



# National Indigenous Development Centre

## *Response to Submissions*

### **Introduction**

In June 2007 the Department of Planning placed on public exhibition the Environmental Assessment documents for the proposed National Indigenous Development Centre (NIDC). The NIDC is to be constructed on the site of the old Redfern Public School on George Street. During the 30-day exhibition period the Department received various submissions from the local community and agencies.

The Department summarised the submissions and identified the key issues raised. The Director General of Planning then issued a statement of requirements to the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), seeking a formal response to the issues raised in public submissions.

The ILC submitted its response in August, and on October 8 the Minister for Planning approved the project.

### **Issues and Responses**

The response to the Department of Planning's requirements touches on a number of issues raised by community members both in submissions and during the consultation period. ILC's response to the issues is as follows:

#### **Trees and landscaping**

ILC has tried to maintain as many significant trees as possible within the development. Extensive consultation with the arborist was undertaken during the design phase to attempt to minimise the number of trees that required removal. The Arborist strongly recommended replacing trees with more suitable species and in more suitable locations. The ILC's proposal includes the planting of over 100 trees which are predominantly native.

ILC has been able to identify a number of additional significant trees that may be retained. Further, where possible, ILC will transplant some plants from the botanic garden into suitable areas of the site.

The landscape design has paid particular attention to maintaining/replacing existing canopies so that neighbours can maintain their current levels of privacy.

### **Building F – the new PCYC building on George Street.**

The design of Building F has been altered to reduce its visual impact from George Street. Specifically, the height of the building has been modified in some areas, and other changes made to reduce its “bulk”. The design of the façade has been further detailed to provide visual activation of the street.

### **Residential Amenity**

ILC have provided a detailed approach to the management of the Center to limit the impact on the surrounding residential amenity within the Environmental Assessment documentation. A range of issues fall under this heading, including noise, lighting, security and the management of people around the site.

The Centre has been designed to meet stringent acoustic requirements. Detailed acoustic assessments have continued through the development of the design to ensure that the impact on amenity is limited. Further to the building design, the hours of operation of the Center have been also been set to limit the impact on the surrounding residential amenity.

The Center will be a highly managed facility ensuring that visitors will have the appropriate levels of supervision. This includes the management of visitors entering and leaving the Center through the central courtyard onto George Street. In accordance with the Environmental Assessment the hours of operation, lighting and security have also been designed to ensure that the residential amenity of the surrounding areas is maintained.

ILC have undertaken extensive liaison with NSW Police to review security and ensure that the Center has been appropriately designed to accommodate the surrounding urban environment.

### **Transport.**

The nature of the Center will mean that the majority of visitors will travel by bus, public transport, foot or bicycle. Further, the accommodation portion of the Center caters for regional and touring groups. These groups will be arriving to the site via public transport or private bus. The Center also benefits from the close proximity to Redfern Train Station. ILC is also actively embracing better sustainable solutions by encouraging public transport and cycling facilities.

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