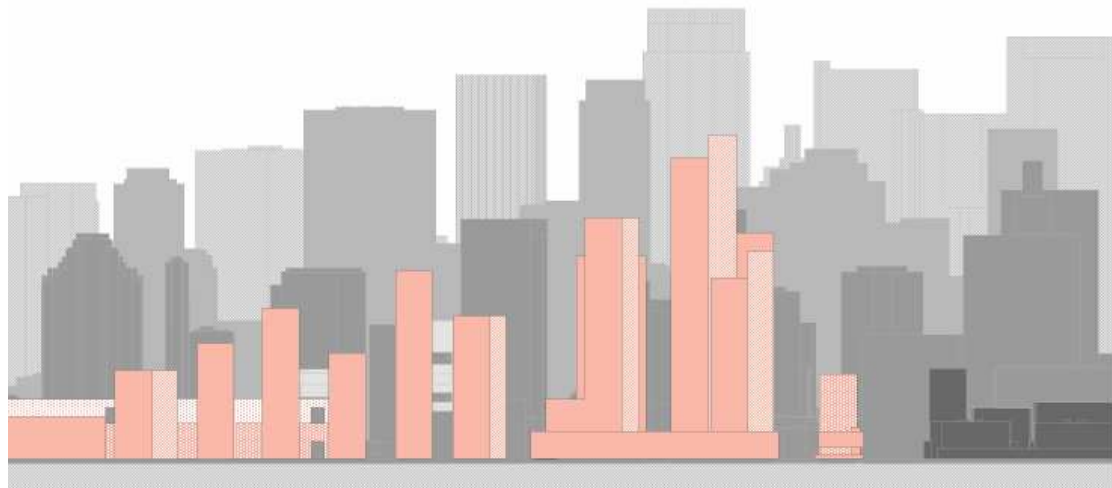


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **ANOTHER BACK ROOM DEAL – NSW GOVERNMENT MUST COME CLEAN**

**The NSW Government must come clean on why it ditched the award-winning Barangaroo redevelopment concept in favour of Lend Lease.**

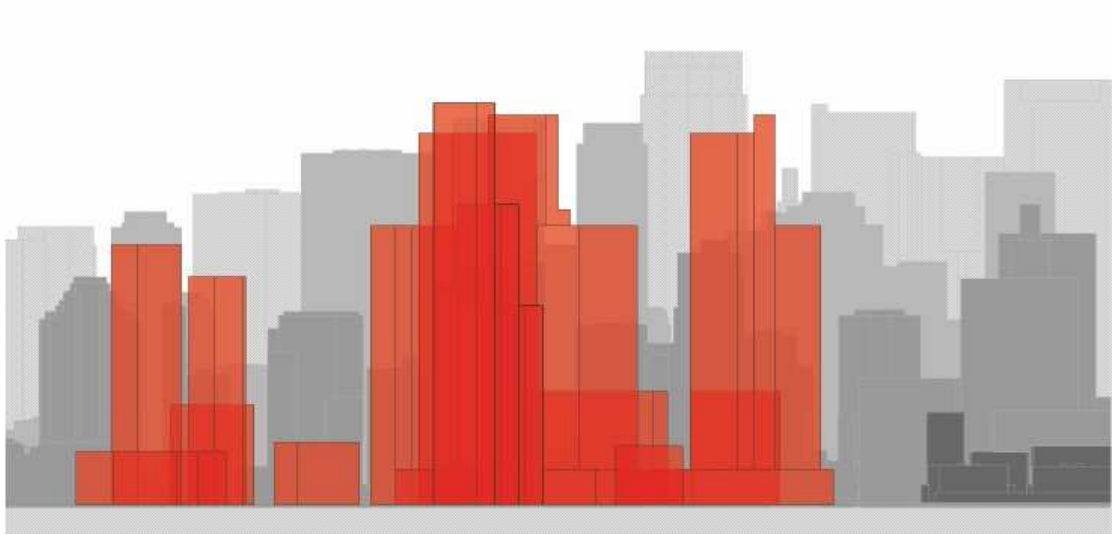
In 2005 the State Government conducted a worldwide competition for a Barangaroo redevelopment Concept Plan. A Sydney consortium of Hill-Thalis, Berkemeier and Irwin was unanimously selected by a prestigious nine person independent jury, over 136 other entries including two from Lend Lease.



