



## MEDIA RELEASE

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# “Planning in the Public Interest”

## RENOWNED ARCHITECT TO PRESENT AT FOKE PUBLIC FORUM

On Wednesday 27 May at 8.00pm at the Killara Uniting Church Hall in Arnold Street, Friends of Ku-ring-gai Environment (FOKE) is hosting a Public Forum featuring a special guest speaker, Philip Thalís, award winner of the International Competition for the original development of Barangaroo/East Darling Harbour

“Philip’s presentation will include his views on the privatisation of Barangaroo, the sale of the Powerhouse Museum and the public housing in Miller’s Point, as well as the ‘smash up’ at Darling Harbour,” Kathy Cowley announced.

Philip said “ *The major political parties seem wedded to an ideologically driven obsession to privatise public spaces and selling of public assets at bargain prices*”. “ *Such sales are peddled on the thinnest of short-term economic analyses, discounting the broader values of such assets over longer time frames,*” and he continued:

*“ Public assets are hard won and once sold, or leased , near impossible to reclaim. Some in government seem to think that beautiful buildings on prime public land seem to be wasted somehow on citizens, we who are the actual owners. But why vest the privileged parts of our city as playthings of the affluent, exclusive enclaves of high priced consumption? We should proclaim our rights to the equitable, sustainable, democratic mix of the open city.”*

*“Why fashion a dumb, disposable city, where speculation is prioritised and where a slew of major public facilities are treated as discount commodities?”* Philip added.

“Philip Thalís has more than 25 years of local and international experience across a broad spectrum of architecture and urban projects,” Kathy Cowley emphasised.

“Given the community concern and the public interest in the planning and development on public land such as Barangaroo, we are delighted that Philip has agreed to speak at our Public Forum,” said Kathy Cowley.

“The Forum will commence at 8.00pm on Wednesday 27 May 2014 at the Killara Uniting Church Hall, Arnold Street, Killara. Admission is free and all are welcome.” Kathy Cowley advised.

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