

**Item 13.8****Notices of Motion****Star Casino's Tower Development and the Sydney Western Harbour Business Improvement District**

By Councillor Ellsmore

It is resolved that:

(A) Council note:

- (i) The Star Casino Sydney, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Star Entertainment Group, has had its casino licence suspended for failing to stem criminal activity and money laundering;
- (ii) the NSW Independent Casino Commission has also issued a record \$100 million fine to The Star Entertainment Group;
- (iii) the fine and licence suspension were issued following an inquiry which uncovered a wide range of systemic issues with The Star's operations and management;
- (iv) amongst a range of issues, tours and perks for 'high rollers' were identified as a key area of concern, which facilitated or was connected to criminal activity and money laundering;
- (v) The Star Casino Sydney and The Star Entertainment Group have written to the City of Sydney advising that they accept the findings of the inquiry and acknowledged the gravity of the conduct. Recent actions taken by the Star include management resignations, permanently stopping high roller 'junkets' and closing the Marquee nightclub;
- (vi) the casino is continuing to operate, under an 'independent manager'; and
- (vii) The Star Casino Sydney or a related organisation may be allowed to operate the casino again in the near future;

(B) Council note:

- (i) immediately prior to the public corruption hearings into the Star, in January 2022 the NSW Government (through the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE)) put on exhibition the first tranche of major planning changes as part of the new 'Pymont Peninsula Place Strategy';
- (ii) the Department of Planning and Environment placed on exhibition a proposed spot rezoning for the Star casino site at 20-80 Pymont Street, Pymont (which is under existing controls including a 28 metre height limit) which would allow it to construct a 108 metre tall tower and create a 'luxury six-star hotel'; and
- (iii) those planning controls have now been approved;

- (C) Council note:
- (i) The Star is a founding partner of the 'Sydney Western Harbour Business District', NSW's only 'business improvement district', proposed to enable particular businesses to have a greater say over the harbour and Pyrmont Peninsula; and
  - (ii) the Board and leadership of the Sydney Western Harbour Business District includes one or more former executive members of The Star, including one or more members who have recently resigned from The Star;
- (D) Council agree that the City not consider any rezoning of land related to The Star under the Pyrmont Peninsula Strategic Review;
- (E) the Lord Mayor be requested to immediately write to:
- (i) the NSW Minister for Planning asking the NSW Government (as the land owner who currently leases the land to The Star) to not grant consent to any development application which would enable the expansion of activities by The Star; and
  - (ii) the NSW Premier asking for the casino licence to be fully revoked and The Star closed; and
- (F) the Chief Executive Officer be requested to provide immediate advice as to the governance arrangements of the 'Sydney Western Harbour Business District' and the City's role.

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