From: Kim Oates
To: Plan Comment Mailbox
Cc: Nick Armstrong
Subject: 2020SNH005-North Sydney-PP_2020_Noth_004_00
Date: Sunday, 1 November 2020 11:01:25 AM

Dear NSW Planning Panels

I write in response to a letter received about the site at 173-179 Walker St and 11-17 Hampden St North Sydney.

I am concerned that the letter sent to interested parties is largely incomprehensible. For example. “increase the maximum height of buildings from 12 m to RL133” and “establish a maximum FSR of 6.1:1” have no meaning to anyone not initiated in this particular form of jargon.

How can an ordinary, intelligent citizen understand this?

The letter invited me to look at the website, saying the information could be found under “planning proposals”. Even that statement is confusing. There is no “planning proposals” tab on that website. I discovered that the details are under the “current proposals” tab.

Can I respectfully suggest that if you do wish to engage the community in any meaningful discussion, documents should be written in clear, simple English, devoid of jargon.

The suspicious part of my mind makes me wonder if this is a deliberate ploy to prevent any meaningful community consultation. However, I am more inclined to the theory of lack of any careful thought about the readability of the document.

As the average reading age for a tabloid newspaper is about that of a 12 year old, it is tempting to suggest that if no one in the planning department is capable of producing a document suitable for the average person, they seek the advice of a couple of children in year 6 at a nearby primary school.

I write this in the hope that it will be received constructively, as a way of assisting Planning Panels in future consultations.

Sincerely

Robyn Kay Oates
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