



The Haberfield Association

PO Box 121  
Haberfield NSW 2045

20<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

**Darcy Byrne**

Mayor, Inner West Council PO Box 14, Petersham. NSW 2049

[darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au](mailto:darcy.byrne@innerwest.nsw.gov.au)

Dear Mr Byrne,

**Re: Council Position on NSW Government Housing and Planning Reforms**

We write on behalf of the members of the Haberfield Association to express our profound disappointment and dismay with Council's decision to ignore the advice of its professional staff regarding the proposals in the NSW Government's papers: **Transport Oriented Development (TOD) and Diverse and Well-Located Housing (DWLH)**. This decision to adopt a different path from Council professionals serves to undermine their authority and damage their morale.

Instead we have a resolution that fails to challenge some of the fundamental assumptions under-pinning the reforms; as well as ignoring the potential damage that the over-riding of all Council controls may do to intact heritage streetscapes, and the livability and amenity of vast swathes of our suburbs. The infrastructure and traffic implications alone are of deep concern to Inner West residents.

As a community, we accept fully that solutions to housing affordability and availability must be made a priority by governments. But, the regulatory and legal framework which has governed planning over decades cannot be a casualty in the quest for solutions. Place based planning and approvals must be retained. Increased density should not lead to the degradation of amenity or a removal of authority from local Councils which are threatened by these NSW Government proposals. There must be a balance found between density, open space, heritage and important layers of a communities' history.

The Haberfield Association Inc. was established in 1980. It consists of residents of the suburb, all of whom volunteer to undertake Association work. It has a longstanding and respected record of contributions to protecting the heritage of the suburb. We will not abandon all of this in favour of a blanket solution to a crisis created by successive governments failing to plan for and invest in public housing while allowing the market to dictate development.

The Association has made a submission on the proposals incorporating the major contents of Council's draft Submission and adding to the section on heritage.

We want and expect Council to work cooperatively with Government always being mindful of the community, which it is elected to serve.

We extend our thanks to Council professional staff for their commendable work in analysing the implications of the NSW Government's proposals.

.

Yours sincerely,

**Ronald Brown**

**President**

**Jozefa Sobski AM**

**Vice President**

Cc General Manager, Peter Gainsford

Councillors