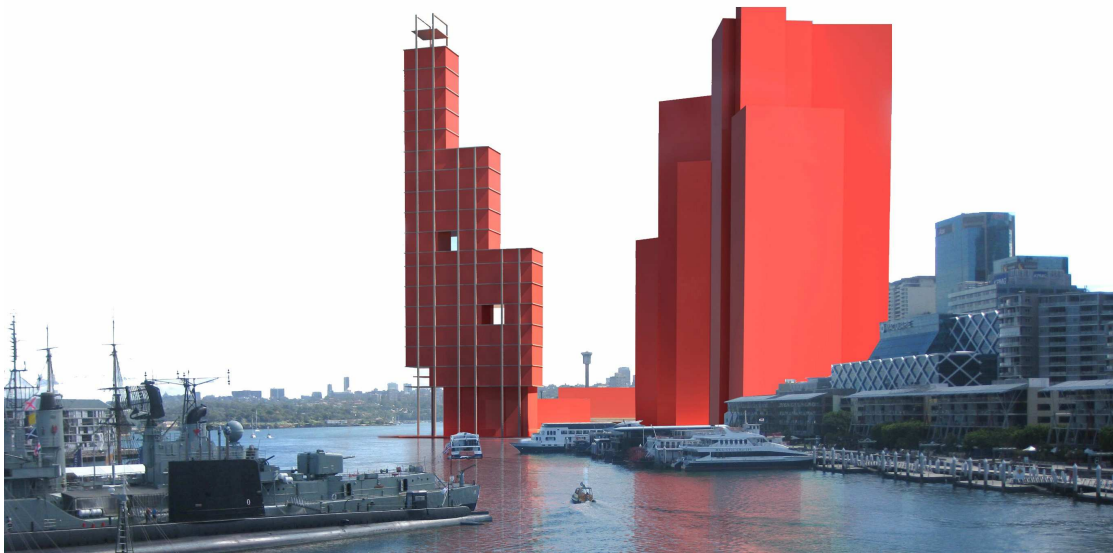
Winning Design from the west

After the announcement of the competition winner, the Government conducted a covert process that culminated in the award winning Hill-Thalis, Berkemeier, Irwin design being replaced with a variation of one of the losing Lend Lease designs.

By means of successive amendments to the Concept Plan and the development bid and with no public disclosure whatsoever, the Government has allowed a doubling of the building volume, larger buildings much closer to the water, building heights that significantly exceed planning controls, and a 60 storey hotel at the end of a new pier reaching 150 metres into Darling Harbour. In the absence of any government-released detailed and accurate portrayals of the Lend Lease Plan, independent architects have had to create the following depiction of the proposed development.



Lend Lease Design from the West



Lend lease Design from Prymont Bridge

Virtually all members of the independent jury that selected the Hill-Thalis Berkemeier Irwin Plan have been replaced on the Design Panel committee, and Paul Keating, in his usual pointed manner, is now championing the Lend Lease option.

This project, that concedes a huge parcel of irreplaceable public harbour foreshore, and part of the harbour itself to a single developer, is proceeding with indecent haste while the NSW Government seeks to stifle dissenting voices such as those of Sydney City Council, prominent architects and the National Trust.

Community checks and balances have been sidelined in an approval process that sees the State Government excluding Sydney City Council from any assessment or consent role, so

that it, as the owner of the land, and in partnership with the developer, it can approve the development with effectively no community or independent third party involvement.

Rather than coming clean as soon as possible on its commercial arrangements with Lend Lease, as required by the Freedom of Information Act, the Authority is taking full advantage of the Act's 60-day lag period before posting details of its contract on the Government website. During this time it will seek formal approval for the Lend Lease plan from the NSW Government Department of Planning, without any semblance of an independent investigation, and while ignoring or even seeking to stifle the vast number of community voices raised against the development.

In a recent Newsletter the Chief Executive of the National Trust made the following comments:

*"In the year of Macquarie's bicentenary we must demonstrate similar vision with a view to encouraging physical, visual and political ownership of Barangaroo by the people. In the words of the UK Trust, "for ever, for everyone".*

*Some advocates of the recent government/developer backed proposal have threatened repercussions should the Trust raise its voice, your voice. The National Trust will not be intimidated nor its independence compromised by competing interests."*

#### ABOUT THE BARANGAROO ACTION GROUP

Concerned residents and commercial businesses in the areas surrounding Barangaroo have formed a non-politically aligned community group to oppose the Lend Lease concept, force genuine community involvement in the development of a more acceptable Barangaroo plan, and create political impetus for change to the major development planning processes in this State, so as to ensure that the current Barangaroo planning process is never repeated.

The Association's aims are,

- 1) Development density as per the original award winning Barangaroo plan, including the entire foreshore as inalienable public land
- 2) No hotel (or apartments) to be built on Harbour waters
- 3) Multiple competing developers involved in the Barangaroo Development
- 4) An Independent consent authority such as Sydney City Council to approve each stage of the development
- 5) A public enquiry into the Barangaroo process

For further information, please contact: Ian Campbell, President, at 0412 403 079

Or visit [www.barangaroo.action.com.au](http://www.barangaroo.action.com.au), or email [enquiries@barangarooaction.com.au](mailto:enquiries@barangarooaction.com.au)