Thursday 10 April 2014

**IMAX proposal referred to the independent Planning Assessment Commission**

The proposal for a new commercial office, entertainment and retail building on the site of the IMAX at Darling Harbour will be determined by the independent Planning Assessment Commission.

Planning & Infrastructure has completed its assessment of the project after it was publicly exhibited for six weeks between September and October last year, with 239 submissions received.

The proposal represents an investment of $269 million in new facilities at Darling Harbour, consistent with plans to revitalise the precinct.

The proponent estimates that around 4,000 on-going jobs would be generated by the proposal.

The proponent intends to keep the theatre and would also upgrade the surrounding area for the community including a new playground.

Submissions were mainly around the obstruction of views and the building’s height.

Planning & Infrastructure’s assessment concluded that the proposal is an iconic landmark building that will contribute to the continued revitalisation of Darling Harbour.

As part of its assessment, Planning and Infrastructure considered options to reduce the building’s impact on harbour views.

Given the building’s location and design excellence, the assessment concluded that modifications to the design of the building were not warranted.

The agency also considers that the applicant has adequately addressed other issues raised in submissions like traffic and transport and heritage.

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*Image of the proposed building