



Restaurant
& Catering

SAVOUR
AUSTRALIA



16 September 2019

Pymont Planning Review

Greater Sydney Commission

By Email: engagement@gsc.nsw.gov.au

Dear Sir, Madam

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) appreciates the opportunity to provide a submission to the Greater Sydney Commission's Pymont Planning Review which seeks to review the effectiveness of the planning framework to deliver the Government's vision for the Western Harbour Precinct and Pymont Peninsula, as the western gateway of Sydney's CBD.

Background

Restaurant & Catering Australia (R&CA) is the national industry association representing the interests of more than 47,000 restaurants, cafés and catering businesses across Australia. R&CA delivers tangible outcomes to small businesses within the hospitality industry by influencing the policy decisions and regulations that impact the sector's operating environment.

R&CA is committed to ensuring the industry is recognised as one of excellence, professionalism, profitability and sustainability. This includes advocating the broader social and economic contribution of the sector to industry and government stakeholders, as well as highlighting the value of the restaurant experience to the public.

New South Wales' Hospitality Industry

R&CA welcomes the announcement by the NSW Government to review the effectiveness of the planning framework to deliver the Government's vision for the Western Harbour Precinct (WHP) and Pymont Peninsula (PP), as the western gateway of Sydney's CBD.

As the only national industry association acting on behalf of over almost 17,000 cafés and restaurants in NSW, R&CA supports the continued growth of the WHP and the PP, and the subsequent economic and employment benefits derived by hospitality businesses from continued



RESTAURANT & CATERING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

PO Box 121, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010 T: 1300 722 878 F: 1300 722 396 E: info@restaurantcater.asn.au
www.R&CA.asn.au

investment and growth in this important region.

The Current Planning Framework

R&CA notes that the Review area extends from the Pyrmont Peninsula in the north, south to Broadway, east to Darling Harbour and Goods Line, and west to Wentworth Park. This reflects the Eastern City District Plan and the initial planning framework for Pyrmont documented in the Sydney Regional Environmental Plan No.26 - City West and includes the residential neighbourhoods of the peninsula.

R&CA believes that the current planning framework governing the WHP and PP should not impede the growth of the State's tourism sector by restricting or limiting visitors' choice of accommodation options. In R&CA's view, the continued growth in the tourism sector can only be sustained with an adequate accommodation supply, particularly during periods of peak demand such as New Year's Eve.

The NSW Visitor Economy Taskforce's has continually reported that a lack of adequate accommodation supply is one of the biggest inhibitors to growth in the visitor economy.

It is for these reasons R&CA strongly supports the development of the WHP and the PP as a key growth region for the tourism sector in NSW, and its ability to bring new visitors and tourism opportunities to current providers as well as meet areas of accommodation undersupply currently hampering the vitality of NSW's tourism sector.

R&CA believes that the WHP and PP has a significant role to play in meeting tourist demand for accommodation options which are both affordable and in proximity to key amenities such as cafés and restaurants. This is of course contingent on the NSW Government providing operators within the WHP and PP with both regulatory clarity and certainty as part of this Review.

In R&CA's view, there is a strong need for the NSW Government to work both collaboratively and cooperatively alongside operators and providers of potential investment opportunities within the WHP and the PP. The NSW Government must prioritise a planning approach that allows the WHP and PP to be the iconic tourism and investment location stipulated and to ensure optimal outcomes for both tourism operators and businesses and tourists themselves.

By doing this, the clear economic and employment benefits for hospitality businesses resulting from growth in the State's tourism sector can be further enhanced and meet the NSW Government's goal to double overnight visitor expenditure by 2020.

The Ritz-Carlton Decision

R&CA believes that the Independent Planning Commission's decision to reject the Star Casino's proposal for a new \$500 million, 237m tall development was not in keeping with the State Governments desire to see the WHP and PP transformed as a tourism powerhouse.

This review, instigated partly in response to that decision, should consider how significant developments of this kind positively impact small tourism and hospitality businesses within the WHP and PP and create further opportunities for new cafes, restaurants and catering businesses to open and to thrive due to increase tourism demand and economic activity within the precinct.

Conclusion:

If you wish to discuss R&CA's submission further, do not hesitate to contact Tom Green, Manager – Policy and Government at R&CA by email at tom@R&CA.asn.au.

We thank you again for the opportunity to make this submission.

Regards



Wes Lambert CPA FGIA MAICD
Chief Executive Officer
Restaurant and Catering Australia