22/08/2025

To: DAS via Development Applications online

Please find my comments on PA2025/0249 Exhibition Centre (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Gallery of Australia) below.

LOCATION

It's offensive and nonsensical to build an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art gallery in this location when a lot of central Arrernte custodians have explicitly said to build it south of the gap.

Squeezing a galley into a carpark across from a shopping centre and the Todd Tavern and next to an seniors recreation centre and rugby oval is also a strange less than sophisticated choice.

It's too small to be calling itself a "Gallery of Australia'.

DESIGN

Toilets

One unisex toilet near café - not enough
Ground floor - should include male and female not just unisex
Male and female should be on all floors or one floor, not alternate – it's just annoying

Entrance, exit and flow

I like art galleries and museums with exhibition space on the ground floor – having all public space on the ground floor dedicated to retail (including café) space - makes it seem like this is primary focus / purpose and the exhibition secondary. I like the feeling of being pulled into the exhibition at the outset.

If you need to keep the gallery starting on an upper floor because of the risk of flooding have the entrance up external stairs / a ramp on the 1st floor and keep the retail / cafe on the ground floor as an exit.

I like a main exit that isn't the entrance, you can of course leave the way you came in if you wander that way, but there should be a natural flow through – a journey that doesn't end with you having to traipse out the way you came – it impacts the experience as a whole and the ambience having to walk past exhibits in an unthoughtful way because you're on your way out for you and others in the room.

I also like a chance to end up somewhere unexpected – I don't like a confusing mess but this floor plan is way too simple.

Window

Not climate friendly

The view is of the Alice Plaza.

I don't like the shape, there's something irritating and 1970's cheap sci-fi production about it.

Height

It blocks the view of Untyeyetwelye (Anzac Hill) from a lot of spots, which is a key attraction in town.

Other

Why are there so many large foyers? It's not a theatre, it's an art gallery. If groups need a place to sort themselves out they can go outside.

Why is there a void in a corner with not even a view behind the stairs on the second floor?

GARDEN

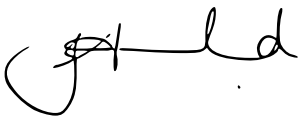
I hope they are all local plants found naturally in that spot. The trees should have space to reproduce naturally. The roots of protected trees should be protected and given space to grow.

The Hills and river should be regenerated as part of the gardening project.

CARPARK

Who wants to park in an outdoor carpark way on the other side of the oval – it's a long way to walk in summer (most of the year) and not secure. This area should be regenerated, not paved.

I live in a house I own right near the corner of Swartz Cr and Sturt Tce, I bought here for the natural beauty of the river and hills – I walk along the river all the time, having a car park built in this location really impacts my immediate environment, and possible the value of my property.



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