



Chief Executive Officer
City of Sydney
GO Box 1591
Sydney 2011

Dear Ms Barone,

I am writing on behalf of the 2011 Residents' Association (representing residents of Kings Cross, Elizabeth Bay Potts Point and Rushcutters Bay) to object to the proposed expansion of the Fitzroy Gardens playground.

We were surprised to see the plans for a massively expanded playground on the City of Sydney web site. Reasons for the objection include:

- The expanded playground will decrease amenity for the local residents who visit or pass through the park daily
- The increased footprint and the configuration of the playground will diminish the heritage integrity of the Ilmar Berzins' garden design
- Our park acts as a town square at the nexus of Kings Cross, Potts Point and Elizabeth Bay and this will be diminished by the playground expansion
- The gardens act as a green garden retreat at the heart of an increasingly urbanised postcode and the expanded playground could affect residents' quiet enjoyment of the park
- The Berzins' designed garden gives pedestrians many choices to enter and exit the park, with multiple access points at various levels. Less points of access will reduce park access for residents.
- The expanded playground will take up a huge slice of the north east corner of the park and will block existing pedestrian access from within the park to the Rex Community Centre, the Gazebo apartments and a number of restaurants and bars

We support the refurbishment of the existing tired playground, but not the large expansion. The Fitzroy Gardens has some key characteristics that we believe must be maintained. Any refurbishment should be consistent with the original vision, to retain the heritage landscape that includes the El Alamein Fountain and the geometric layout. We also look forward to the promised minor upgrades to the Fitzroy Gardens.

If a larger playground is needed, more suitable sites should be considered. Just two hundred metres away and across the road, the Lawrence Hargreave Reserve is a largely neglected park that is ripe for refurbishment.

We are concerned that the new plans for an expanded playground are being rushed through Council without a DA, even though the proposed extension will have a significant impact on nearby residents, businesses and visitors to the park. There is also the impression that the playground expansion has been rushed through because of the council elections.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucas Crabtree', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lucas Crabtree

President

2011 Residents' Association