

26 June 2015

The Hon. Brad Hazzard MP
Minister for Social Housing
GPO Box 5341
SYDNEY NSW 2001

Dear Minister

Millers Point Sales and Relocations

I write to request an extension of time for completion of the government's Millers Point Sales and Relocation Project.

During your recent visit to Millers Point you said you would review the sales and relocation project and consider the community proposals to retain some social housing and current tenants in this precinct, with a possible Cabinet proposal.

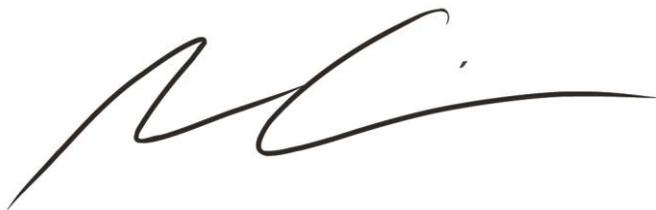
I understand that more than two thirds of the previous tenants have been relocated. There are a significant number of vacant properties that remain to be sold, as you witnessed. Residents tell me that they estimate 250 currently vacant homes that require security monitoring to prevent vandalism and squatting. Selling these over a period of time is likely to obtain the best price.

Now that you have had the chance to meet a number of the remaining tenants, see the community support and connectedness as well as hear about how their strong connections to the local area, health impacts from forced relocations, disabilities, age or complex needs and that make them less willing to move and more difficult to relocate. I note that the current 'tenants choice' process of offering properties for relocation is no longer achieving strong bidding from tenants being relocated.

Given there is no immediate urgency to relocate the remaining tenants, I ask that you extend the two year relocation period beyond the 19 March 2016 deadline and establish criteria by which elderly, vulnerable and high needs residents can seek more time for relocations. Allowing tenants more time to consider relocations may help to prevent forced evictions, stress, anxiety and other negative wellbeing impacts of being moved out of the only community many of these residents have known.

Could you please extend the relocation project beyond the current two year period and inform me what action you will take?

Yours sincerely



Alex Greenwich
Member for Sydney

