



24 November 2017

Department of Planning and Environment  
Attn: Director – Key Sites Assessment, Planning Services  
GPO Box 39  
Sydney NSW 2001

*Via online portal*

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: Art Gallery of NSW – Sydney Modern**

The Sydney Business Chamber is a division of the NSW Business Chamber and represents Sydney's leading corporations, advocating for Sydney to be a competitive and sustainable global city.

The Chamber strives to identify, develop and promote the major issues that contribute to economic activity and growth in Australia's only global city, Sydney. This is achieved on behalf of business by representation and collaboration with governments at the local, state and federal level.

The Chamber welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the proposed expansion of the Art Gallery of NSW (the AGNSW) through the Sydney Modern project.

The Chamber is a strong supporter of the AGNSW and both its cultural and economic contribution to Sydney.

The Chamber believes that the development of Sydney Modern will only serve to increase this contribution by encouraging greater visitation to both the Gallery specifically and to Sydney generally.

Within its current footprint, the Gallery is constrained in terms of accommodating patrons as well as staff, its cultural programmes and, importantly, its collection. As a result of these constraints and the increased competition from larger interstate galleries (such as the National Gallery of Victoria and the Queensland Art Gallery) the Gallery is missing out on international exhibition opportunities.

Sydney Modern is an opportunity to address these constraints and deliver expanded spaces for performance, display and study.

**Response to the Revised Plans**

Sydney Business Chamber  
Street address  
Level 23, 45 Clarence Street,  
Sydney, 2000  
Postal address  
GPO Box 4280 Sydney NSW  
2001  
DX 10109  
t (02) 9350 8119  
f (02) 9350 8199  
e enquiries@  
thechamber.com.au

Since its conception in 2014, there has been significant consultation on the Sydney Modern proposal. Critically, the application now before the Department, addresses the primary concerns that had been raised in relation to the project in terms of its siting, size and encroachment on land adjoining the Botanical Gardens.

The Chamber notes the considerations undertaken by Johnson Pilton Walker in its *Siting Strategies Analysis* as part of the Environmental Impact Statement for the project. The Chamber supports its evaluation that Option B3, while representing a more complex construction approach and having a more prominent visual impact from eastern approaches, is the most appropriate site for the Sydney Modern project. The area in which the Project will be sited is relatively under-utilised, will provide an opportunity to improve pedestrian connectivity and does not impact on heritage trees within the area.

Similarly, the revised architectural plans for the project from Kazuyo Sejima and Ryue Nishizawa / SANNA and its use of terraces and natural pathways will increase visual integration with the surrounding site and help preserve the natural topography. In addition, the building's design and site allows for the re-purposing of a disused fuel bunker for public use.

The Chamber thanks you once again for the opportunity to comment on a proposal that has such great potential to lift the cultural contribution of Sydney. Please contact Luke Aitken, Senior Manager Policy NSW Business Chamber on 02 9458 7582 or [luke.Aitken@nswbc.com.au](mailto:luke.Aitken@nswbc.com.au) if you would like to discuss this submission further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Forsythe".

**The Hon. Patricia Forsythe**  
Executive Director  
Sydney Business Chamber