

ULTIMO & PYRMONT RESIDENTS ACTION GROUP (UPRAG)

Tharunka, 2 August 1973

[UPRAG] want much of the housing stock that has already been alienated to other purposes to be restored, including substantial areas where the actual houses have been demolished i.e. Point and Bowman Streets, parts of Harris Street, Bulwarra Road and Fig Street...

Proposals

1. Zoning needs to be much more selective on a block by block basis, so that belts of housing are interspersed with working areas in which residents are likely to be strongly involved.
2. Taxation, zoning and incentive policies should act to stabilize land prices.
3. Vacant land to be used for low cost, medium density housing.
4. Wool stores and other present industrial buildings where disused, should be used for core-orientated, non-polluting, labour intensive industry.
5. The expressway system should be scrapped in favour of the creation of an effective public transport system. Contact: Jim Munro 660-5904, 3 Little Mount Street, Pyrmont.

The group was formed in April 1971. Its energies were concentrated at first in attempting to bring to a halt the mass eviction campaign being conducted by Victoria Pt Pty Ltd on numbers 55-115. The tactics of the company varied from money offers - \$20-\$2000 to threats of the termination of facilities by crowbar-carrying security agents. The group was formed too late to prevent the exodus of most tenants - about 40 remained.

The primary aim of the group is to preserve the street for low rent housing - an aim which led them to oppose the company's plan for commercial development and high cost housing even though it had National Trust approval.

A green ban was placed on the street by the BLF (Builders Labourers Federation) and the FEDFA (Federated Engine Drivers' and Firemen's Association) in April. Although it prevented demolition, vandalism of the houses continued. One house was burnt down. The RAG then decided in June that their only hope was to get people back in the houses and begin to squat. 40 squatters now occupy about 6 houses.