

**Submission
No 17**

**INQUIRY INTO SOCIAL, PUBLIC AND AFFORDABLE
HOUSING**

Name: Mr Ron Jennings

Date received: 14/02/2014

14 February 2014

'Sirius'

The Rocks
Sydney NSW 2000

The Director
Select Committee on Social, Public and Affordable Housing
Legislative Council
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000.

Dear Sir,

Re: Select Committee - Terms of reference item 1 (c), namely:

"1. That the Select Committee inquire into and report on demand for social, public and affordable housing and in particular ...(c) housing design approaches and social service integration necessary to support tenant livelihoods and wellbeing."

By way of introduction:

1. Sirius is a building designed by Tao Gofers in 1978 for the Housing Commission of NSW to provide valued and affordable social housing in The Rocks and Sirius has continued to do so since 1980, accommodating about 200 social and affordable housing tenants within its 79 apartments.
2. Sirius was truly an innovation of its time and has continued to provide cost effective and affordable social housing in The Rocks for over 30 years.
3. The Rocks is Sydney's most historic neighbourhood and "Sirius" was constructed with a priority to meet the need to preserve the long standing community of the Rocks during the neighbourhood's redesign and changes in the 1970's.
4. The building "Sirius" was named in honour of the First Fleet vessel Sirius and her commander, Captain Arthur Phillip. Sirius exists under a lease between the Housing Commission of NSW and the Sydney Cove Redevelopment Authority which runs to the year 2030 and provides for further extension.

This submission is made by Mr. Ron Jennings on behalf of and endorsed by about 200 social and affordable housing tenants of Sirius. This submission is to highlight to the Committee the success of the Sirius model and to recommend and encourage replication of this enlightened approach be adopted more widely across NSW.

Specifically, consideration of the success of Sirius can inform the Select Committee's deliberations of future planning approaches for social, public and affordable housing in NSW pursuant to the terms of reference item 1 (c); namely:

"1. That the Select Committee inquire into and report on demand for social, public and affordable housing and in particular ... (c) housing design approaches and social service integration necessary to support tenant livelihoods and wellbeing."

In support of our submission we draw your attention to:

1. The Sirius building has provided a valued social and affordable housing asset at The Rocks since 1980.
2. The residents of Sirius have certainty about their accommodation until at least 2030 and important maintenance of Sirius is addressed in the lease.
3. Sirius and its residents can rightly take a richly deserved place nestled in, and as a renowned addition to, the local Sydney and internationally culturally recognized Rocks precinct.
4. Since it opened in 1980, Sirius has been successful in meeting Housing NSW's policy of maintaining as nearly as possible a normal social mixture of large and small families and old and young people.
5. Sirius is a social and affordable housing innovation showcasing what can be achieved.

We make this submission for reasons explained in the attachment 'Sirius', a document produced for residents' information.

The document attached to this submission is provided for your information only.

Yours faithfully,

Ron Jennings