

July 26, 1973

B. B. Callaghan, Esq.
The Managing Director
The Commonwealth Banking Corporation
Martin Place
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Reference: Your letter dated July 5, 1973, to the Town Clerk,
Council of the City of Sydney, regarding the proposed
extension of the Martin Place pedestrian Plaza.

Dear Sir

Further to our telephone conversation yesterday, I am replying to your letter on behalf of the City Council and preparatory to the meeting between yourself, Deputy Town Clerk, Leon Carter, Alderman Leo Port and the writer who will represent Council's Consultants, Clarke Gazzard Architects.

Before answering each of your questions in turn, may I summarise our response to your objections by assuring you of the following:

- * The Plaza will be open to Commonwealth vehicles requiring access to Parliamentary offices in the Corporation building.
- * The Plaza provides parking space for three Commonwealth vehicles adjacent to the Corporation building.
- * The Plaza will provide access to the Corporation building and the Commonwealth Savings Bank building for security vehicles handling cash or negotiable securities.
- * The Plaza will provide access to the Corporation building by vans delivering computer data between 5.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. and during the late afternoon before 5 p.m. or after 6 p.m.
- * The Plaza has been designed with the responsible Authorities to accommodate their emergency and service vehicles, including fire tenders, the Brigade's elevated platforms and the S.C.C. transformer crane.

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I think you will agree that the Plaza has therefore been designed to satisfy the requirements of the Commonwealth Banking Corporation and other essential public services you had mentioned.

I now answer your questions in the same order.

1. Provision of through route vehicular access and three parking spaces

I confirm that Council's assurances given by letter dated June 19, 1973, apply to the Corporation building.

2. Deliveries to the Corporation's Head Office Building

The Plaza will provide vehicular access to the Corporation building for armoured vehicles and other vehicles carrying cash and negotiable securities, vans carrying computer data between 5.30 a.m. and 7.00 a.m. and during the late afternoon before 5.00 p.m. and after 6 p.m. and vehicles carrying heavy machinery and office furniture. Other vehicles carrying stationery, office requisites, cheque books, foodstuffs and making machine service or building maintenance calls should be instructed to use the Rowe Street access, at times when the general public are using the Plaza.

The Council wrote on June 19, 1973, to the City of Sydney Parking Advisory Committee requesting the Committee to provide special loading zones in Pitt and Castlereagh Streets for the use of vehicles delivering goods to the Commonwealth Banking Corporation's Head Office and the Commonwealth Savings Bank Building.

3. Security Considerations

Access to both the Commonwealth Banking Corporation's Head Office and the Commonwealth Savings Bank Building by armoured vehicles and others carrying cash and negotiable securities will always be available through the Plaza.

4. Emergency Vehicular Access

We have had meetings with the Fire Protection Board and have their approval of the provisions made in the design of the Plaza both for vehicular through access and manoeuvring in the event of a fire. In this respect, the proposed extensions will not differ from the existing Martin Place Plaza between George and Pitt Street where the Fire Brigades vehicles and elevated platform can operate.

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Unlimited access will be available for other emergency vehicles such as ambulances, police vans etc. and also for the service vehicles of the various Supply Authorities. The Plaza has been designed to accommodate the cranes used by the Sydney County Council for the removal and replacement of their transformers in Substations below Martin Place. Again, the proposed extensions will not differ from the existing Plaza in their capacity to carry the vehicular loadings on the pavement.

We agree that vehicular access to the Corporation's buildings for Security and emergency reasons is essential. The proposed Plaza will, in fact, improve emergency vehicular access in Martin Place because there will not be other vehicles to restrict their movement.

5. Traffic Circulation

The Police Department, The Parking Advisory Committee for the City of Sydney and The Public Transport Commission of N.S.W. (Bus Division) have all expressed their satisfaction with the proposed pedestrian precincts in Martin Place extending to Macquarie Street and we have accepted their advice as experts in city traffic circulation and public transport.

6. Federal Offices

Access will be provided at all times for Commonwealth vehicles carrying the Prime Minister, senior Federal Ministers, the Leader of the Federal Opposition and Members of the Federal Parliament. However, we are confident that, in the light of public opinion in favour of public open spaces such as the existing Martin Place Plaza, this privilege will not be abused and that those members of Parliament with business in the Federal offices would walk the short distance from Pitt Street rather than have their car intrude on the pedestrian precinct.

Council is taking this matter up directly with the Prime Minister to see if he approves of the proposal and the limited parking provision.

7. Pitt Street

Council has no intention of closing Pitt Street and has never considered such a move possible. For numerous reasons, the closure of Pitt Street would be neither practical nor desirable.

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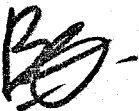
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Finally, I would repeat my assurance that the proposed Plaza is designed to take emergency, service, Commonwealth and armoured vehicles at any time and to the complete satisfaction of the relevant authorities but that other important and essential vehicles will be required to restrict their movements to times when the Plaza does not have heavy pedestrian movement.

I trust that the foregoing answers your questions satisfactorily and that you will be able to advise your Board that the interests of the Corporation have been protected by the Council in the design of the new Plaza.

Yours faithfully

GLARKE GAZZARD PTY LTD ARCHITECTS



Brian Griffin