*, which will be measured by the authenticity of its community engagement. Quite rightly your Government has called for public involvement in determining the final shape of its Draft Long Term Transport Plan, the Green Paper on Planning and the Infrastructure NSW reports, to name some to which the Society has responded. But public involvement means voice, conversation and results which respect community views.

The political process has been so devalued in recent decades that surely the task of a government with a majority such as the NSW people gave you must give priority to restoring community respect and trust. The long delay in responding to the Bays Precinct Taskforce Report, compounded by the imposition of confidentiality on our community representatives is not a good way to generate this in our community. In this context, the Glebe Society urges you to release the Bays Precinct Taskforce Report and the Government's reaction to it for community consideration in the very near future.

I remind you the community was heavily engaged in conveying its views through our community representative(s) on the Taskforce. We are very hopeful that we now have a Government which will engage with the community. At the moment we can only see a continuation of planning decisions in the Bays Precinct which are neither strategic nor in the broad public interest –the most recent of which is the endorsement of the grossly inappropriate land based uses associated with the Super Yachts Marina in Rozelle Bay.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure

Yours truly

*John Gray*

John Gray PhD  
President

cc Minister for Planning and Infrastructure