

23 January 2017



## Australian Institute of Architects

Ms Louise Herron AM  
Chief Executive Officer  
Sydney Opera House  
GPO Box 4274  
Sydney NSW 2001

Dear Ms Herron

The Institute acknowledges and supports the Eminent Architects Panel, which comprises Jan Utzon and four Institute members (Peter Poulet-Chair, Peter Mould, Abby Galvin and the Institute's National President, Ken Maher). The Panel provides expert advice regarding visual and physical impacts on the architectural integrity of the Sydney Opera House precinct to the Sydney Opera House Trust.

I am concerned by two matters that undermine both the integrity of the Sydney Opera House and its public image.

It has been reported in the media that your management team is proposing to make some of the building's interiors available for occasional overnight accommodation. We understand that a public lottery will select people to enjoy this privilege.

The Institute also notes that a children's playground and temporary furniture have been installed on the western broadwalk during the current Sydney Festival.

We consider these initiatives demonstrate a lack of respect for both the quality of the place and its primary function. They are more in keeping with activities at Luna Park across the harbour.

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The Sydney Opera House is a 20<sup>th</sup> century architectural masterpiece that is also a major performing arts centre. The Institute welcomes initiatives by your management to attract a wide cross section of residents and visitors to performances at the Sydney Opera House. We agree that Sydney's World Heritage building should be a welcoming place for people of all ages and income levels.

But it is a performing arts venue, not a fun park.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and lines, positioned below the text 'Yours sincerely'.

Shaun Carter  
**NSW President**