PPSSEC-296, Council's Addendum Report Responding to The Panel's Deferral Dated 14 August 2024

1. Background

The addendum report has been prepared in response to the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel's deferral dated 14 August 2024 and should be reviewed in conjunction with the Council's assessment report from 1 August 2024.

A teleconference public meeting was held on 8 August 2024 to determine the Development Application (DA2023/0222, PPSSEC-296) for the construction of a 37-storey shop-top housing development at 9-13 Blaxland Road, Rhodes.

During the meeting, the applicant presented the application to the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel (the Panel). The Panel deferred the decision, requesting an increase in the Communal Open Space (CoS) area to justify the planning ground for the Clause 4.6 variation request related to the standard maximum building height under the Canada Bay Local Environmental Plan 2013.

The Panel specified that the proposed CoS should be expanded as follows: "

- Additional communal open space on the rooftop, as set out in the attached diagram (Schedule 2); and
- Additional communal space on level 20 by deleting unit 2001 on level 21 and 2101 on level 21." Please see **Figure 1**.



Figure 1 | requested additional communal open space on the rooftop (Source: Panel's Deferral Dated 14 August 2024, schedule 2)

2. Proposed Changes

The Applicant amended the application accordingly and submitted the following documents on August 20 in response to the panel's request for further information.

DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION			
Floor Plans: level 20,21 &37 Drawing No: DA-2010, DA-2011 & DA-2013,Revision E	Dated	Drawn Group GSA	by
	14/08/2024		
Elevations : North- South Elevation, East-West Elevation Drawing No: DA-3002 & DA-3003, Revision E	14/08/2024	Drawn Group GSA	by
Letter of Review – Pedestrian Wind Environment	20/08/2024	Prepared RWDI	by
Summary of Changes	16/08/2024	Prepared Group GSA	by

The design has been amended to create additional Communal Open Space (CoS) by removing unit 2001 on Level 20 and unit 2101 on Level 21. The CoS on the rooftop has been increased by reallocating part of the penthouse's private open space area and one of its bedrooms, adding these areas to the communal open space. The proposed changes are illustrated in following **Figure 2Figure 6**:



Figure 2 | Changes to the Level 37 Floor Plans

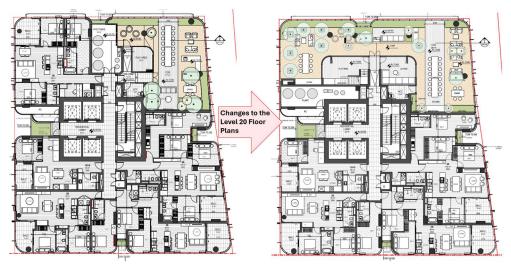


Figure 3 | Changes to the Level 20 Floor Plans



Figure 4 | Changes to the Level 21 Floor Plans

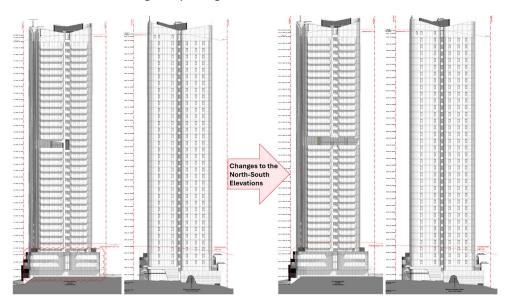


Figure 5 | Changes to the North-South Elevations



Figure 6 | Changes to the East-West Elevations

3. Council's Assessment

As a result of the proposed changes, the penthouse unit size has been reduced from 5 bedrooms to 4 bedrooms, and the plunge pool and dining seating in the POS area have been removed. This has allowed for a 69 sqm increase in rooftop communal space (CoS). Additionally, Units 2001 and 2101 have been removed and replaced with additional communal open space and internal areas, increasing the internal CoS by 121 sqm. These new communal areas now feature a dining area, a large kitchen with an island, a larger function room with an expanded communal dining area, and an accessible toilet. Sunken seating and lounge areas have also been added. Collectively, these changes have resulted in a total increase of 190 sqm in CoS, enhancing the amenity for future residents.

The facades have been redesigned to reflect these changes, which include opening the Level 20 terrace to the west. This modification introduces new wind flow paths and increases exposure to westerly winter winds. Consequently, the Council requested an updated wind study. The study supported the design amendments and recommended several measures to mitigate the wind impacts and maintain a comfortable environment on the amended Level 20 terrace. These measures include:

- Dense landscaping with 3m high trees strategically placed along the terrace's western and northwestern edges.
- The installation of a 1.4m tall balustrade.
- Relocating dining areas to more sheltered spots.

These recommendations have been incorporated into the proposed changes.

The Council has reviewed the proposed amendments and is satisfied that the changes address the Panel's deferral requirements. As a result, the number of proposed residential apartments has been reduced from 244 to 242 units, and the residential Gross Floor Area (GFA) has decreased by 213 sqm. The recommended conditions of consent have been updated to reflect these changes. Please see the recommended conditions of consent in **Attachment A**.

4. Conclusion

The development application, as amended, has been thoroughly reviewed in accordance with the requirements of the EP&A Act and Regulations, as detailed in the Council report dated 1 August 2024, along with this addendum. After careful consideration of relevant planning controls and submissions, the application is considered supportable.

Located in an area with excellent access to public transport, the inclusion of non-residential floor space in the podium levels will enhance the vibrancy of the Rhodes precinct. Furthermore, the proposed design ensures a high-quality development that prioritizes internal amenity for future occupants while minimizing adverse impacts on neighboring properties. The further amendments also enhance the overall amenity for future residents by providing additional communal open space (CoS).

Any potential impacts during construction and operation will be appropriately managed through the recommended conditions of consent outlined in **Attachment A**.

Accordingly, it is recommended:

1. THAT the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel determine that the section 4.6 variations relating to the height of buildings and building podium satisfactorily demonstrate that

compliance is unreasonable and unnecessary in this case, that there are sufficient environmental planning grounds to justify each non-compliance, and that, notwithstanding the non-compliances, the proposed development will be in the public interest.

2. THAT the Sydney Eastern City Planning Panel grants consent pursuant to section 4.16(1)(a) of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979, to Development Application DA2023/0222 for the excavation of 9 basements and construction of a 37-storey mixed-use building with open spaces and landscaping at 9-13 Blaxland Road, Rhodes, subject to the recommended conditions of consent attached to this addendum report in **Attachment A**.

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Date: 30 August 2024

Shannon Anderson

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Date: 2 September 2024